



The FBI Oral History Project

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Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI Richard L. Ault, Jr. (1969 – 1994) Interviewed by Stanley A. Pimentel On September 1, 2009

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Stanley A. Pimentel: Today is September 1, 2009, and I'm with Richard Ault, at his residence in lovely Winchester, Virginia, out in the Shenandoah Valley; and my name is Stanley Pimentel. And Richard has reviewed and signed the Oral History Release form and, with that, let me start or check to see if this is recording.

With that, Dick, if you would, give us a little bit about your early background; where you were born and raised, and your schooling.

Richard L. Ault, Jr.: Ohh, I was born in, in King City, California, but raised all over the U.S. and all over the world, in fact, because my dad was in the military. By the time I was six years old, the war was over and our family wound up in Nanking, China, for three years. And after that, why it was just traveling all around the world. My first attempt at schooling was pretty impoverished. I had a point 68 average at George Washington University, so I went into the Marine Corps and that taught me, after four years, that I didn't want to earn a living doing that; went back to school, Montgomery, Alabama; went to get my masters at the University of Alabama.

Pimentel: Where'd you get your, BS degree?

Ault: BS in Psychology at Huntington College in Montgomery. And then a Masters Degree in Counseling at the University in Tuscaloosa. And didn't get my doctorate until late, when I was in the Bureau, until '85.

Pimentel: And that was where?

Ault: That was at the American University.

Pimentel: Okay.

Ault: In DC.

Pimentel: Going back to Nanking, China. Was your father in the Marine Corps?

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Ault: He was in the Air Force.

Pimentel: Oh, okay.

Ault: I'm afraid I'm the only one that went into the Marine Corps. My father was in the Air Force. My oldest daughter was in the Air Force. My son-in-law was in the Air Force! My uncle was in the Royal Canadian Air Force, but I went into the Marine Corps. I was the black sheep of the family.

Pimentel: And you mentioned earlier that you were in Vietnam?

Ault: Vietnam. Spent a year in Vietnam; a year in Cambodia. It was embassy duty. I was mostly embassy duty. Cambodia, the embassy in Phnom Penh, there were four of us who defended the whole embassy against probably 1200 to 1500 highly ticked off Cambodians who tried to sack the embassy. We defended it pretty well.

Pimentel: Just the four of you?

Ault: Yes. Four Marines left. Our NCOIC was on R&R. He was out of town and there were just four of us to do the job. So, three in the embassy and then I went across the street to the, what they called the USIS. It was the Information Service, U.S. Information Service. And I took care of that building. And we kept them out. They didn't get into the works of the building.

Pimentel: This is what year?

Ault: Oh, '63 to '64 in Cambodia; '64 to '65 in Vietnam. And then we were also, of course, in the '63 Missile Crisis, we were all mounted out to go invade Cuba. So it was pretty, it was a pretty good time. My reward, of course, for the good job we did in Cambodia and Phnom Penh was to go over to Vietnam. We talk about explosive devices and car bombs, that was my first exposure to a car bomb, when they drove it up alongside the embassy and, with 200 pounds of plastique in it, blew us up. So it was (laughing), it was not entirely a happy tour. But one we learned a lot, and it was pretty good. I came back and got out of the Corps and went back to school, and finished all that.

Pimentel: You got your BS in what year?

Ault: Sixty-nine.

Pimentel: Oh, okay.

Ault: Yeah, in 1969.

Pimentel: And your Masters, then, in probably '71?

Ault: No. Actually, what happened was, I graduated in '69 from undergraduate school, but I had been going, I had skipped getting my diploma, so I had been overlapping. I had been going to University of Alabama, so both degrees came in '69.

Pimentel: Oh, okay.

Ault: Although I spent a year and a half at the University.

Pimentel: Right. And how did you come into the FBI?

Ault: You know, it's funny. I had gone, in Montgomery, I had gone in to the FBI and asked, and this old Agent there kind of told me to come back later. He didn't think he needed me.

Pimentel: (Chuckle)

Ault: And one day, traveling back and forth, my wife was going to school still at Huntington, so driving back and forth I heard on the radio an advertisement. And that was back when Hoover was looking to beef up the Bureau with a thousand or so extra Agents. And I heard the advertisement where they said they needed us. Went in and applied and the RA up in Tuscaloosa. Frank Slapekas came over and did the interview and so forth. After I'd graduated and I'd gone up to DC to sort of hang out and see if I was going to get accepted there. The Bureau finally, in their usual fashion, just sort of surprised me with an invitation to join New Agents Class, 11-17- 69. And so I did.

Pimentel: The infamous class of '69.

Ault: Yep. We were the ones. That was some boneheads and a lot of really great guys, if I do say so.

Pimentel: Let me check to make sure we're getting you recorded here, Dick.

Ault: Okay.

Ault: 11-17-69, yeah.

Pimentel: Well, Washington Field and the old ...

Ault: Yes. OPO and [Quantico] before it became what it is, and the Washington Field Office.

Pimentel: Yes. Did you have eight to a room, like I did, in '67? Down at Quantico?

Ault: Uh, yeah. Still did. And when we went down to Firearms. Monk Monroe was our guy. Great guy.

Pimentel: He's now about 85 or 86 years old?

Ault: Oh, geeze.

Pimentel: I had lunch with him, well, a bunch of us, the Romeo Club; the Real Old Guys Eating Out or Real Old Men Eating Out.

Ault: (Laughing) That's neat!

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: Where did you eat?

Pimentel: Down in Tyson's Corner.

Ault: Ohh, I'd love to do that.

Pimentel: I'll have to call you next time.

Ault: Give me a call. Let me know.

Pimentel: And I interviewed Monk for the Oral History Project.

Ault: Oh good!

Pimentel: He gave us some great stories.

Ault: Yeah, he's a character.

Pimentel: Yeah. So he was the Firearms guy for ya?

Ault: Yeah, he was our chief Firearms guy. I'm trying to think who else - I can't think of anybody else. Monk, Monk shined so brightly, you know.

Pimentel: And your First Office?

Ault: First Office was Kansas City and on Bill Quinn's Squad. Bill was a Past President of the Society. And in addition to being a heck of a good Supervisor, he had, fortunately, a good sense of humor and was long-suffering because every New Agent that came in our office was assigned to Bill. It was OC, Organized Crime; and I worked TFIS cases. And had a good time doing it. I worked primarily the railroads. The guy that worked truck lines was a guy named Al Roten, who was later indicted for theft, among other things.

Pimentel: So you worked primarily the railroad stuff, huh?

Ault: Yeah, almost all railroads. I had handled small, some small stuff with UPS and, you know, TFIS stuff. But primarily railroads; and got a pretty good passel of convictions. I think I got eighteen convictions that year I was there.

Pimentel: Hmmm! You were there eighteen months, a year?

Ault: About a little over a year. My, my wife got pregnant and our daughter was born there in Kansas City, so they cut me a little slack on the transfer.

Pimentel: And transferred to where?

Ault: Well, my reward, again, was to go to Cleveland. So it was off to Cleveland in, what was it, '71, I guess. And from '71 to '75, I worked the, remember the Violent Extremist Matters? Was it '88s' or '88s'?

Pimentel: 88s are Fugitives, UFAPs.

Ault: Yeah, 88's were UFAPs. I didn't do many of those. But I worked the Violent Extremist Matters Squad, Paul Daly's squad. And then, fortunately, after a year, I switched over to, worked for Marty McCann, on an Organized Crime Squad and spent the rest of my time doing OC work, which was just fantastic. And so was Marty.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: He was a good Supervisor.

Pimentel: Getting back to your first office, any interesting cases that you worked there or, you know, something outstanding?

Ault: No. Bank Robberies. They had a guy named Willis over there who, who had set up ... I think we had 55, 54 or 55, or more bank robberies in a year there. Just one after another; every weekend, you know. And, so we were constantly doing the work on that. We knew who was responsible for it. What this guy would do, Willis would gather together youngsters, high school kids and punks, and then tell them what the plans were and say "now you're either going to do this robbery or you're going to die." So we had quite a bit of excitement on that.

