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**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
Roger L. Depue (1968-1989)
Interviewed by Stanley A. Pimentel
On February 15, 2006**

Edited for spelling, repetitions, etc. by Sandra Robinette on April 17, 2006. Final corrections from Dr. Depue by Sandra Robinette on January 20, 2007.

Stanley A. Pimentel: Today is February 15 and it's about 10:49 AM, and I'm in the office of the Academy Group, in Manassas, Virginia, and I'm going to be talking to Roger L. Depue, PhD. That's a doctor in ... what did you have your doctorate in?

Roger L. Depue: Counseling and Development.

Pimentel: Okay. Roger has already read and signed, and as well as I for, on today's date, the Oral History Heritage Project Copyright Release and Background Form, understanding what the rights are and I've explained to Roger how the process is working. The Bureau will get a copy of the transcript of this recording and look at it for pre-publication review and then Roger will also get a copy of the transcript and make any changes as he sees fit, or additions, deletions, or whatever.

And at any time Roger, of course, you can stop the interview here or tell me to stop the recorder if you want to discuss something on the aside.

Depue: Okay.

Pimentel: Anyway, with no further ado. Roger, if you want to start with your background, a little early background, education and then your coming into the Bureau, if you would.

Depue: So I'll quote you there with no further ado, that's your cue.

Pimentel: (Laughing) Okay.

Depue: Well, as you know, I am a former police officer, Chief of Police, and it was there that I met Agents of the FBI for the first time. They were interested in someone in my town by the name of Meyer Lansky. Meyer Lansky used to come to the City of Clare.

Pimentel: Clare, Michigan?

Depue: Clare, Michigan. And he thought it was kind of a safe haven, I guess. The people that he visited there in Clare were part owners of the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, and that's where Lansky was said to have skimmed one of the casinos that he skimmed money from. So, Agents were always interested in Lansky and his whereabouts and what was going on, so I assisted in some of the surveillances of the house where Lansky stayed and developed an informant there.

And a woman who began to keep records for me, of Lansky's coming and going and other mob people. So one of the Agents said to me, George Cuker, as a matter of fact ... his, his son, Tom Cuker, was also an Agent for the FBI. But George was assigned to the Saginaw Office of the FBI with another Agent. There was a two-man RA there, and the other Agent's name was Doug Cannell. And George said to me one day, "Listen, why don't you apply to the FBI." And I said, "Well, I don't have my degree." I was still going to school part-time at Central Michigan University. He said, "Well, get that degree!"

(Both Laughing)

So, when I got the degree, I talked to him again and I said, "Well, you know, I'm working days and it's difficult for me to get the last couple of classes for my degree." So George said, "Quit your job." You know. (Laughing)

Pimentel: (Laughing) Sure.

Depue: Very sensitive guy, you know. But he was right, you know. If you want something, you have to go after it. So I did arrange with the Juvenile Judge to become his Juvenile Court Officer. And he allowed me to work in the hours I wanted to and so I was able to finish my degree and make the application.

Pimentel: That was what year?

Depue: That was in 1968.

Pimentel: Oh. Okay.

Depue: And in the Fall of '68 I received a letter from J. Edgar Hoover saying to report to the Old Post Office on a certain date in September. And I was delighted.

Pimentel: What was your start date with the Bureau? Do you recall that?

Depue: The EOD?

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Depue: September 23, 1968.

Pimentel: And you retired?

Depue: April First. I thought that was a good day to retire ... April First.

Pimentel: April Fool's Day.

Depue: Yeah. If I didn't like retirement, I could just come back and say I was only kidding.

(Both laughing)

But for a guy like me who has blue collar roots, my father was a police officer; he, he had a great deal of admiration and respect for J. Edgar Hoover, and he used to tear out the Director's Message in the front of the Law Enforcement Bulletin and send it to me. And I was a police officer.

Pimentel: Did you work for your dad? Did you work for your dad in Clare?

Depue: No. I never worked for my father. He was eventually Deputy Chief in Roseville, Michigan, which is a suburb of Detroit. It's a department with about 70 men. And I did apply there when I got out of the Marine Corps and passed the test and I was on a waiting list. I got married and my wife wanted to move to ... when she became pregnant ... she wanted to move to a place closer to her parents. And that's why we moved to Clare.

Pimentel: Oh. Okay.

Depue: So then I was going to a Junior College called South Macomb Community College in the Detroit area and then I transferred to Central Michigan University. And my father was a big influence in my life, you know. He was my hero and I come from a family of five boys and I'm the middle son.

So when I arrived in Washington, DC, I was lodged at the Harrington Hotel, as most of us were, and walked the block or so to the Old Post Office. We had a large class. We had about, I think, over 40 people in our New Agent Class. A lot of people talk about the fact that there were no Blacks in the Bureau and especially back in those days. But we had a Black, a former Army Lieutenant by the name of Isaac Gray, who eventually was in the New Haven, Connecticut, Field Office. Great guy. He was a former helicopter pilot. And so, yeah, there were Black Agents back then. It wasn't only the chauffeur of the Director. You know, that you hear people talk about that. This guy was a dynamite guy and, you know, the Bureau was very fortunate to have him. He was a Black Belt in Aikido and former combat pilot.

It was interesting that on the first day of class, Isaac Gray ran into another New Agent, by the name of Bob Gardner on the steps of the Old Post Office and they hadn't seen each other in several years. And, in Vietnam, Gardner had been pinned down on a hill. He was a Captain in the Army Infantry and he had been pinned down and Isaac Gray rescued him. So they had a great reunion.

Pimentel: That's great.

Depue: It was a wonderful way to start New Agent Training ... to see that you're surrounded by that caliber of people. Very, very impressive people in the class.

So we went through the standard, I guess, FBI training at that time. (Laughing) When we graduated, I remember one of our counselors had said, "Get out of town now." (Laughing) I don't know if you ever remember those days ...

Pimentel: I remember.

Depue: But you get your credentials and get out of town

Pimentel: Yeah. You're right. Before sundown.

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: And Joe Casper was the ...

Depue: Joe Casper, sure.

Pimentel: ... the AD of Training. Right?

Depue: That's right.

Pimentel: And Si Tulai.

Depue: Si Tulai was there. No doubt about that.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: And, and a lot of really good people, you know ... Jack Kirsch and ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... I think ...

Pimentel: Hank Sloan, head of the Academy.

Depue: Hank Sloan, yeah. Sure.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: George Zeiss, the Firearms. So, training was good. The block on Behavioral Sciences wasn't ... there wasn't very much depth. Back in those days there was no Behavioral Science Unit.

Pimentel: No, no, there wasn't.

Depue: It was just a one or two-hour block of instruction that you had from somebody who had some background in the Behavioral Sciences.

Depue: Then when I graduated from New Agent Training, my first office of assignment was New Orleans. Now, New Orleans is just about the best assignment you can get as a New Agent. There's a lot of crime, corruption, vice ... all the good stuff. And I was thrilled with the assignment.

Pimentel: What did you work there, Roger?

Depue: They had a policy there, like a lot of offices did, for New Agents where they rotated you about every three months to another squad.

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Depue: So, I worked Car Theft and a little Organized Crime. In fact, when I first got there I had Michigan plates on my car and so they put me right into an undercover assignment on Canal Street. I'm trying to think of the name of the place ... the Executives House or something like that, on Canal. And they were running a book out of there, and so they had me go in there and I had to furnish my own cover.

And so one of the guys in the office father was a supplier of office supplies. So I got a briefcase with some office supplies and what not, and went into the hotel and stayed there. And my job was to watch people in the lobby. The phone calls were being made from the lobby. And to put the guy on the lobby, in the lobby and on the phone, when someone in New York was putting the opposite number on the phone in New York and, of course, the Techs were making sure that the wire was, was the same.

So that was my first experience in staying there. There were a lot of athletes; some of the New Orleans Saints. They had a bar down in the, in the French Quarter called the Huddle that they were coming in. But it was a good assignment and I enjoyed it quite a bit. I had some success there. I was there for about a year.

Towards the end of 1969, I was assigned to the Washington Field Office. I used to tell people, you know, it was, it was kind of a let down because after being in New Orleans and go to Washington, DC ... there's no crime, no corruption. No problems, you know. (Laughing)

Pimentel: What squad were you assigned to in WFO?

Depue: It was C-4.

Pimentel: C-4. Who was that, Hinchcliff, Grant Nana was the Supervisor?

Depue: No. No. Carroll Garnet was supervisor before that. You know, in those days when you're in training you used to have a week in, remember, in the Field Office. Then I was on C-1.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And Barry Colvert was my Agent.

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Depue: But when I was reassigned there, I actually started on the Applicant Squad. They used to put a guy on the Applicant Squad so he got familiar with the streets, the layout of the city, and then after a few months he would be transferred to whatever squad he was going to spend the rest of the time on.

I remember I was, on the Applicant Squad, I was very frustrated. I wanted to, you know, I wanted to get involved in the real Bureau work and here I was a former police officer and Chief of Police, and a former Marine and I'm doing applicant work, you know. Very frustrating. So I used to pray for a bank robbery because everybody could respond.

Pimentel: Everybody could respond, right.

Depue: And seated across from me was another Agent in his second office, just arrived, and his name was Doug Cannon. Doug had three tours of duty in Vietnam and he was similar in, I guess, in his attitude as I was, and we would complain, you know, to one another. We thought they could use our talents a little better on some other squad, you know. And now I realize the importance of what we were doing back there, you know, with the White House appointments and everything. Very important work. But at that time we were, you know, young and aggressive and we wanted to get out there.

Pimentel: Did you respond to bank robberies?

Depue: Oh yeah. Yeah, everyone ...

Pimentel: Everybody did.

Depue: And in, in those days there were frequent bank robberies.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: They were like every other week.

Pimentel: Three or four a week it seemed like sometimes.

Depue: Yeah. Sometimes a couple a week. Absolutely.

Pimentel: I was there. By the way, I was there in S-9. I was up in the ceiling of the Old Post Office

Depue: Oh were you really?

Pimentel: On the ninth or eighth floor ... in C-9 with Herb Morgan was the Squad Supervisor ... about the same time you were there.

Depue: Is that a fact?

Pimentel: Yes.

Depue: Yeah. Yeah, we used to go to the bank robberies, as you know then. We used to stake out the banks, with shotguns and a couple of guys in the car at the banks that were being hit most often. I remember I went down to the SAC's office after about three months and I said I wanted to see the boss. So Millie Parsons let me in.

I said to the boss, "You know boss, with all due respect, I wonder if you'd take a look at my background. I think I could really make a contribution somewhere else, on a different squad, different work." He listened very patiently and then he leaned forward and he said to me, "Get the hell out of my office!"

Pimentel: Who's that? McDermott?

Depue: No, it wasn't McDermott. It was Joe Parsons.

Pimentel: Before McDermott. Yeah. Yeah, before him.

Depue: And he said something to the effect, "I run this office and when I decide that you're ready then you will be ready. But you don't come in here and tell me how to run this office." I said, (laughing) "yes sir" and backed my way out, you know. And I think I got an extra three months on the Applicant Squad.

(Both laughing)

But eventually I got on C-4. C-4 we worked Kidnapping, Extortion, Car Theft rings and Escaped Federal Prisoners and Deserters. And it was good work. We liked it; formed some good friendships there and eventually Doug Cannon was also transferred to that squad. And people I worked with were Joe Davis ...

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: Joe and I were close friends and worked as partners on a lot of cases.

Pimentel: How long were you assigned to WFO?

Depue: I was there from 1969, probably December of '69, to 1974.

While I was there I had a lot of good experiences, a lot of good cases. I worked the Watergate case, one of the few Agents that spent the night in the White House. Back in those days, President Nixon was trying to prove that he was not a crook. So after Watergate, he ordered the FBI into the White House to secure whatever evidence there might be there.

And when you tell the FBI to go in and secure a building, we're going to go in and secure a building. I don't care whose building it is, or who's in there. I remember going down to Jack McDermott's office, he was the SAC at the time, and Bill Ruckelshaus was the Acting Director.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: It was before L. Patrick Gray went in there. And McDermott had gotten a call that the President ordered the FBI into the White House to secure the White House. And so he called, he just had the Squad Supervisor send guys down to his office. So there were about 20 of us, we're standing in his office and he was on the phone trying to make, you know, to, to smooth out the path. It's a terrible thing for the President to order the FBI to secure the White House ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... when he has the Secret Service. It was a bad move on his part, in my opinion, to suggest to the Secret Service that they were not trustworthy or something.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: They could certainly have done it. As you know, the Secret Service, as our sister agency, we had a lot of respect for the Secret Service Agents.

Pimentel: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Depue: They were the best ... next to the FBI. And so there's a little discussion there that was kind of interesting. McDermott was saying, "Yes, these Agents" ... well first he said something like, "are you aware that the President has ordered the FBI into the White House?" And we only heard one side of the conversation, you know, and then we heard something about, "Yeah, these Agents will be on official duty. Yes, they will be armed." "No. No, they will not check their arms in the Old Post Office, the Old Executive Office Building." Where you go through.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... "No, they won't ... they won't ... no. No. Understand that these are Special Agents of the FBI and they're on official duty ... they will be armed and they will enter." You know, so that was the kind of conversation. He looked up at us and he said, "Well, what are you waiting for?" And then he did something that I think good leaders do. He said, "When you go into that White House you take orders from no one, except me."

Pimentel: Um-hmm.

Depue: And, it was absolutely necessary to have that kind of direction because everybody's your boss at the White House.

Pimentel: Sure. Sure.

Depue: The President, you know, Kissinger, whoever might be there. So, we felt very good about that. And he said, "If someone tells you to do something, leave your post, or whatever it is, you tell them that it has to come through me." Great. We went over there, and with that kind of leadership, we felt very comfortable. We went into the Old Executive Office Building and no one mentioned firearms or anything. We were taken over to the White House and I spent the night in the office of an attorney, Leonard Garment, who eventually wrote a book about Watergate.

Pimentel: And what, what were all your duties there at the White House or the Old Executive Building?

Depue: We went into the White House and right next to the office I was in was the office of Halderman. Bob Lill was, I remember, in that office. Bob and I were good friends. And right down the hall was the Oval Office of the President. And our job was to just secure those offices and make sure that nobody removed anything; no cleaning was to take place; no emptying of trash, or anything like that. We were just to freeze it until investigators could come in. Maybe the day shift. Because we were at the end of our workday and we stayed there overnight though. And at, I think, seven or eight AM we were relieved by another group of Agents who came in.

I have an aside if you want, if you want me to do anything like that?

Pimentel: Go ahead. Sure. Sure. Yeah.

Depue: Not too long ago, well in, in 2002 ... you see, Watergate took place, as you know, in 1972.

Pimentel: 1972. Right.

Depue:

In 2002, it was the 30th anniversary of Watergate. And we received a call here at the Academy Group from *Dateline*. Dan Bregman. They wondered if someone in the Academy Group could talk about Watergate. And Marty Rehberg, our Chief Operating Officer then, Marty said, "Well, you're in luck." He said, "We have a fellow on the staff who actually investigated Watergate."