And I got sort of a good insight into the way the Bureau worked under Hoover, at that time, because he was still alive. One robbery they had in Topeka, they were trying to trace the robbers on their way back to Kansas City. They already had pretty much a good idea of who they were. It was a large black male and a black female. And they were driving the Cadillac El Dorado, you know, one of those fancy El Dorados. So sure enough, I kind of had an idea where they were going, so I was out by myself and tagged them and stopped the car. Got out and, you know, and got 'em talking in my car. I was on the radio, you know, trying to get some help (chuckling).

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: And finally after I'd kind of calmed them down, fortunately for me, his .44 magnum was in the pillowcase in the trunk. Because otherwise I don't know what would have been the outcome. After that, why we got enough people there to make an arrest.

Pimentel: This is Willis?

Ault: Yeah. Well, it wasn't Willis himself. It was his henchmen.

Pimentel: Oh, okay.

Ault: Actually, where I stopped the car was two doors down from where Willis was watching him come with the money. According to the informants, when Willis saw me stop him, he grabbed his shotgun and he was going to come out and do me in. Fortunately, his partner stopped him. So, I made the arrest and ... I had to! I had him in the backseat of the car and I'm saying "this guy's name is" whatever it is, you know. And all of a sudden, as I released it, one Agent said on the radio, "Oh, yeah, I know him! He's on parole for bank robbery."

Ault: And, you know, I mean, you can see his eyes getting big so I stuck a gun in his face. Well, what I found out later was that was it. It was all, no mention, no nothin'. The BR Squad took all the credit for the arrest and everything else and I'm thinking "well, what's going on? What's with this outfit?" You know. At least in the Corps I get a medal for doing some of this stuff.

Pimentel: (Laughing) Yeah.

Ault: And came to find out that Hoover did not want his New Agents capturing bank robbers alone.

Pimentel: That's right.

Ault: So they Xed me right out of the picture.

Pimentel: No incentive award there.

Ault: No! Nothing for that.

Pimentel: I guess you were lucky you didn't get a Letter of Censure.

Ault: I was, actually (laughing), yeah. Lucky I didn't get thrown out. I think Bill probably covered for me a little bit, but it was a fun time, you know. It was good guys, working with a lot of good first office Agents.

Pimentel: Yeah. Yeah. And in your second office, any major or, well, you said you worked OC.

Ault: Worked OC, had a lot of Title IIIs. Worked with the Strike Force. Remember they had the big Strike Forces then. A guy named Dave Margolis, 'Moxey' Margolis was the Strike Force Chief. And, yeah, I had probably three or four cases where, actually I got the number three OC guy, Frank Brancato, on some illegal gambling stuff.

Pimentel: How do you spell that?

Ault: Brancato, B-r-a-n-c-a-t-o. Frank was the number three man in the OC Family. He was old then. I'm sure he's gone now. But we had a lot of good, a lot of good stuff going on.

Pimentel: Okay. Any other thing, how about any Extremist or what is it, Violent Extremist, anything there?

Ault: Nothing. Nothing out of the ordinary. I had five, well, we had the Black Panthers and we had the National Socialist White People's Party. And we had the local black group called the Afro Set. You know, they had just burnt East Cleveland back then, and there was a lot of that kind of stuff going on. But nothing, nothing that I would chalk up as out of the ordinary for us, you know.

Pimentel: Alright.

Ault: We'd hit the rallies. We'd do the interviews and take the Bureau's big greenies whenever we tried to tell them, after telling them, "there's nothing going on here. These are people who are all stirred up. They're not going to hurt anything."

Pimentel: So in '75, you were transferred to where?

Ault: Well, 1975, a guy I worked with in Cleveland was Bob Ressler. And Bob, Bob went back a year ahead of me to the Academy and really thought it was great. He called and said, "Hey, you know, with your psychology background, I can get you in the Behavioral Science Unit. So come on, put in for it." So I did; figuring I'd use it as a two-year stop on my, you know, having figured that I would lasso the rocket of administrative advancement.

Pimentel: Right. Right. (Chuckling)

Ault: And got down there and started working in the Behavioral Science Unit and really, really loved it. It was good stuff. And there was a lot of, a lot of things we were doing. A lot of stuff we were allowed to do. We had John Pfaff as the Unit Chief at first when I got down there. He was the one who got me down there. And then came, gosh, I guess it was Larry Monroe. And then Roger Depue. They pretty well cut us all the slack we could use to go do things, whatever we wanted to do. And make the Bureau look good. So that was kind of the way that we were, the way that we started off down there.

There was only, originally, there was only eleven of us in the Unit. And, my avocation from very early on ... when I got there in '75, nobody was working with the Intelligence Division, you know, remember back then Intelligence Division was kind of a bastard godchild.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: You know, if you couldn't make it on a Criminal Squad then ...

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: ... then they'd work you in that. And, they were doing a lot of stuff; doing some recruiting. So they had psych issues, you know. They'd have stuff come up where they needed help from psychology and that's kind of what I did, Behavioral Science, you know. So I started working early with them. And, of course, as it turns out, I was sort of the sole source until I retired in '94. And then maybe even, well, a little beyond too.

Pimentel: And when you first went to the Behavioral Science Unit, you guys were kind of out there on your own to do what basically what you wanted to do. But now, your forte or what, did you start to go out and interview a bunch of people or how did you end up doing the FCI side of things?

Ault: Well, we all had, we'd kind of all inherited courses. We all, well, evolved into specialties anyway. You know, Tom Strentz would go with, eventually go with hostage negotiations.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And, of course, when I got down there, I was thrown into teaching that and then backing up the 40-hour Applied Criminal Psychology course of Howard Teten, becoming his partner in teaching. So we had, I was really blessed to have a whole bunch of different courses and things that I could teach, and we could talk to. And then those other guys started coming in like Roy Hazelwood, who took over Frank Sass's stuff.

Roy began to develop a really neat package of, really professional instructional material, and we'd all chip in and help teach that. So there was a broad variety of things out there that kept coming along. Stress and Police Work. John Minderman sort of started that and, and we would all teach bits of it if we went on the road.

Pretty soon we began to realize that we're getting a lot of this stuff ... What would happen is we'd teach the National Academy; we'd get a lot of consultation work and that would help us to see the variety of things out there that we needed to attend to. But we were working on really weak academic grounds.

Ault: So, that's how we developed this idea that, what we used to call the three-legged barstool. In fact, I think the current Unit Chief uses that a lot. Employing research, consultation and education, you know. Talking to them and then working them all together. And we began to realize, we need more depth to our analysis in all these things. And so what we need to do is what we do best and that's go out and interview bad guys. Find out what makes them tick.

I know we, Bob Ressler and I, had talked about it. I'm sure probably '77, '78, I think, when Douglas came in, he and Bob had talked about it. And I think Douglas and Ressler initially started going after these interviews; just kind of bootlegging it.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And they ran into a lot of problems with the hierarchy.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: But, fortunately, we had some pretty enlightened leadership. So they could see the benefit and that's when we started doing it.

Pimentel: Yeah. So you went out. And also you started going out and interviewing some of the espionage suspects?

Ault: Yeah, mine was later because we were doing, we were helping them with their crime stuff and still teaching. But pretty soon, we had the year of the spy in '85, you know.

Pimentel: **(Unintel)**

Ault: So we had the Walker family and all those. And we had gotten invited over to a CIA conference on espionage. What can we do about all this? And one of the things that came out of it was we submitted our own plan to do what we were already doing in the Behavioral Science Unit all this time, and that is "okay, let's go interview spies." You know, we want to find out what makes them tick. Let me set it up and do that. So three of us ... me, because the FBI, you know, is sort of the cutting edge on getting people into prisons to do the interviews.

Ault: And a guy from OSI, Air Force OSI, named Neil Hibler; and a guy from Rand, at the time, Joe Krofcheck, who was working with the Department of Energy, as well. And then later we were joined by one of the Chiefs of Security at NSA, Bob Hallman. What we decided to do was put together an intelligence community project and have it community-wide. For me, the idea behind it really was to give me a good broad psychological perspective of the mind of spies.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: I mean, I'm trying to recruit them; I'm trying to catch them; I'm trying to help do all this stuff with the Intelligence Division. The more you know ... the principle is, obviously, if you want find out about safecrackers, you go out and interview a lot of safecrackers.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And if you want to know about rapists, like Roy Hazelwood did, you go out and interview hundreds of rapists, which we did. And that's the idea here behind this project.