So they were pleased and *Dateline* came down. And we talked a little bit and they said, "Well, what can you do. What kind of a program could we put together?" And I had some ideas. I said, "Well, the book, All the President's Men, by Woodward and Bernstein, is full of quotes." I said, "I could probably extract the quotes from All the President's Men and then I could construct a profile of the person, the kind of person who would use that kind of language. And say those kinds of things."

And they were very interested in that. So, they said, "Okay." Of course, I'd read All the President's Men before and I took the book and read several other books about the Watergate and people's theories about who Deep Throat was. That was the whole thing, 'who was Deep Throat?' And so I did that.

I extracted all the quotes that Deep Throat made in the book, All the President's Men. And I thought that, being reporters, they were trained to make quotes as accurate as possible ... so I thought that this might work. So I went through the thing and I had about 12 or 13 pages of notes that I had put together and then they came back for a videotape. They spent a couple of hours here, videotaping, and I went through my theory, and all that to them. And my profile was of a white male, about 50 years of age, or was middle age, you know, 40 to 50. Who was from the Midwest or the West Coast, of blue-collar upbringing, and so forth. And I said that he was law enforcement. In my opinion, he was law enforcement; and, not only that, but I was confident that he did not work in the White House. I was able to say. Once you say something like that, then you narrow the focus of who are suspects by quite a bit.

And that's the value of profiling. And the way I was able to conclude that, is by the use of the language.

Depue: For instance, Deep Throat is in the parking garage talking to Woodward and he says, and he's talking about L. Patrick Gray at that time, going to the White House, and visiting the White House. He says, "L. Patrick Gray went to the White House." And if you're an insider you would say, "L. Patrick Gray came to the White House."

Pimentel: Um-hmm.

Depue: See. And it's like *bring*, *take* and verbs like that.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And by looking at those kinds of words, I felt pretty confident that this is not an insider. He's an outsider.

So anyway, when he asked me for my notes, and so I put the notes together in some kind of a way that he could read it and sent it to him with a cover letter. And in the notes I said that, "If you want to go to the next step, the next step would be to get known writings or speeches or recordings of the suspect. And then compare those with the quotes for specific words."

You know, you can determine a person's age probably. Probably 70 percent of the words that we use, are words that we acquire during our period of socialization. Somewhere between 15 and 30, you know. So, that's how you can fix age. So anyway, I said that would be the next thing. And then, after that, we would do an indirect personality assessment and try to see if this person's background fits the profile, you know, blue-collar and West Coast, or Midwest. And they didn't want to do that. A good job would have entailed more expenses. Well, okay.

The bottom line is this. *Dateline* also, at the same time, goes to a college ... gets a university professor who has a class in Government or Law, or something, I don't remember what, but graduate students. Young, attractive, graduate students and ... and they also review the materials and they make an estimate. They say that it's a little-known attorney who works in the White House.

Depue: So *Dateline*, the program, comes out. I get three minutes; the young, attractive people get 25 minutes, you know. (Laughing) Who wants to look at an old, fat, bald guy when you can look at young, attractive ... But I didn't really get a chance to make my case.

Now when I sent the report to Dan Bregman, I said that the next step would be to ... if we identify a suspect ... to try to find known writings of his. And in that report I put, in parenthesis, Mark Felt.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Depue: He was my primary suspect.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: Yes.

Pimentel: As we now know!

Depue: As we now know. So, anyway, I got my three minutes. They had a much more entertaining program than had I been the centerpiece of it.

So, low and behold, in 2005, Mark Felt comes out and says, "I'm the guy." So I called Dan Bregman and I said, "Dan, if you'd had just given me ten minutes, enough time to really discuss my theory a little bit, you'd be a hero today." I said, "But you went with the young and the beautiful." And so, anyway, that's my story of Watergate and Deep Throat.

Pimentel: Yeah. As an aside to that, to Watergate. Before I came in the Bureau I had space of about six months where I'd gotten out of the Army and I was waiting to come into the Bureau. I had not gotten a letter from Mr. Hoover yet. But, in the meantime, some firm in downtown DC had heard that I had just gotten out of the Army, I was waiting for the letter from Mr. Hoover to come into the Bureau and that I was looking for something to do for a couple of months. As it turns out, I was hired to do a security survey of the Watergate complex.

Depue: Oh, is that a fact? Wow.

Pimentel: In 1960, in early 1967 ... January, February or March.

Depue: Beautiful.

Pimentel: Of course, another guy and myself, we did the whole ... we took about three months to do the security survey, made our recommendations. And that was part of our recommendations. To harden up the physical aspect of the Watergate complex with CC-TV cameras, with controls and, of course, now the rest is history.

Depue: Isn't that amazing. Wow. So the burglary took place after that?

Pimentel: Right. It took place about two years after that. Yeah.

Depue: I see.

Pimentel: Yeah. Actually, no ... four years after that. Yeah.

Depue: Wow.

Pimentel: It's amazing.

Depue: Yeah. It really is.

Pimentel: Anyway. That was an aside to your work at Washington Field.

Depue: In Washington Field, I attended several in-services. I went to the old General Criminal In-Service and was a member of the first FBI SWAT Team called *Spider One*. The first FBI SWAT In-Service with the likes of Yogi Harden and, you know, Don Bassett, Dave Kriskovich, and all those guys training, Cal Ford. That was really an awakening, I think for the Bureau. It was the first time that we really put together paramilitary teams like that. And I remember some of the guys showed up in loafers and, you know, shoes that they couldn't run in. I don't know what they were expecting. But Yogi put you through the paces.

Pimentel: Now, did the Bureau come up with that idea before or is this a take off from the police?

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: The police had the SWAT teams first?

Depue: I believe the LAPD had the first SWAT. The concept of SWAT, Special Weapons and Tactics, and the teams. A Lieutenant from the LAPD spoke to our group, I remember. And talked about how they use the SWAT Teams and the SWAT concept. I still keep in touch with the guys on the SWAT Team. You get close, you know, when you work on the SWAT Team.

Then, I was selected to be a counselor, the 95th Session of the National Academy. And there were five of us and, in those days, they had about 250 attendees for the National Academy from around the country and around the world. And I was the senior counselor and we worked for Jim Cotter, Inspector Cotter.

Pimentel: Yes.

Depue: He's a great guy. And that was a good experience to be responsible for 50 of the 250, and all the kinds of problems the 50 law enforcement officers can have. We worked with it, I guess, pretty well.

Pimentel: Tell us what year, about what year?

Depue: Let's see, SWAT was 1973, and this was 1974. No, I'm missing.... no, it was also '73.

Pimentel: Okay.

Depue: Yeah. It was the Fall of '73, the 95th Session.

Pimentel: Okay.

Depue: And while I was there, as a counselor, that was one of the ways that the Academy selected people. They brought people back as counselors and then they had an opportunity to look them over.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And also, the Agent had an opportunity to look over the work as an instructor at the Academy. And I know when I was just about through with that experience, Jack Pfaff gave me a call and Jack was the Chief of the Behavioral Science Unit. We had a conversation.

Pimentel: That was already a BSU?

Depue: Yes.

Pimentel: Okay. When?

Depue: In 1972. The FBI Academy opened in 1972.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And when it opened it, for the first time, had departments. Of course, we called them Units.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And it had five departments. They were Management, Education and Communication Arts, Forensic Science, Law, and Behavioral Science. Those were the five departments. And, they were academic-oriented and they were affiliated with the University of Virginia.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And able to award college credit through the University of Virginia. And the instructors had to qualify for adjunct faculty status at the University of Virginia. So you had to have at least a Master's Degree.