We got some money from the CIA. The Bureau wasn't interested in paying for it. They didn't.

Pimentel: Yeah, give me a second.

(Recorder off)

Pimentel: So, you have the funding for **(unintel)** ...

Ault: Yeah. We suggested this project to the Agency, to the CIA. It was, the SECOM, Special Security Committee of the CIA, was headed by a guy who was very sympathetic to that kind of thing and he was willing to put up some money for us. And the Bureau, of course, said, "Oh yeah, as long as this doesn't cost us anything, you can go ahead and do what you want to do." So we got it cleared through DOJ.

Ault: I went over to the Bureau of Prisons and talked to their Director over there. That was Carlson at the time, Norm Carlson. And then he was replaced by another, a lady who was very good, Dr. Hawk. And everybody agreed, we could do it. We could get in the prisons, you know, we had access and we'd set it up. So I could do that pretty easily. And then we built a protocol and, and did the interviews. And they started funding it. The CIA is the one who named the project, "Slammer". I, personally, I didn't really care for the name. Prisoners don't have any sense of humor.

Pimentel: No. I'm here on behalf of Operation Slammer.

Ault: (Laughing) Yeah. Slammer! You know. Hahaha! So we, we didn't use that name in front of prisoners.

We had a protocol that was probably every question you ever wanted to ask a spy. Or traitor. And what we were planning to do was interview just spies and traitors who were incarcerated in the U.S., or incarcerated and maybe gotten out. And then eventually, families; we were going to include family members and significant others, which we did from time to time.

And it was intended as a, like the other research, it's intended to be as a field study, in terms of research methodology. It was strictly the lowest grade. It was certainly not experimental research or anything. So it was just a field study. And so we did.

Ault: We started off with all kinds of spies. Initially, I went over to the Department of Justice, to their security people over there. He's a retired Bureau Agent who was running the Unit, and said "this is what we're going to do." And he said, "Well, you only have twelve spies for Pete's sakes! It's not going to give you much of a sample." And I said, "Well, I have a feeling we'll see more." And, you know, by the time I got out, by the time I retired in '94, we were up to like 60, 70 spies easily, you know; and had already interviewed probably 50. I got to do about thirty or so, by then.

And that's not counting recently. I worked for National Counterintelligence Executive doing some of their damage assessments and interviewing folks like J.J. Smith out in, in fact, that was one I begged for (chuckling) so I could talk to him.

Pimentel: J.J. Smith is?

Ault: He was the China Squad, LA China Squad?

Pimentel: Ohhh, yeah.

Ault: Okay. He was sleeping with Katrina Leung.

Pimentel: That's right. That's right. Oh geeze.

Ault: Yeah. Didn't do a day's time in jail.

Pimentel: Yeah. It's amazing.

Ault: The only justice in it was he had to wear a bracelet and stay at home for 90 days with his wife.

Pimentel: That was tough.

Ault: That would've been tough; but not as tough as it should have been.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: He gave away a lot of stuff.

Pimentel: Incredible! Yeah. And, of course, we've got the Bureau's own true spy, or I guess several ... Miller, Pitts and Hanssen.

Ault: **(Unintel)**

Pimentel: Hanssen and his ...

Ault: Oh we got a lot of them. Actually, I know got to know Earl Pitts pretty well. And Hanssen, I debriefed for the NCIX's damage assessment, you know. They hired me to run a team of three of us, to do the psychology part on the damage assessment for Hanssen. Actually, I did it for Hanssen, Montes, Smith, and, I did my own on Pitts. You know, the Bu never did a psych review on Pitts so I went down there on my own. Fortunately, it was Jimmy Carter, I think, running WFO at the time; he was a friend.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm. Yeah.

Ault: And, the Case Agent was Dave Lambert.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: I said, "Look, I'm on contract, but somebody's gotta do a psych eval on this guy and I'd like to go down there and do it in the prison." They let me do it. And Dave went with me. And so we got a day of interviewing.

Pimentel: And what was Pitts reasoning? Or, or what, what did you get out of Pitts, the motivation?

Ault: Pitts is a fascinating guy because, if you were looking at a background, his would be the archetype of an ideal Agent. I mean, he's a Captain in the Army MPs. He ran a company overseas. He was a law clerk for a conservative judge in Kansas City, a Federal judge. He was a lawyer. He had everything! And yet within about three months of getting transferred to New York, he's selling secrets to the Russians.

I gave him what I do typically. Just to go back for a second, what we do is we interview them and then we test them with psychology tests, and whatnot. And Earl's a very intelligent guy. He's got a real good sense of humor. I must admit that of all of them, I like Earl the best. He's not crazy in any sense of the word, but he's got, he's got a psychological aberration if you could call it. When you read the, if you read the test results, they fit him, in terms of the way that he would, if he's pushed too far, he would retaliate.

And, when you talk to him, if you listen to him, you could hear he got into trouble when he was in Tappahannock because they had put what he considered to be an impossible task on him to try and do away with drug trafficking. And there wasn't any. It was all sporadic stuff. And then he got on kind of badly with his supervisor, and then he went up to New York and he had all kinds of problems up there adjusting and adapting. And, as you listen to him, this isn't something that he's rehearsed, you know, when he's talking to me, it's the way he felt about things and to him things got worse and worse and worse.

And, I'm putting this in some broad brief perspective. He finally says he came home one night and his new wife, Mary, says the heater was broken. The plenum was cracked. It was pumping carbon monoxide in the house. They would've probably died someday. And (*finger snaps*) at that point, he said, "That was it!" You know, he says, "I'm living in a dream world; the Bureau's not doing anything right down there in New York City." He says, "I'm lookin' around and there's time card fraud. I'm doing all kinds of things that are worthless. Now I come home and the Bureau's trying to kill me." You know. (Chuckle) "Because they sent me up here." And he says, "And at that point that I'm not going to let..."

Ault: You recall, remember back in, in those ... let's see, when was it? When the heck was he up there? Late '80's, I think.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: The morale was horrible!

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: Every time I'd go up to New York to do some work on the squads up there, I'd check and make sure nobody was going to jump.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: You know. It was really, really bad. Guys living over in, in ...

Pimentel: New Jersey.

Ault: ... New Jersey, remember. Or down in Pennsylvania!

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Ault: And it was awful! So he was so depressed, you know. Everything was going so badly for him. And finally he said, "That's it! I'm not going to let the Bureau do this to me. I'm going to get the Bureau." I said, "Well, why didn't you rob banks?"

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: "Or why didn't you do like some of them did, sell drugs, for Pete's sake?"

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: He says, "Because the Bureau had a point of pride." He says, "I wanted to hurt the Bureau. I didn't want to just do that." He says, "I'm not a thief; I'm not a crook." And he's right! He's a real, basically an 'honorable' guy, but he's got some mental problems. And he said, "What I wanted to do, the Bureau prides itself on keeping secrets. And I was going to hurt that." He said, "I knew how to fix that." So that's what he did ... was sell the secrets.

Pimentel: Strictly retaliation.

Ault: Strictly retaliation. I try not to ever say ... I'm getting in my lecture mode ... never, ever say "one word" motivations, you know. But if there was, if there was, what it accumulated to, when you look at everything, he was hurt.

Pimentel: Yes.

Ault: And his way of handling hurt is to retaliate.

Pimentel: Yeah. Yeah.

Ault: So, and that's what happened.

Pimentel: Incredible!

Ault: Yeah. He's ever so much nicer than Hanssen (laughing), you know.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Bob was a jerk.

Pimentel: Well, what other ones did you interview?

Ault: Oh, man. You name it. Walkers. I did the Walkers.

Pimentel: **(Unintel)** you did the Walkers?

Ault: All the Walkers, husbands, wives. I didn't do Ames. The Agency handled Ames.