So Jack said, "How would you like to come into the Behavioral Unit and teach?" I had a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Minor in Sociology, and I was just completing a Master's Degree in the Administration of Justice, in an area called Society and the Law in the Administration of Justice, from the American University in Washington, DC. So he was interested in having me come in and he had a need for someone that could teach sociology, social psychology and that kind of thing.

Depue:

I had those kinds of credentials, I guess, at the time. So I said, "Yeah, I'd be very interested in coming down." At that time, the Behavioral Science Unit had, had four main disciplines. They were psychology, sociology, political science, and criminology. Those were the four main disciplines. Jack Kirsch had an interest and, I think, he had a degree in Anthropology, so there was some influence there from the anthropology. But mainly, those were the four disciplines.

And, initially in 1972, as I understand, when the Academy opened, they taught a course that included all four disciplines. It was like a 12-week course, three weeks of psych, three weeks of sociology, three weeks of criminology, and three weeks of political science.

Twelve-week course. And they would bring in an instructor for each one of those, you know. And then eventually each one of those three-week segments became a course in and of itself. So you had Applied Criminology, which was psychology and criminology, teamed up. And then you had sociology and political science; and then you had some sociology kinds of courses, and some political science. Larry Monroe developed a course called Urban Police Problems. And I think the first course was Contemporary Police Problems and then Urban Police Problems.

I remember he and I went to New Mexico and, and we're out in some smaller area. And I don't know who set this one up, who the Police Training Coordinator was out there. But here we were teaching Urban Police Problems to basically the Indian police. They sat there very stoically, with their arms folded, wondering what we were talking about and why we were there.

(Both laughing)

But, anyway. Larry was a great guy. So I went back to the Washington Field Office when I finished as a counselor and, and then in June of 1974, I received a transfer to the Training Division.

Depue: And I went down. Of course, at that time the Training Division consisted of Jack Pfaff as the Unit Chief and then Larry Monroe. In the area of sociology, there was Dick Harper and Bill Peters. And in the area of psychology, Pat Mullany and Tom Strentz; and in the area of criminology, there's Howard Teten and Conrad Hassel. And then Jim Siano was there for a while, and a couple of other people. I think that that pretty well covers who was there when I got there.

Now, when I arrived there, there were three other Agents that were assigned to the Behavioral Science Unit with me ... John Minderman, Bob Ressler and Tom O'Malley. And the four of us were the new guys ... the new kids on the block, the second wave after the Academy opened.

And I don't know where you want me to go from there?

Pimentel: The progression of things how they went, became, how it evolved, I guess, with the four of you?

Depue: Well, there were teams, team teaching was in vogue back then, and so there would be two Agents teaching in the classroom at a time. It was a lot of fun. And Larry Monroe and myself were partners and we would teach Urban Police Problems and some courses like that.

Teten and Mullany formed a team, and Hassel and Strentz formed a team. And they taught courses in Applied Criminology.

Pimentel: I need to take a stop here for a second. Turn the tapes around. Alright. We are back at 11:35, with Roger L. Depue, founder of the Academy Group, here in Manassas, Virginia, and previously Unit Chief at the Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI Academy. Is that correct?

Depue: That's correct. Yes.

Pimentel: And here again he has a little background on the evolution, I guess, of the participants of the Behavioral Science Unit under Jack Pfaff, is it?

Depue:

Yeah. And, I was just talking a little bit about the teams, two-principal teams being Teten and Mullany, and Hassel and Strentz. And Teten had this concept of crime analysis and the idea that, that in a crime scene you could detect the behavior of the perpetrator. And he had been toying with this idea for a number of years, going back to when he was a police officer in California. And he had been developing it and doing some experimental things. I'm trying to think of the name of the psychiatrist in the Mad Bomber case in New York ... Dr. James Brussell.

Teten had gone up there and talked with him several times and, and became a real believer in the fact that the behavior that you could see in the crime scene would allow you to construct a personality profile of the perpetrator. And he and Mullany began to analyze crimes like that. To incorporate what they learned in their instruction.

I learned, at that time, from Howard Teten, primarily, that the best way to approach these problems was what we eventually came to call a three-legged stool. And that was that all three legs were important. One was training, the second one was research, and the third one was operational support or actually handling cases. And that each one of those things ... each one of those approaches complimented the other.

So in training, the average age of a National Academy attendee was 39, the average number of years of experience was about 15, so these were veteran law enforcement officers. And when you begin to talk with them about behavioral sciences, you see that they, well, initially, they, they weren't enamored with us. Back in those days in the '60's and '70's, if you recall, that there was a certain amount of tension between the behavioral science community and the law enforcement community.

With the behavioral science community and many universities feeling like the law enforcement community were fascists. And the law enforcement communities thinking that the behavioral science people were 'pinko' communists, you know. And, so, it was a challenge to get up in front of a class of veteran officers like that, and talk about behavioral sciences ... and what they could do for you.

Depue: But one of the things that happens in the classroom is that the students begin to - once you start talking about cases and they see you as a resource person, someone that could help them, and it begins to trigger, in their mind, unsolved cases or cases that they had that were similar, and then you get the discussion going in the classroom. And, it's the old phrase, "I had a case once." Once you see the hand goes up ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... and you hear the guy say, "I had a case once," then you know that, that you're communicating and that they're viewing you as a resource person. So, they ask a lot of questions. You know. They ask questions like, "Does the killer return to the scene of the crime?" "How does the killer select his victims?" "How does he control his victims, especially if he has more than one victim?" "Was the killer in the crowd when the body was found?"

And most of those questions are, are investigator's questions, you know. They've seen killers who have returned to the scene of the crime from time to time. And they don't know why, you know. And, and those questions have been around for hundreds of years, and they're in the literature and all, but there's been no research done in that area. So then, you get the questions from the students and you don't have the answers and so you have to do the research.

And so you go to the existing research, existing literature, which is that compiled by academics and mental health professionals, largely. And, you don't find the answers there either. There's nothing written about whether or not the killer's returned to the scene of the crime, you know. And so this suggests the necessity for doing empirical research where you go into the prisons and you ask a certain number of serial killers if they ever returned to the scene of the crime.

- Depue: So, you have the training and then the need for research coming out of training; and then you have dealing with cases. If you have students and they begin to tell you about an unsolved case, they come up to you on their breaks, and afterwards. They say, "Look, we had a case like that and geez I wonder if you could help us with that." Have them send the case, you know, to us and maybe we can sit down and talk about it. That's how the thing began with Howard, in particular, and Pat Mullany. And so all of a sudden you're in the business of analyzing unsolved cases.
- Pimentel: Right.
- Depue: And so that you have all the three legs of the stool; and you have the training, which feeds research; the research, what you learn, is directly applicable to cases ...
- Pimentel: Right.
- Depue: ... the cases that you solve, you go right back to training and use the material in the training classes. So it was a very natural evolution.
- Pimentel: So your first ... you and Howard, I guess ... or you and Larry, initially, trying to teach these courses, it was kind of theoretical initially, wasn't it? Or did you have cases?
- Depue: Yeah. Well, everybody has some cases in their background; especially if you have police experience as well. And, as you know, the FBI didn't work a lot of homicides.
- Pimentel: No. No.
- Depue: Not, back in those days; unless you worked Crimes on a Government Reservation, an Indian Reservation. So you draw from your background and, and do whatever you can in terms of putting case material together. But, Howard Teten ... you know, I was just fascinated by the guy. I would watch him and say, "Man." And he has earned the title "The Father of Criminal Personality Profiling."
- Pimentel: Right.

Depue:

He is, he was really very good. Mullany, of course, was outstanding, as well. And the two of them, when they taught a class, you'd sneak in the back of the room and just sit there. And they were so well versed in their subjects and so challenging.

So now Bob Ressler was, was extremely interested in what Howard Teten had done. Probably even more interested than I was at that particular time. And Bob is the kind of a guy who, when he latches on to an idea, he just pursued. He's the kind of a guy you wouldn't want to have on your tail as an investigator because he's tenacious, you know.

So as, as time went along ... '72, '73, '74. I got there, then, in the Summer of '74. In '75, we were developing new courses. There were a lot of things that we did in the Behavioral Science Unit besides profiling. We were developing courses in Crisis Intervention, back then; and Hostage Negotiation.

We became interested in, in what the job does to the person, the stress of law enforcement work. And we started moving into this area of post-traumatic stress, and we began to see what was happening in our own agency ... to Agents who had experienced life-threatening events, and the fall out from that kind of thing. And, of course, we're getting a lot of information from the National Academy students, we became kind of a resource in that area. We were involved in a number of things. Not only the solution of crimes and, in looking at a society and trying to analyze the problems, confronting the social problems, confronting society from sociological and political science perspectives, as well.

And then in 1979... I think about 1975, Jack Pfaff retired, and Larry Monroe became the Unit Chief. In, maybe '76 ... no probably later than that ... maybe Jack Pfaff retired in about seventy- ... let's see, I got there '74, '75, '76 ... around '76, '77 Jack retired. Larry took over '77, '78, and he went out on the Inspection Staff and then, eventually, was promoted and the job was open.

Depue:

John Minderman, my old SWAT teammate, who was also in the Behavioral Science Unit, came to me and said that he was interested in going back to San Francisco. He said, "But you, you have a good background. You have ... you'd have a good shot at the Unit Chief job. So he said, "Why don't you throw your hat in the ring?" So, I did. And I became Unit Chief in 1979, 1980.

So, at that particular time, we knew we were on to something, in this area of profiling, in particular. We knew that that had a lot of potential. The phone was ringing and we were making contributions in ongoing cases in state and local, in particular. Ressler, about two years after we were there, John Douglas joined the Behavioral Science Unit and a number of other Agents came in. Bob Ressler and John Douglas began to do a research project on their own, without authorization, but it was the kind of thing where when you went out and taught a field school, a one week or two week field school somewhere and there, there was a prison in that area, and there was a serial killer or someone of interest in that prison, they'd just go over there and conduct some interviews on their own. And they were, they were learning some fascinating things, you know.

So eventually we developed a program that was called the Violent Crime Research Program and, and we started doing it in a systematic manner. Bob Ressler and John Douglas and Roy Hazelwood came into the unit at about that time. They began an association with Ann Burgess, Ann Wolbert Burgess, and later with Park Dietz. But Ann Burgess was a PhD, Psychiatric Nurse, and she was very interested in violent crime, especially crimes against women and crimes against children.

And so she began to work with Ressler and Douglas, and put together a research methodology that would withstand academic scrutiny.

Pimentel:

Okay.

Depue:

And so they developed a 55-page research instrument and they began to go into the prisons and systematically debrief and interview, sexually oriented serial killers. It was a giant step for us in understanding the kind of people who did these things.

Roger L. Depue: Crime, itself, is antisocial behavior ... and significant behavior. Violent crime is particularly significant behavior ... the way a person commits violence. Homicide is probably the single most significant kind of human behavior there is. And so we wanted to learn a lot about the kind of people that do those things. And Ressler had this research project going ... then we begin to form teams of Agents to go into prisons, and eventually there were about 36 of these interviews of serial killers. Initially, Ressler and Douglas also talked with assassins. They talked with Sirhan Sirhan, Sara Jane Moore, Squeaky Frome, and ...

Stanley A. Pimentel: James Earl Ray?

Depue: I don't think. I don't recall that they interviewed James Earl Ray. I'm not sure. James Earl Ray died in prison.

Pimentel: Yeah. And not too long ago, as I recall.

Depue: Is that right?

Pimentel: Yeah. Not too long ago. They maybe got to him.

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: I was going to ask you a question ...

Depue: Sure.

Pimentel: ... before, before you guys got off on the talking to the serial killers and those guys ... you guys were really into finding or exploring totally new ground in law enforcement in society's behavior.

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: I don't think anyone had really done much about that except possibly psychiatrists or psychologists.

Depue: That's right.

Pimentel: So, you guys being at the FBI Academy were treading on new ground and ...

Depue: That's right. There had never been empirical research done like this by a law enforcement agency. It had never been done before. And that was what was unique. And we were challenged, you know ...

Pimentel: I was going to ask you, and I'm sure that there were those at Headquarters that were just absolutely against that type of research.

Depue: Against the research and against us doing case analysis. 'You're a Training Division, what are you doing there?' Becoming operational, you know. 'You had no business doing that.' And there was a lot of opinion like that ... and even in the Training Division, there were those opinions.

In fact, my good friend and my boss, Larry Monroe, was opposed to it. He said, "You know, you should, this is a Training Division. This isn't a field office." You know, that kind of thing. Great guy ... we just had that little difference of opinion. And we just trod straight ahead anyway. You know, we ... we knew we were on to something. And it was an opportunity to really learn some things and to answer some of these questions that had been around for generations.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: And they were doing it in the right way, you know, by aligning themselves with academics who had the credentials in developing research methodology and using statistical methods. And the research was experiential kind of research, you know, and ... and so ... yeah.

Pimentel: So that's how you developed your curriculum ... was from talking to the psychologists, the sociologists ... with statistics on the criminal behavior. Is that how you developed these courses, or what?

Depue: Yes.

Pimentel: But I also imagine getting some feedback from the ... from the Academy, for the National Academy attendees ... right?

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: A combination.

Depue: Yeah. I think the courses themselves, just evolved naturally. As the students expressed interest in certain areas and had certain needs. There were some courses that were designed for administrators. Urban Police Problems and Contemporary Police Problems and the Social Psychological Aspects of Community Behavior, and courses like that were for the administrator. How does a police administrator deal with the problems in his community, of which one is about crime, but there are many, many other social problems. And not only external, but internal problems in police departments, which have behavioral significance.

As we were talking about stress and personal problems, and corruption, and a lot of those kinds of things ... those all have implications for aberrant behavior of one kind or another.

Applied Criminology, we began to teach courses in terrorism. Back in those days, you know, it was confined to, to less significant groups ... Not like we have today with Al Quida.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: But in the late '60s, early '70s, if you recall, we used to have hijackings of aircraft all the time.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: In fact, we'd have 25 to 30 hijackings a year of aircraft. Most of them went to Cuba if you remember.

Pimentel: I do.

Depue: So those were a major problem. We affiliated ourselves with resources like the National Institute of Mental Health.

Dr. Bert Brown was the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health. His Associate Director was Dr. Frank Ochberg; both of them outstanding psychiatrists and really valuable resource people in constructing the profile of hijackers of aircraft. So there was a lot going on in that area, as well.

Depue:

So, then other courses were designed for the investigator, veteran investigators, and those were the courses, and also for the commanders of those investigative squads and homicide squads, a sex crime squad. You know, threats against prominent people and all of those things.