Pimentel: Yeah, they would. Yeah.

Ault: On Ames, I did the indirect for the Bureau. You know, that is to go in and tell them what his problem was and everything else. That turned out to be pretty correct.

I got the early ones and more recent ones, with NCIX and so forth. We had the Walkers, and Falcon and the Snowman.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: Chris Boyce and Andrew Daulton Lee. And just, you know, out of the first thirty or so we hit pretty much all the high points.

Pimentel: I was in Mexico when SNARF, Falcon and the Snowman ...

Ault: That's right, when Lee was down there. Yeah.

Pimentel: Yeah, Lee came down and he threw something over the Russian Embassy fence (chuckling)

Ault: (Laughing)

Pimentel: And the cops grabbed him.

Ault: Yeah. Oh, he was, you know he's an interesting guy because, a couple of things. Number one, one of the interviews that we got actually uncovered more of what he did with his money.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: He had invested in valuable rugs and nobody ever knew that. And whoever did the investigation missed that. But he had pumped every chemical known to man into his body. I mean, there wasn't a drug he wasn't taking or using or anything else.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: When we got to him in prison, he was ... where the heck was he ... somewhere in the California system somewhere. I mean, he was in Federal system like in Pleasanton or something like that. And he was the only guy in the prison system (he was that kind of a wheeler-dealer) who was building dentures; building bridges for whoever, you know, in the prison system; like the Unicorn.

Pimentel: Oh.

Ault: And they had trained him and they had provided him with the tools and everything. Of course, they'd carefully watch him, but he would build denture bridges. And apparently did a great job.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: He was doing it, and he had recovered miraculously, I mean, marvelously well. His intellect was good. He couldn't remember most of what he'd done in Mexico City because he was so doped up.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: But he was recovered.

Pimentel: Incredible. What did you find in your, you're still doing the work on the psychology of the spies, but what is their general motivation, or usual motivation?

Ault: You can't, you really can't pin it down. I don't think there's any particular universal thing. I mean, Hanssen. Hanssen's still kind of, his problem was sort of spread out, you know, over a bunch of different motivations and backgrounds, and it was tied into his history. Like with the Walkers, I'd say they're sort of archetypical.

What happened was John got himself into a lot of problems financially and realized that since he had the access that he could get himself out of those problems by going ahead and doing what he did. And being narcissistic enough to think it was okay for him to do, he could control it. And besides it was him doing it, you know.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: You see a lot of that. In fact, what would happen is what I call the confluence of evil. What happened is, you got personality styles. And these types would start moving along and they'd have access or they'd have access to secrets like Bruce Ott. He didn't, he didn't really have the clearance but he worked right outside the vaults at Beale AFB, in California. And so he had access to the Blackbird tech manuals, the SR-71 tech manual. So, when they start getting themselves deeper, and deeper, and deeper into trouble because they think they're so great, all of a sudden they realize they're in a lot of trouble and they have the opportunity, and the personality, (*finger snap*) and inevitably there seems to be a crisis.

The first guy we ever interviewed was David Henry Barnett, the CIA Station Chief in Jakarta, remember. Barnett was, was thinking that he was the world's greatest business man and he was going to set up a business there, while he was there, importing fish to Japan, or something. I mean, it was really dumb. He got deeper, and deeper, and deeper into debt and realized they were going to put him in jail there in Indonesia if he didn't pay off his debts. He couldn't get out and he didn't know how to do it. So he approached the Russians and started selling secrets to them. And Barnett comes out of a very privileged background.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Now, Walker, I asked him, “Hey Johnny, what’s the reason you did this? Why’d you do this?” “Money!” he said, “Moneys the problem! Moneys the solution!” He said, “That’s why I did it for.” But there’s always more. There’s always a background of personality.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: John’s a psychopath. He’s clearly psychopathic and always will be. But anyway, he’s in Butner, North Carolina, now.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Seventy-two years old. I don’t think he’s, he doesn’t get out until 2016.

Pimentel: Yeah. Well, it seems like a lot of the guys are in Butner and ...

Ault: Yeah. Yeah.

Pimentel: ... and what gripes me about Butner is that ... because I have a friend who works in the medical, he runs the medical system down there.

Ault: Oh, yeah.

Pimentel: These bums, or these criminals get the best of medical care!

Ault: Ohhh, it’s good stuff! I remember, when I got out of the Corps and went back to school, I was working at the camp at Montgomery, AL.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And I can remember thinking, I’d rather do four years here than in the Corps.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: You know, that was easy pickins’. Yeah, you’re right. And Butner is particularly luxurious.

Pimentel: Got the top oncologist on call there.

Ault: Yeah.

Pimentel: It was just a, you name it.

Ault: Yeah.

Pimentel: It's a big Federal facility, first of all, but then it's also got the best (**unintel**) facility and medical facility. Anyway, I guess they need to be taken care of since we're (**unintel**) put 'em away.

Ault: (Laughing) Yeah, exactly.

Pimentel: I always thought, because I worked a lot of FCI stuff back in the '80s and I always consider that, not having looked at the psyche of these people, that it was primarily greed.

Ault: No, "it's, greed" would be too simple, I think, to put it that way. Because you get a guy like Hanssen, where you, you'd think it was greed, but there were so many dynamics built into it. He was in the, what's the big steel city down there, out of Chicago, the RA? Gary!

Pimentel: Gary.

Ault: Remember. And he was going to go from there to Cleveland and his wife said "no way!" There's no Opus Dei here. She wanted to go right into New York. Now, here's this young, I mean, he's already got all kinds of problems, doesn't want to get into that but then all of a sudden he goes into a place where he can't stay ahead of the expenses. And he said, "I finally got to the point where I needed money badly." He said, "I figured..." And given the fact that both his dad and his granddad were crooked cops, and he knew that. He said himself, "The bar wasn't too high for me." (Laughing) It was an easy decision to make to go ahead and start his espionage.

Pimentel: Yeah, but hadn't the Bureau caught that about his dad and granddad?

Ault: No, I don't think so.

Pimentel: The corruption?

Ault: I don't think they did. You know, 'cause what he's talking about, today even ... in fact, I saw him last year, just a follow-up last November out at Florence. But what he, what he was saying was it was a classic, it's a classic sort of Chicago ...

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Ault: ... of family there. Guys would show up at the door with frozen lobsters and offer them as gifts.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And just before every vacation, there was 700, 800 dollars that he allegedly won at the track.

Pimentel: (Chuckling)

Ault: And so he said, "It didn't take too many brains to figure out something was wrong here."

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: The Bureau must not have picked it up. Or, you know, just said, "Ah, typical." You know.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: "It's a Chicago cop."

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Which may or may not be fair to Chicago.

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Ault: He was a CPA, you know. So would we have not hired him, even if we'd known that the old man might have been on the take.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: It was nothing. He was never convicted of it or caught for it.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: But Bob knew.

Pimentel: So you're still interviewing Hanssen? Or you did and said you had a file on **(unintel)**.

Ault: I did. Fortunately, I had some friends over at the Agency, you know, in the Counterintelligence Center. And they were going to go back out ... one of the psychologists was going to go back out and interview Hanssen and I said, "Oh, I wouldn't mind doing that." I haven't seen him since '03, when we debriefed him. Just to see how he's changed because he's spent a lot of time in that Super Max.

And they said, "Okay! Come on. We'll take you along." I had to pay for it myself but that was okay. So, yeah, I'm still doing interviews.

Pimentel: **(Unintel)** of him?

Ault: No. He's professing to be looking at his time in prison as part of his penitence. I think if he, you know, he would probably revert to form in a minute (laughing); if he were let loose.

Pimentel: Yeah..

Ault: I mean, he's doing penitence because he has to. So this is, he's down in ...

Pimentel: Still in Super Max?

Ault: Yeah.

Pimentel: So it's 23?

Ault: Twenty-three, 23 hours a day, no communications.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And he said he's got friends. He's willing, by the way, to rat on them. He said he'd do that.

Pimentel: (Chuckle) Let me switch this, switch this over here.

Ault: Okay. Am I talking too much, here?

Pimentel: No. No. This is great. No. In fact, I want to get maybe a little more in-depth on these spies, if there's any more in-depth we can go here, I think there is. Okay.

Ault: He was a, he was a great guy (talking about Tom DuHadway).

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Easy to get along with. Easy to approach.

Pimentel: Yeah. Exactly. He was the Assistant Director of Division 5, the Intelligence Division, back in the mid-'80s.

Ahhh, we were talking about the spies that, all the spies that you've interviewed. I thought there might have been a common thread as to their motivation, but you indicate that there was not. There was usually a lot of underlying ...

Ault: Underlying personality variables and, ultimately, they looked at it themselves, their answer is sort of money, or some kind of *specie* for whatever it was that they were providing or going to provide. But it, generally it was an evolution of, or a confluence of things that evolve in a crisis.

Now, one of the things, if there is any universal to these people, and it's not just the spies, but you see it in a lot of the other behavior of criminals. That is that I have not met one of these guys who understands the concept of the healthy, normal relationship. An agape relationship, that is a loving, giving, selfless kind of a relationship with another person. Never, never saw that in any of them.

Pimentel: Hmmm!

Ault: If there was ever any "universal" thing that you'd be looking for, it would be that, I think.

Pimentel: Amazing. Yeah.

Ault: And, and then the second thing would be a certain amount of impulsiveness. It seems built into their systems.

Pimentel: Now, were most of these, that you interviewed, was it they had been approached or they approached, maybe approached themselves?

Ault: Both. We had walk-ins and recruits. And not as many recruits as you do walk-ins. Those seem to be the ones that get caught more often.

Pimentel: The walk-ins?

Ault: Yeah, but most of them were walk-ins. You had recruits like Bell, remember Zacharski recruited William Bell. The guy who worked for ... was it Hughes ... Zacharski, I think it was Hughes, yeah.

Pimentel: I think it was Hughes, yeah.

Ault: Out in the West Coast. And, oh gosh, who else? I can't think of who else was recruited. The Walkers were walk-ins.

Pimentel: Okay.

Ault: Yeah. Most of them were, most of them were volunteers, who were the walk-ins. You got more of those.

And then you had two styles, too. You had the Walkers who, John is, like I said, the classic psychopath; and then you had the real dummies. Bruce Ott and Jim Cavanaugh, who tried to sell the Stealth stuff. And, just so, just absolutely blundering. In the way that they did things. Call on the phone and say, "Hey, I've got something to sell here."

Pimentel: (Laugh)

Ault: "You guys, is this phone confidential?"

Pimentel: (Laughing) And, anyway, so then you retired in '94?

Ault: Yes. I retired in '94. I was still the only guy that was providing full service to Intelligence. So, what happened was I was working with a Steve Moran, who was working for Ginny Bollinger. And Ginny orchestrated a Unit, specific for Intelligence Division, called the Behavioral Assessment Program. And what we were going to do was bring it ... During the course of all this study and doing all these interviews, one of the things that I had insisted, fortunately, the Bureau got Ken Geide and some of the others, and we brought in Agents from around the field who worked, who specialized in the work to help with interviews. I'm not an, I'm not, I was never vetted as an Intelligence guy.

Pimentel: No. No.

Ault: All I did, and all I loved to do, was just the psych assessments and give help and advice on the operation stuff. And what I wanted to do was, because I knew I was going to learn by a lot of these interviews, was bring in maybe five or six people from field offices ... WFO, San Francisco, LA, and so forth.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: And have them participate in the interviews. That way we'd get exposed to spies and traitors. There are Agents, as you know, who worked this stuff all their lives and never talked to one traitor or one spy.

Pimentel: Yeah. Right.

Ault: So I wanted to get these guys exposed to it so we'd have experts in place all around the field. And so we started, the Bureau did that. They gathered together some, some folks, volunteers. So we'd go out and do interviews and so forth, with one other Agent from one of the field offices.

And then the BAP program, this Behavioral Assessment Program that Ginny Bollinger ran originally, was designed to bring some of those experts and others together and, to be able to handle, when an Agent had a problem, have him come in and present that case and then get the help that he or she needed.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Ault: And it worked pretty well. They made me sort of an emeritus member of that, for probably longer than most contractors last in the Bureau, anyway; nine years I guess.

Pimentel: Hmmm!

Ault: Then I got bounced out on a re-bid of the contract. (Laughing)

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: So, I moved on to the Department of Defense .

Pimentel: Uh-huh. So you're working more with the Department of Defense now.

Ault: Yes. When I retired, you know, Roger Depue had started Academy Group, so I went to work there and I've stayed with them ever since. I'm still, still a quote "employee" there. In fact, I ran it for a while for four or five years. And then, in the meantime, probably about 2000, around 2002 or so, 2003, while I was doing stuff for NCIX, I also got hired on by a

for the Department of Defense.

Ault: And so I got hired on and worked

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: So, a lot of stuff
It's kind of like the Bureau in the sense that they needed,
they needed talent so badly.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Still do.

Pimentel: So you're still having fun, then?

Ault: Yeah. Really. I backed off, I'm working now for the Director of
Personnel Security at the DIA. That's who holds my contracts now.
And I've been reined in for a lot of travel. I'm getting a little tired.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: And, interestingly enough, it's like the Bureau. I remember when the
average experience range was five years there and I don't think it's
gotten all that much better.

Pimentel: Pshew!

Ault: And the same is true here. The turnover rate is horrible on
officers, you know. I mean, they're just in and out in six months
and they're young.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: And so, they're just really hungry for Behavioral Science help.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: And I'm having fun. I may get back into, I may get back into some
stuff but I'm trying to set it up so I can stay put.

Pimentel: Stay here, yeah. Yeah.

Ault: Because you don't have to do a lot of travel and do .

Pimentel: No. No.

Ault: And you can bring them back.

Pimentel: You can bring them in.

Ault: To do what we do, anyway.

Pimentel: Yeah. Exactly. Getting back to in your Bureau days, part of our Oral History Project is being funded by the Virginia Humanities folks ...

Ault: Hmmm!

Pimentel: ... and so they're, of course, interested in things that happened in Virginia.

Ault: Oh brother.

Pimentel: (Laughing) You worked, of course, at Quantico all those years.

Ault: And that was a very cloistered existence. Down in the basement. Down in the old ... remember the old bomb shelter that Hoover made?

Pimentel: That was what? Mr. Hoover's bomb shelter?

Ault: Yep, that's right.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: On both levels for awhile, actually.

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Ault: So, it wasn't, you know, we drove in and out through the Marines and their field exercises so often.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: I lived down in Fredericksburg at the time.

Pimentel: **(Unintel)** was a lot of teaching? You were teaching primarily, National Academy?

Ault: Charlie Deane; I don't know if you know him. He's the Chief of Police for Prince William County. Charlie Deane was one of my students, for heaven's sakes.

Pimentel: Hmmm.

Ault: Yeah. A lot of, a lot of instruction over the years.

Pimentel: Yeah. Now you started out working with Tom Strentz, then, in the Profiling, or actually the Hostage Negotiation.

Ault: Hostage Negotiation Unit.

Pimentel: So you were involved in some of that, then.

Ault: Yeah. In fact, the, I guess the keynote case I had was, remember the Washington Monument?

Pimentel: Yeah!

Ault: What was his name? Shoot!

Pimentel: The guy with the tractor?

Ault: No, this was the guy who drove his truck right up to the door of the Washington Monument.

Pimentel: Ohh, that's right. That's right.

Ault: And, when the Ranger came out, it was one of those step-vans. One of those one-ton step-vans.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: He handed the guy a piece of paper and it said, "There's two thousand pounds of TNT on this truck ready to go off. You better get people out of here."

Ault: And so the Ranger did that. And then he was, he was left there for the rest of the day. And they brought in the SWAT teams and, and then we were invited in. We didn't have jurisdiction but we were invited in. It looked like every department in the city had jurisdiction. They were, wisely, over-the-hill and away from the truck with the command post. And so it was me and, who else? Joe, maybe Joe Conley. He might have been there too. So they had a Hostage Negotiator, the Park Police had jurisdiction. But he turned it all over to us. So we went out and, we got his ... what was his name? Norman Mayer. Oh, found some of his friends. The cops brought one in and we interviewed him. It was clear from the interview the guy was suicidal. Which was bad; bad news. It was clear he was paranoid, as well.