So we began to do research in a variety of areas but the most exciting one, seemed to me, was this area of crime analysis and constructing a profile of the unknown offender. And the more we worked in that area, the more we realized it had tremendous implications. In fact, now in the Academy Group here, we do a lot of work in threat assessment. Looking at documents of unknown authorship in constructing a profile of the author ... and with email today, it's just ... it's just prolific.

These people think that they're anonymous and they can say anything ... and they do. And they make threats.

In the Behavioral Science Unit, we had Roy Hazelwood. And Ken Lanning were in the Behavioral Science Unit at that time. We used to have a course in sex crimes and I always thought of it as a porn show for cops, you know, it's just photographs of bizarre things and very little analysis. Very little help in terms of how to investigate these kinds of matters and the significance of those cases.

Roy came in and he turned that 100 percent around. He just made it a sophisticated course. He began to do research. His first research project was in Autoerotic Fatalities with Park Dietz and Ann Burgess.

And, for the first time, they actually wrote a book, an educational book on autoerotic fatalities and how they should be investigated. He then began to do research in the serial rapists. He interviewed, and the Behavioral Science Unit interviewed, about 40 of these serial rapists. Ressler and Douglas, in their research project, and Agents in the Behavioral Science Unit interviewed, eventually, 36 of the serial killers. And we started publishing ... and publications started coming out of the Behavioral Science Unit ... books, and articles in professional journals; a lot of articles in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. And Roy's research in serial rape contributed as much, or more, significant information for the investigation of the crime of rape.

Depue:

Because we had been down that road once before with the research into the serial killer, he took the protocol and he modified it and revamped it for serial rape. He added a lot of questions. and then he and his teams went into the prisons and interviewed the serial rapists about all those things, how they select their victims and how they gain control of them.

And both of these first two research projects taught us something that was probably the single most significant lesson to be learned, and that was the importance of fantasy. The importance of fantasy life in these violent criminals. And it was Albert Einstein who said, "The thought is father to the action." And, that's what we were finding out.

The first ... first these fellows had these thoughts and had these fantasies, early in life, often. They would nurture those fantasies; they would feed those fantasies with sadomasochistic kinds of materials and thoughts, and literature. They ... we even later found that they were reading our books. You know, they were trying to become educated, as well. So, we were learning things. Like, you know, simple things. Now they seem so simple. When, for instance, you say the first time that a person commits novel behavior, new behavior, he makes mistakes. And if you look at a series of rapes, you can see that. So, if you have a series of rapes, you know, 12, 15 rapes in a community. Roy would direct the investigators to those first one or two. That's where the mistakes are going to be made and that's where evidence is likely ... you know, trace evidence, fingerprints, whatever it might be ... you're more likely to find it there.

And we were able to take those ideas and put them into analysis of threatening documents ... but the person who writes, you know, like the Army of God, a 40-page epistle; like Ted Kaczynski, prolific at writing his documents, and all that.

Pimentel:

The Unabomber.

Depue:

Unabomber. That's right. And you could do a lot of work in that. And, if a person wrote that much, that there's going to be other writings. That's his preferred method of communicating. And so, you might be able to work backwards and find letters to the editor; find out, you know, a lot of things that were ... that were not criminal; or that were not criminal behavior.

Depue: And, in those, there would be fingerprints. There would be would be no reason to conceal them. So if you connect them, you could work backwards and go to the earlier behaviors and, you know, into a lot of investigative work that paid good dividend ... dividends.

Ken Lanning ... it seemed that almost everybody who came into the Behavioral Science Unit, we would kinda steer into an area of Back in those days, if you recall, there was a great emphasis on violent crime in the United States.

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: In the midst of a major crime wave of historical proportions ... we had never before had a homicide rate as high as it was in those days. We had nearly 25,000 homicides for the first time in our history, you know, and the same with other kinds of violent crimes. So there was an Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime and the Director of the FBI was constantly saying, "What can the FBI do to make a contribution to stopping violent crime?" And here we were down in the Behavioral Science Unit with a ... with a plethora of research and ...

Pimentel: And knowledge.

Depue: ... and knowledge in this area. I remember going up with Larry Monroe to a couple of meetings with John Otto, who was the Executive Assistant Director at the time, and we'd go around to the Criminal Division and the various Divisions, about what kind of a contribution they could make. NCIC would come to us and we'd begin to talk and John Otto would say, "Boy, this is the kind of stuff we need." And so we'd begin to get some support from the top, you know.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Depue: For our programs and that kind of thing. But, initially, it was a bit of a battle because the Bureau, itself, didn't appreciate what we were doing and there was, as we said before, some resistance to what we were doing. And a lot of people thought we really shouldn't be doing that.

Depue: We even had a case where there was a convict, a prisoner out in California ... no, it was Oregon, who instituted a civil suit because we kept him in prison. I remember getting a call from Dick VanDyke...do you remember Dick VanDyke, the actor?

Pimentel: Yeah, the actor.

Depue: His son was a prosecuting attorney in, I think Portland, Oregon ... somewhere in Oregon. He called. Two of our Agents, Ressler and Douglas, had been out in Oregon and they conducted a school there. And whenever you conduct a school, you like to read the papers and include topical information from that area.

There was a case in the paper of this serial killer who'd been recently convicted and Ressler held it up and he said, "This guy will be on the street in five years. He's a full blown psychopath. He's smooth; he's intelligent; he's articulate, and he's going to find a way to be on the street." Everybody in the class, "no way," you know.

Five years later, I get a call from the prosecuting attorney and he says, "I just got a call from a detective who was in a class with your guys a few years ago, and they told them that this guy would be on the street. He's up for commutation with the Governor, and the Governor's seriously considering releasing this guy." And the whole thing revolved around the fact that the guy had a mental problem ... psychological mental disturbance, and that he had been quote unquote "cured." Went through psychotherapy, and now he ... he had been rehabilitated and there was no reason to keep him.

And so he said, "What do you think?" I said, "Well, these people are very smooth and I think you better hold off on this thing and let me send a couple of guys out there and maybe they could talk to the Parole Board or whoever's on the Governor's team, or whoever you want to." So Ressler went out there and Ressler said to them, "Look, I'll not only tell you that he'll be released, but I'll tell you he'll kill again. If you put this guy on the street, he'll kill again." So that was unheard of in those days, to make that kind of a thing. And so, you know, they all got nervous and they decided not to release him and so he was ... he was never released.

Depue: Now this guy, this guy had claimed... he had eviscerated his victims ... cut them open and spilled their intestines. In fact, one of the women that he did this to ... he, he didn't kill her; she just held her intestines.

Pimentel: Oh!

Depue: She was nude and she fled her house where she'd been attacked. The second woman had been killed there, the same night. She ran to the neighbors. And that's how she saved her life... and that's how this guy was eventually arrested.

Well, he told the psychiatrist in prison that he'd been in Vietnam and that in Vietnam he'd had one of his troops hit by land mine, stepped on a land mine, and it eviscerated him and that image was indelibly etched into his brain. Then he had a second one of his troops who was eviscerated and that, you know, this caused him to have mental problems and the whole thing of being in this kind of intense combat caused him to begin to fantasy about these things. And, so he began to kill women and eviscerate these women ... and get them drunk or high on something, and then open them up while they're alive, you know, to see how that stuff worked, you know.

Remember I mentioned to you Ressler was tenacious, you know?

Pimentel: Um-hmm.

Depue: So, he went to the Federal Records Center in St. Louis and he got this guy's Army ... the guy had been in the Army. He had been in Vietnam, but he was in a non-combat role. No one ever died, you know, in his charge and, as a matter of fact, then he went back into the records and he found a record where before the guy went into the Army, he was stopped by police and he was nude in his car and he had a knife, and he was cutting himself, cutting his own stomach with the knife and got in an accident. And the police came.