And so I went over and did the presentation to the assembled chiefs and said, you know, "A) everything he's done - he gave away his signs and everything else he owned, indicates he doesn't want to come out of there alive. And B) here's the kind of person he is." And this guy who had obviously been trained by us says "oh, you mean he's a paranoid schizophrenic?" I said, "No, I don't mean that at all."

(Laughing) I don't want to get tagged making a diagnosis. I said, "Here's what he is." They said, "Well, here's the question: does he have explosives?" Because what was happening was they were running the bomb dogs by him and the bomb dogs were excited. So what we found out later, actually, was Norman - Norman Mayer - Norman took nitroglycerin pills for A-fib or something, so he had nitroglycerin pills in the truck. That was what the dogs were alerting to.

Pimentel: (Chuckling)

Ault: And they asked, they said, "Well, does he have?" "Are there explosives on that truck?" And I said, "Well, I can't tell you that. But I can tell you, typically, these guys screw up something. And generally something as pervasive as trying to put in all those explosives and arm it, my guess would be no." Not that it's worth anything, what are you going to do different anyway? (laughing)

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: Then Norman finally got tired and got back in his truck. And then the problem, the big problem was that the original SWAT and negotiations team set up. If you go up the Monument, and you look down about a, maybe a hundred yards, there's a little stone shed down there. It's not a shed, it's a little souvenir shop. Right there. And that's where they set up. They were less than 300 hundred feet away from this truck, allegedly full of thousands of pounds of explosives. And, sure enough, all of a sudden, he drives away. Fortunately the snipers were down there with us, and sure enough, he gets in the truck and he starts it up and he starts to come around. And everybody's scrambling.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: And the snipers get the green light and they take him out. And I'm sitting down there behind a post waiting for the explosion.

Pimentel: Yeah. (Laughing)

Ault: Two thousand pounds of TNT.

Pimentel: So the snipers did take him out?

Ault: They took him out. Yeah. And it turns out he had nothing in the truck. But that was the first hostage negotiation that I got involved with. It was a good introduction.

Pimentel: Yeah. And Tom was working with you on that?

Ault: Tom, no. We were teaching together. Tom wasn't down there for that one. I think he was with Pat Mullany on the Hanafi Muslim thing.

Pimentel: Right. Right. Yeah, that's right; he was. Yeah.

Ault: But I don't think Tom was working on this one. But we taught together a lot. And we all handled, you know, multi-tasking.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: And Con Hassel was the expert on the hostage negotiation. And then he and Tom kind of slithered off, you know, went over to SOARS.

- Pimentel: Yeah, I know. Who else was involved with you? Was there a Fitzgerald? Or a Fitzpatrick?
- Ault: Bob Fitzpatrick. Yeah, he was in there for awhile. He, he had the ambitions to go be a boss somewhere else.
- Pimentel: Okay. The one you worked with was Bob Fitzpatrick?
- Ault: Bob Fitzpatrick. Yeah. He was kind of a happy-go-lucky sort of guy. But he wasn't cut out to do a lot of teaching. He wanted to, wanted administrative advancement.
- Pimentel: But he was, he was working what? Profiling? Or what was he doing?
- Ault: A little of everything.
- Pimentel: Okay.
- Ault: Teaching Stress Management. I don't know if he did the, I don't think he did the Applied Criminal Psychology part. That was me and Ressler, and Douglas, finally. Fitzpatrick was just sort of a generalist. I don't think he was there but a year or two.
- Pimentel: Okay. Anyone else? I've talked to Con Hassel.
- Ault: Uhm, Jim Reese was there for, yeah, Jim Reese was a long time. He got involved, he was really big in Stress Management, he and Jim Horn. Horn was there. Horn is out in Oklahoma now. I don't know where Jim is now; used to be down here in Burke Lake. But I think he might have moved to Williamsburg.
- Pimentel: Okay.
- Ault: And Reese and Horn were really involved in the stress management, you know, in the crisis management stuff and everything else at the Bureau; and did a great job. Put on a lot of neat programs and whatnot.
- Pimentel: Yeah. Because we're trying to, on the Oral History side, we're trying to, for example, we've done the Civil Rights side.
- Ault: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Pimentel: We want to get the different aspects of the different things; for example, the Bureau's involvement in Civil Rights, but also how we got started on the, the Behavioral Science Unit, down there, which you guys really were pioneers in a lot of this stuff. And that's what makes it ...

Ault: There's just anything that was not picked up.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: It became a concern to cops, the homicides, police, police killings, all that; and we figured it was fair game.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: You're right.

Pimentel: And I know I've heard from many, many folks that they initially kind of doing it on the qt?

Ault: Oh yeah.

Pimentel: Without Mr. Hoover knowing about it ...

Ault: (Laughing) Yes!

Pimentel: And then, of course, trying to convince the hierarchy once he passed on.

Ault: They were pretty good. It was, fortunately, it was a good chain of command. They were pretty loose in terms of what they would have us do.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: As long as it didn't cost money. Money was always the issue. And there was a reluctance to let Bob and John do those interviews. But once we began to sell it a little bit, they went ahead and said, "Okay, yeah, but, take it easy. Don't get into, don't get us into trouble." The usual pussy-footing.

Pimentel: Yeah. (Laughing) So, okay, we've talked about Bud Teten, Pat Mullany, Con Hassel, Reese, Douglas, and Horn, you said.

Ault: Yeah. Jim Horn was a little later. We were down in the basement by then.

Pimentel: There weren't any females in there because they were all, there weren't any females until 1972.

Ault: Yeah. Easily, well after that, yeah. '72 was the time for the first females after Hoover died.

Pimentel: Yeah. Right.

Ault: Somebody was, we were talking about that with somebody the other day. It might have been Kirby, but she was over in John's side. The first female didn't come in there until after John Douglas was trying to form another Unit.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: And I can't remember. I thought it was, what's her name, Kirby. She was in the Baltimore Office for awhile. I can't think of her first name. Pat? Patricia. I think it was Pat Kirby-Smith. Or Pat Kirby. Maybe it wasn't Kirby-Smith.

Pimentel: Okay. Okay. There's a gal who's kind of ramrodding the female side and she had asked me, she's the one, in fact, who got the money from the Virginia Humanities people.

Ault: Ohhh! That's good. Who's that?

Pimentel: Susan Wynkoop.

Ault: Oh, don't know her.

Pimentel: She was in the Bureau only about seven years, I believe. But she's gotten involved in the Oral History.

Ault: That's good.

Pimentel: Because part of the thing is trying to get funding for all of these interviews [which] will eventually be housed at the National Law Enforcement Memorial Museum.

Ault: Hmmm! Yeah, you'd said. That's interesting.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: It's amazing.

Pimentel: Yeah. There is a lot of history, and a lot of it went to the grave with the Agents that worked it.

Ault: Exactly.

Pimentel: Unfortunately, for example, like the guys who worked the old gangster era. I did get a little bit out of Walter Walsh, who's now 102!

Ault: (Laughing) Oh, geeze! Yeah!

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: Oh, that's something! Oh, man, that must have been ... yeah.

Pimentel: An interesting guy. I'll tell ya.

Ault: And they're just living it. You know. I mean, it was just a work-a-day world. Like old Charlie Donlan used to say. Remember? The law instructor there.

Pimentel: Charlie Donlan?

Ault: Charlie Donlan! Yeah. Inspector Donlan.

Pimentel: With Balls O'Leary.

Ault: Balls O'Leary!

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: A work-a-day world.

Pimentel: (Chuckle) Right. Okay. Any other things on the spy matter, or the year of the spy, that was '85, of course.

Ault: It was around '85, I think, is when they got the Walkers and then they had ... who else? I wish I had my stuff here, instead of keeping it at the other office.

Pimentel: That's okay.

Ault: You know, we had Whitworth, Jerry Whitworth and Walker, and Art or Art and John Walker, and Babs. Walker's wife was involved in it a little bit, too.

Pimentel: She was the one that turned them in. Right?

Ault: She turned them in. Yeah. (Laughing) John wouldn't pay up, so ...

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: She was a drunk.

Pimentel: A woman scorned.

Ault: Yeah. And then there were a couple of others in that same year. All of a sudden it all started oozing out, how badly we'd been had.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Walker got us real time. Who was giving the stuff. Well, Ames was out there then, I think.

Pimentel: Ames, yeah.

Ault: And, gosh, of course, Barnett gave a bunch of stuff away. Oh, I think one of the first guys was, and I understand he's dead now, Joe Helmich. He was an Army Warrant.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: In Europe, and then later went over to Vietnam, selling crypto stuff.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Ault: They had us.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Russians probably knew a great deal, if they could believe, you know, what they were getting.

Pimentel: Right. And, of course, trying to find the recruits is much more difficult for the Bureau.

Ault: It was, yeah, the recruits. I don't know how many of them got caught and how many of them got away with it. (Laughing) Because a substantial number of those that we had were the walk-ins, you know, and not the recruited ones.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: So, there was always a question, you know, what's getting away if this is what's getting caught.

Pimentel: Exactly. And we were fortunate on Hanssen that we found out about it.

Ault: Yeah. That was a miracle of timing ...

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: ... was more than that ... it was good that we had guys that were capable of taking, picking up the gauntlet, but it was just a, just a matter of good timing as you well ...

Pimentel: Perfect timing, yeah.

Ault: A lot of the captures were also good counterintelligence work.

Pimentel: Yeah. Yeah. They were.

Ault: But a few of them were just luck. Dumb luck, you know.

Pimentel: I know this is before you came into the Bureau because, well, I was in the, before I came into the Bureau, I was in the 9-0-2nd in my **(unintel)** ...

Ault: Oh yeah!

Pimentel: And I had an opportunity to work the Stafford – Harris case. These are two sergeants who were in ...

Ault: NSA.

Pimentel: ... well, they were giving out the crypto stuff ...

Ault: Yeah.

Pimentel: ... in France; turning over the crypto material right over to the Soviets.

Ault: Okay, was that the homosexual team?

Pimentel: No.

Ault: No. That wasn't them? No?

Pimentel: These are two black guys that, who were found out about because they tried to recruit a third black guy who happened to be on a Brigadier General's staff.

Ault: Ohhh.

Pimentel: He just felt that it was the wrong thing to do and he reported it and ...

Ault: (Chuckling)

Pimentel: ... it got to the 9-0-deuce and ...

Ault: Well, I'll be darned. Yeah.

Pimentel: ... we worked it and brought them back successfully to the States. And wanted to see if the Bureau wanted to work it and the Bureau said "no, you guys, you guys could get more time of putting him in hard labor than we can."

Ault: Yeah. Yeah.

Pimentel: They both got twenty-five years, as I recall, at hard labor at Fort Leavenworth. (Chuckling)

Ault: Oh, that's good. Yeah.

Pimentel: But they were actually turning over the rotors.

Ault: Yeah, I remember that's what Helmich did. Yeah. That's interesting.

Pimentel: Yeah!

Ault: Helmich was doing that in France too, in Paris. That's kind of interesting.

Pimentel: Camp de Loges there that was just outside of Paris.

Ault: Yeah. Gosh!

Pimentel: That was incredible what, we don't know how much the Soviets got or the damage caused.

Ault: Oh, they got us real time.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: I mean, there was a lot of leakage. That's interesting because, who was it, Jeff Carney, was in Leavenworth DB; they went to the Discipline Barracks, you know, not Fort Leavenworth USP, but the Army's DB. A lot of those guys got out pretty quickly. They were doing, they were getting a lot of good time and everything.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: So, Jeff Carney. And then there was a guy named Peri, I talked to him. He just got fed up and grabbed a whole handful of computer disks and the computer and took it across the river to the, across to the East Germans, you know.

Pimentel: Hmmm!

Ault: A young boy, enlisted guy, Army. He just got fed up, and he decided he'd defect. (Chuckling)

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Came back and they put him in the DB again, too.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Carney got twenty years in the DB, but he's out.

Pimentel: So Carney was another spy, then?

Ault: Jeff Carney, yeah. It was kind of an interesting case. He was an Air Force Sergeant. He was a homosexual and, you know, it wasn't even in the don't ask-don't tell then. It was just don't, don't get caught. Don't be anything. And he was drinking too much and everything else. But he was at Goodfellow AFB and he went over ... no, wait a minute. He was trained, he could speak German. His only skill was that he could speak fluent German.

Ault: He went over to Bad Kreuzberg, or someplace over in Germany and was working, you know, listening to the stuff and doing the translations and everything, and getting drunker and drunker and misbehaving more and just sort of falling apart. Finally he says, "That's it!" He'd had it; he hates the system. He went across to East Germany. Whoever handled him was just fantastic on the Stasi. They sent him back that night ...

Pimentel: (Chuckling)

Ault: ... and he started working for them. And they got him real primed up and everything; came back to Goodfellow. They were talking about giving polygraphs to everybody so he thought they were on to him so he defects, he runs.

He flies into Mexico and then flies to East Germany and says, "I'm here." And while he was there, in East Germany, he listens to the Embassy's folks and profiles, profiling who might be approachable and who won't be. And the Wall fell and he had a job running the U-Bahn, driving an U-Bahn train. And OSI comes to us, he's an Air Force guy, so OSI comes to us and says, "We need your help building an assessment on this guy." So I did the assessment and told them what I thought would be the best approach to him. And he says, "Well, what we plan to do is we're gonna hit him when he walks out of his door." Status of Forces was no problem, apparently.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: And he says, "We're going to hit and we're going to roll him up, literally roll him up, blindfold him; and we're going to throw him in the back of a C-121 Starlifter. And we're going to take him home."

Ault: All disoriented. "We're going to strip him of his medals and, put his uniform on and strip him of his rank." I said, "This sounds like something the Mossad cooked up."

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: I said, "You don't have to do it to this guy!" You know. "Just give him a little love and kisses ..."

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: You know, "love and tenderness."

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And fortunately what happened was the guy who, the Case Agent who was on it, was a really nice, really good guy.

Pimentel: Uh-huh.

Ault: And they started getting him to talking and then we went in and did a Slammer interview on him and everything. And one of the questions I asked him was, "So what made you decide to talk to our guys?" He said, "You know it's funny, I was sitting in the room. They put me in this cold room and just threw my coat on the floor." And Tom walked in ... the Case Agent. And Tom is the kind of guy that would appeal to Jeff. And Tom walks in and he looked at me and he looks at the coat on the floor, and he walks over and he hangs the coat up. And he said, "That little act of kindness, did it!"

Pimentel: Hmmm!

Ault: He said, "I knew I was going to tell him everything I could."
(Laughing)

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: Okay! Win one for the Gipper here. (Laughing)

Pimentel: Yeah. (Laughing)

Ault: I told these guys, "Just treat him nice."

Pimentel: Exactly. Yeah. Well now, of course, with all the stuff going on ...

Ault: Waterboarding and all that. Yeah.

Pimentel: Waterboarding and all of this **(unintel)** ...

Ault: Oh, gee, yeah.

Pimentel: And, of course, now it seems that the, what the press is trying to do is pit the Bureau against the CIA on all of that.

Ault: Yeah. Yeah.

Pimentel: Good cop, bad cop.

Ault: Good guy ... ba-a-a-ad boys!

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: The problem, the big problem is that there's a whole, to me, there was always a whole different element. We did a, we did a little research, side research project ... interviewed five terrorists.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: Yu Kikamora, Younon, a couple of guys who came into the U.S. planning to blow up New York City. And we interviewed five of these guys. And clearly the methodology and the protocols and everything that we were using for our spies, and for intelligence doesn't fit terror. It just doesn't work well at all. You know, being nice to them is okay for, for this. Being nice to a terrorist is not a good thing. I would, I would suggest that, while there's forms of torture that I certainly wouldn't ...