Depue: Now, here you have a history of major, you know, psychiatric problems in pre-military. Then all these lies about when he was in the military, and that was presented to the Governor in Oregon and he said, "No." But see, we began to believe that the Parole Board should have investigated, you know. That they should not only listen to the story ... and not only should the psychiatrist hear the story, but somebody should verify that story.

Pimentel: That's right. That's right.

Depue: Did it happen?

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: And that's an investigator's job. So, you know, that's one of the kinds of things. Well, this fellow then began to institute a law suit against the FBI and, and wrote numerous letters and said that the FBI had no mandate to do research. This isn't ... they're a law enforcement agency, you know, and if you look at the Charter ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... you know, they had no business doing research. And, of course, the FBI had to respond saying that research is a part of the investigative repertoire. And ... you know, that's what you get hit with, that's not his business ...

Pimentel: No. I hope he's still in the can.

Depue: Yeah. I'm pretty sure he would be. So, those were the kinds of things that were happening. And what was happening with me, as the Unit Chief, is my phone was ringing all the time, you know. Different departments calling, you know, I have an unsolved crime that looks like a serial killing, at a certain place. You see, it wasn't that we were so great at what we did. It was that we had volume.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: It's like a guy working Burglary. When I was a police officer and I worked burglaries, I was really good at burglaries. I could walk into a place and look at the way it was tossed ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... tell you if it was a professional, or if it was a bunch of kids, or the more cases you look at the better you get. Well, there was no place, there was no national reservoir for serial murder. There's no place where, you know, a department might have one serial murderer in their entire existence ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... you know, and if a detective ... if a homicide detective had a serial murderer, it was very rare. And so, for the first time we started pulling these cases together.

And, we had a sufficient number of the cases and the interviews of the serial killers in prison, that we began to have a sufficient volume to get good at it.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: To begin to see the common characteristics and to begin to say, "I know what this means."

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: I see this piece of behavior. I know what this fantasy is. I know what this guy's thinking.

When the BTK killer was recently arrested ... Dennis Rader. They asked me ... it was a television program asked me, "How could it be that you have this person who's a leader in his church, having the kind of job that he had and all that, how could it be that no one ever suspected?" And there's a term that I coined back years ago that I call "leakage." And, by that I mean that someone has intense fantasy or intense beliefs, that they will seep out of him, even if he tries to contain, they'll leak. And you could pick up on that if you know what to look for. And I said, "Dennis Rader had to leak and I don't care what anybody says, in three months or six months you're going to find out that he had these fantasies and that he had fuel for fantasies. He may have had a room that no one was allowed to go in, or a separate computer over here, or some of these guys have a garage that no one ... or a place in the basement that no one is permitted to go in."

Depue: “And that’s where they go and they fantasize. And they may have some souvenirs; they may have some body parts, all kinds of things in there.”

So once we began to learn those kinds of things we were a resource. And, in that part of the behavioral science, we began to grow.

We started to have a need for Profile Coordinators. So, in each of the 59 Field Offices of the FBI, we brought Agents back and we trained them in a two-week In-Service as Profile Coordinators. They weren’t to do profiles, they didn’t have the background, and, often, the education to do that ... to do the profiles. But their job was to identify cases in their jurisdiction.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: That could benefit from a profile. And so some of them got, you know, got very good at it. At that time they were having hearings in the Congress to determine if legislation was necessary for serial killers crossing state lines. Of course, the FBI was one of the major players in looking and in testifying before ... I testified before the Judiciary Committee. In fact, Arlen Specter, who’s still there. John Walsh, myself ... John Walsh, Ann Rule and someone else ... Pierce Brooks. The four of us testified before Congress and eventually legislation for the Protection of Children, Crimes Against Children ... came out of those hearings. So we were ...

Pimentel: Let me break in here now. We’re going on ...

Depue: Tell me if I’m going too far.

Pimentel: That’s exactly what we need. Let me ... 12:20 right now ... 12:21. I’m taking a break here to change tapes.

Pimentel: Okay. We’re back. It’s now 1:30 exactly, from our tape and lunch break. And, here again with Roger L. Depue in the Academy Group office in Manassas, Virginia. And you were talking about the legislation for the Protection of Children; and then you mentioned Ken Lanning, you said.

Depue:

Ken Lanning was one of the more important members of the Behavioral Science Unit. I think I was talking about the fact that each member of the Behavioral Science Unit specialized in a, in a certain area of aberrant behavior. Ken Lanning did research and conducted training, built training programs in the area of crimes against children. In particular, child molestation and pedophilia. He also conducted research by going into prisons and interviewing sex offenders in crimes against children. He was one of the major players in the Behavioral Science Unit.

So we began to branch out in the Behavioral Science Unit, as well. I was invited to speak at the CIA Adjudicator's Conference once. Dick Ault, who was my Assistant Unit Chief, I guess you would call him, and I went over and Dick had been doing some research in the area of traitors and spies. And when we spoke to the conference, we suggested that they might do something similar to what we did ... going into the prisons and interviewing traitors. When we came back from that visit to CIA, Dick picked up the ball on that and began to pursue it, and worked with military intelligence, the CIA and the FBI, and they put together a research project called *Slammer*. And basically it was about people who had betrayed their country and, and were in the slammer. And teams of military intelligence, CIA and FBI went into the prisons and began to conduct interviews of traitors and spies that were in prison in the United States. debriefing them and learning about their trade craft. And it was very successful. And Dick has interviewed probably every traitor that has betrayed his country in the United States in the last 30 years. He just has a wealth of knowledge, you know, in that area. He's now with the Academy Group and specializes in terrorism and in intelligence efforts.

You know profiling is not for everybody. There were Agents who started in profiling and then switched over to other kinds of research and training efforts. There are people like Jim Reese who received his Doctorate from American University, as I did, and as Dick Ault did ... the three of us were in the program together at American University. Jim began to be interested in developing programs that would benefit law enforcement from the standpoint of stress and personal problems, and, what the job, the negative impact of the job on Agents and their families.

Depue:

John Minderman, actually began that effort in, and hosted some of the ... Well, actually the first time that the FBI brought police psychologists from throughout the country into the FBI Academy and, and began to discuss mutual problems in law enforcement, and John Minderman ran about three of these conferences. We began to learn a lot about the kinds of problems that are indicative of working various kinds of jobs in law enforcement, like undercover work. The pressures on people who are in deep cover for extended periods of time.

Then Jim Reese picked up the ball and actually developed some counseling plans and programs, along with Jim Horn. Jim Horn was instrumental in starting a post-traumatic stress seminar for Agents and their families who had experienced life-threatening events. So Agents who had been involved in shootings, the loss of a partner, that kind of thing, any situation where they may have had to take a life, or seriously injure someone, or be injured themselves. We brought them back to the Academy and, and we started doing that on a regular basis. Jim Horn, in particular.

And then we had John Campbell, he was in the unit. John was a former Marine. I believe he was an Infantry officer from Vietnam. And he had some questions. In his experience, he saw Marines who, who were injured gravely, very seriously, and they survived in Vietnam. By the same token, he saw Marines who were, sometimes had superficial injuries and they died. And he was very interested in trying to understand what was happening, the shock and the mental set that these men may have had prior to the injury. And so he did some research in that area and published a number of things that were very valuable in understanding the shooting situation. The fact that you don't have to die if you're shot, you know; that the body can sustain significant injury without killing, you know.