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Ault: ... even countenance or recommend. But treating them badly is not a terrible thing.

Pimentel: Not a terrible thing. That's the way, that's the way I feel.

Ault: Being their buddy, you know, is okay after ... It depends on the level you're dealing with, too.

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Ault: Oh well.

Pimentel: But I think these guys are so brainwashed, the majority of the ones, they would just as soon cut their mother's throat as look at you.

Ault: Yeah. Exactly. We're not looking at humanized. Or too humanized, maybe.

Pimentel: Yeah. Exactly.

Pimentel: Anything that, that were one of your best moments in the Bureau while you were teaching down at Quantico? And also doing your assessments or surveys?

Ault: No. There's been a lot of good stuff, more, certainly more good, for me, anyway, more good than bad. It's been a great tour.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: I'm sure there's, I mean, there's a lot of high moments, but it's just been good. A good tour.

Pimentel: I think that everyone that I've talked to says the same thing. It's a great career.

Ault: Yeah.

Pimentel: And particularly what you were doing. That you had kind of almost full rein. ...

Ault: We did. Left on our own devices and just given our head. It was wonderful to have that.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Wouldn't exchange it for anything in the world.

Pimentel: Of course, you were, you were so, it was so innovative in the sense that you guys were getting ideas from the cops and the cops were getting a lot of ideas from you guys.

Ault: Yeah. Yeah.

Pimentel: So there was a clear exchange.

Ault: There was a lot of good stuff. And we were helping them, you know.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: That was one of the things that we always looked, I always looked at, and, most of the same ones always looked at ... our position was really very small. We were a good, we're a good tool to have in your tool kit.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: But we're not the tool kit. And as long as you understood that, why it was helpful to the cops.

Pimentel: But I think it was ... don't you think it was mutual that ... it was great for you guys to learn this from the cops.

Ault: We did. Oh yeah!

Pimentel: Because then that could be imparted, about the Agents later on.

Ault: Give it back to them.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: And, it was, it was a necessary learning, you know. I mean, you had to have the turnabout. Because we'd go in with pretty, sometimes with pretty spartan stuff. And then you'd teach it and say, "Here's what we learned." And some cop will say, "Well, wait, I had something like this." And you think, "Okay, that's good to incorporate."

Pimentel: Yeah.

Ault: Yeah, it was learning as quick as you were teaching. It was wonderful. Just great.

Pimentel: And resolving, I know in talking to the profilers, in some cases, actually resolving cases.

Ault: Yeah. Yeah!

Pimentel: That they would bring to you.

Ault: Yeah. Oh, absolutely. That was always a fun part, being able to ... and afterward too. I remember a case we got when I working with AGI, doing an analysis of a letter. The guy saying, "Can you tell us, maybe, a little something about the author?" I read the thing and I said, "Ahh! I can do better than that, I can tell you who the author is!" He said, "What!" (Laughing)

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Ault: I said, "No problem! I can, I'll tell ya exactly who wrote this letter." She said, "But you don't even know anybody in it." I said, "Don't need to. I can tell." And that's the kind of stuff, over the years, you pick up and integrate.

Pimentel: And who was the author?

Ault: It was, it was a strange one ... this lady worked for a government agency and was down in North Carolina, and somebody started sending out all of these poison pen letters to her boss and everybody else. The way the individual wrote it, it was clear that the main topic was how the victim picked on Joey (her former boyfriend). And the way the letter was written, it was clear that Joey was the guy who wrote it.

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Pimentel: And it was no doubt in my mind. So I said, "Here's what you do. You go back and interview the victim again." About her former boyfriend.

Pimentel: Right.

Ault: And just ask her a few questions about it. She didn't even think that. She was all upset about it. And by the time we started talking to her, she was answering questions, "Well, yeah, he does," "Yeah, he does that." And then all of a sudden bing (*snaps his fingers*), the light went on apparently. The investigator said she just broke down and started sobbing. He says, "What's the problem?" She said, "He wrote these, didn't he?"

Pimentel: Two and two.

Ault: Yeah. So, yeah, the little high points like that made this stuff "fun". We had a lot of cases where we could help them. And that was the good thing about it.

Pimentel: Yeah. Have you published anything?

Ault: Not recently. Mike Napier's doing a book and I just wrote a little, sort of a really brief chapter on Indirect Assessment, you know. That's what I've been doing.

Pimentel: Mike Napier is?

Ault: Mike's a former Behavior, he was a Unit member. He worked in John Douglas' Unit.

Pimentel: Oh, okay.

Ault: Was down there for a number of years. He's with AGI now. He teaches with us and lives down in Lake Anna.

Pimentel: Okay.

Ault: Mike's one of, one of the AGI guys. Works with Roy a lot.

Pimentel: Wrote a chapter?

Ault: On Indirect Assessment. Yeah. 'Indirect Personality Assessment'. That's what he called it.

Pimentel: And how is that indirect? Is that off of documents or?

Ault: What I do is, rather than doing interviews of the individuals, for example, with recruitment stuff, a lot of times we don't need to even get involved with the subject. Although, the last couple of times I did it, I did. We went in and did interviews. But a lot of the stuff that I did was just review of records.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Ault: And see, here's what's going on and you just say, "Look, here's the guy's problem. Here's what he is, and here, what you see is the consequence of what he is. And here's what's likely to happen if you approach him. Here's the best way to approach him." It depends on the question the case agents have.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Ault: "What do you want to do with him?" "Well, I want to recruit him." "Well, do you want a onetime dump? Or do you want RIP?" And so you get those things all sorted out and I can go in and take a look at the information we do have about it.

And the nice thing about working with the Bureau for all those years was I'd just say, "I need more information." And, the Bureau, if there's one thing we're good at, it's that!

So, I was spoiled by the time I got out. And I get the stuff out of ... DOD doesn't do that very well because their _____ are not well trained to do that kind of stuff.

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Ault: And ... nor interpret it, nor figure out what's significant. So being able to go in and just say, "Here's what you got and here's what you need, and here's how you do it."

Ault: And then there were some other things too, you know. They got us doing some stuff where they were trying to find out about veracity issues. I said, "That's polygraph. Why are you bothering me with veracity? I don't do that. I do psych work." But once in a while when you put everything together you could, you could build a strong case for the guy, "yeah, the guy's telling you the truth" or "yeah, he's lying to you." And here's why. So it was fun. It was just a lot of fun.

Pimentel: Anything you want to add?

Ault: No! I, I'm all talked out. I appreciate somebody taking the time to listen. This has got to drive you crazy.

Pimentel: No. It's interesting since I worked FCI stuff for years.

Ault: Where did we meet? I mean, you know, originally?

Pimentel: Somewhere in Division 5, I think.

Ault: It was Five. Yeah. Because I remember I used to run across you up there all the time.

Pimentel: Yeah, I remember hearing your name. You were in what Division?

Ault: I was always in Two. Yeah. I was in Training Division.

Pimentel: Okay.

Ault: I mean, when I was, as long as I was back there.

Pimentel: Did you work with, was it Riley?

Ault: Tom. Tom A. Riley. TAR. Yeah. I mean, I knew him for, forever.

Pimentel: Tom Burns.

Ault: Tom Burns.

Pimentel: Great bunch of Unit Chiefs. I was kind of out of the mix there.

Ault: Yeah. I used to see you and your name up there all the time.

Pimentel: Yeah. Yeah. Then working liaison, or foreign liaison with the Legats and stuff.

Richard L. Ault, Jr.

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Pimentel: Well, on behalf of the Oral History Project for the Society of Former Special Agents, Dick, thank you so much for your time.

Ault: My pleasure.

Pimentel: Appreciate it very much. You'll be getting a copy of this from Sandy Robinette.

Ault: Oh, is that right! Yeah, you said she was typing this stuff.

Pimentel: Yeah, I'll be sending all this to her and she will send you a copy for additions, corrections, deletions, whatever.

Ault: Oh good.

Pimentel: Then after that, she will send it to the Pre-Publication Unit of the FBI Headquarters to make sure that there is nothing secret or classified in it.

Ault: Oh, that's good.

Pimentel: Thank you so much. It's now 2:04.