And so he started conducting training to that effect. That if you're shot, you don't have to die. And if you're attacked you have to fight back. You have to get up, and get up, and get up; and once you give up, then you die. And it was a significant ... significant contribution.

Depue:

So, what I'm saying is that there are a lot of things that were done in the Behavioral Science Unit that, that were kind of original programs for the Bureau. John Otto was very supportive of programs that were designed to help Agents. Especially Agents that had experienced serious personal losses and, he came down. John Otto and Assistant Director Joe Davis would come down to every single Post-Traumatic Stress Seminar that we had, and address the group; which was terrific support, you know. And helped that program a lot.

We also since three of us had Doctorates in Counseling and Development, we began to, to do counseling in the, in the Behavioral Science Unit. Agents who were in undercover roles would often come to the Behavioral Science Unit and we'd spend some time talking with them about the stresses ... especially working alone in dangerous situations.

In some of these militant groups that were planning violent activities. They couldn't participate in those violent activities and they didn't want to be discovered, so they would have to ... we'd have to try to find ways where they could take control of a situation that they were in. And so we developed the idea of kill switches and so that they would take their vehicle and when they were en route to blow up a communications line, or something, in the desert, in the United States ... Southwest United States. They were able to cut the car off and, and they wouldn't be able to start it again; so they wouldn't be able to...

Pimentel:

... participate that way?

Depue:

That's right. We were able to give them some control over their lives. And that was very valuable, I think.

So, now Howard Teten left the Behavioral Science Unit before I became Unit Chief and he became the Chief of the Institutional Research and Development Unit ... IRDU. And, that unit was very valuable in terms of looking at Bureau programs and determining their viability and whether or not they should be funded. One of the things that we wanted to do ... we had no statistics on the value of our Crime Analysis and Criminal Personality Profiling Program. And so we asked Howard, and his Unit, to take a look at, at the cases that we had been involved in for State and Local law enforcement. And he did.

Depue: He looked at, I think, about 162 of them. And he found that in the vast majority of those cases, the police departments thought that the assistance rendered by the Behavioral Science Unit was of value in helping them narrow the focus of the investigation to the most likely suspects and in focusing the investigation, and giving them new leads and new ideas. Proactive strategies to pursue investigations that were old and cold. And that was good news.

And we were able to use his report to support our programs and funding, and all the things that you need to do in order to expand a valuable service.

Probably one of the first cases that attracted the attention of our own organization, the FBI, was the assassination attempt of the President, Ronald Reagan. John Hinckley attempted to assassinate the President and, of course, was immediately taken into custody. The President was shot a couple of times. And Bob Ressler and John Douglas had been into the prisons and interviewing, interviewed assassins in the United States, and they had concluded that, unlike many countries, assassins in the United States were not politically motivated, for the most part. That they were mentally disturbed or inadequate personalities who were trying to be somebody. You know, to make a mark, to go down in history as somebody important. And you could almost go all the way back to Lincoln's assassination ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... and see that that fit many of the cases. And, so when we got a call from the Washington Field Office and, and Bob began to discuss, with the investigators, Hinckley. And told them that, that, in his opinion, Hinckley would not be involved in a political conspiracy of any kind; and that he would have this very rich fantasy life and these dreams about enhancing his own importance and his stature, in becoming some important figure in the history of the country. And, as such, Bob related about a dozen things that they should look for in the execution of the Search Warrant ... preparation of the Affidavit and execution of the Search Warrant ... both at his temporary residence in, around Washington, and at his home in Colorado.

Depue: And there were things like, things that you would expect a person with this kind of a fantasy to have. Photographs of himself in front of the White House; in front of Ford Theater, you know. And, journals and memos and books about assassination, and a whole variety of things like that. Communications, perhaps with other people. And when they went in and executed the Search Warrants, they found them all. Everything. And so our stock went up and the FBI began to use us in cases, more and more, at that point. And it was one of the things that had our own agency beginning to look at us and saying that, "Hey, we might be able to make a contribution in a variety of cases."

So I'm not, I'm not giving you information in, in perfect sequence, you know. It's just sometimes I ...

Pimentel: That's okay.

Depue: ... sometimes I'm going back, you know, and hitting a point of interest that's triggered by something that I say.

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: Like this one. But now, I think I was finishing up talking about the Profile Coordinators a little bit ago, and we had them throughout the FBI and, and then in larger field offices, we might have three or four Profile Coordinators.

About that time, I had testified before Congress and Committees in both Houses. We were trying to get some funding to expand some of the programs and we had an idea of creating a National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime. A resource for State and Local law enforcement. NCAVC.

Pimentel: N-C-A-V-C.

Depue: National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime.

Pimentel: Okay.

Depue: And, we had identified people around the country that had some very good ideas, innovative ideas. And one of those people was Pierce Brooks. Pierce Brooks was a former LAPD, Los Angeles Police Department, Homicide Squad, Detective of Onion Field fame, if you remember, ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... Joseph Wambaugh's ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... book, Onion Field. Pierce Brooks was the Chief Investigator of that situation where the police officers were shot ... killed. And Pierce had the idea, as a Homicide Detective, that more times than once, in his career, he would be summoned to a motel or a place like that, somewhere close to the bus station or airport and there would be a homicide scene. And he would realize that they would never be able to solve that case because, because the perpetrator was transient and he may never commit another crime in the State of California.

And, so he began to wonder why the United States didn't have a national clearinghouse for unsolved homicides since homicide was such a grievous crime. Why wasn't there such a place? We thought it was a wonderful idea and we'd talked to Pierce about homicides a number of times and, and we invited him back to the Academy for a conference.

We had a conference at the University outside of Huntsville, Texas, Sam Houston State University had a conference there of people who were interested in this idea of VICAP. And we had a captain from the Michigan State Police and had academics, and other police persons, and we represented the FBI down there.

And, at that conference, I made a presentation. Afterwards they decided that the FBI would be a logical place for such a repository of VICAP. VICAP stood for the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program.

Depue: I remember calling on the phone to Jim O'Connor, who was the Deputy Assistant Director in the Training Division, Dr. O'Connor. I said to him, "Jim, we're at this conference and it sounds like they want to put this VICAP at the FBI. What do you think? Do you think we can do that; we can swing that?" And, Jim O'Connor went out on a limb. He said, "That's something we ought to do." He said, "You tell those people we can do that." And he ...

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: (Laughing) ... and he didn't even check with anybody I don't think.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: So it was a gutsy call and just what I wanted to hear. So I was able to go back to the conference and say, "Yeah," you know, we can do it and, and it's a logical place, and we've got the manpower and the people. Because we saw all kinds of spin-offs. If you have a place where every unsolved homicide in the United States, let's say ... well, you know, if you don't solve a homicide in 72 hours ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... then the, the chance that you're going to solve it, drop dramatically.

Pimentel: Uh-huh.

Depue: If, after a month, a crime isn't solved, if those crimes could be reduced to a form, coded for computer and then put into a computer, you could compare and contrast those crimes with one another. And, perhaps, you could link some of the unsolved crimes with one another as being the work of the same person or the same kind of person.

You could also identify cases that would lend themselves to profiling. You say this is the kind ... we've seen this kind of crime a number of times ... we've had good success in profiling the kind of person who does this. And so, we saw that it would nicely dovetail into what we were doing in crime analysis and criminal personality profiling.

Depue: So, we needed some money. And, so we went to our friends at the National Institute of Justice and James “Chips” Stewart was the Director of the National Institute of Justice at the time; was a FBI National Academy graduate. National Institute of Justice has responsibility to support and fund innovative ideas ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... in the criminal justice system and, in particular, law enforcement. And we’d worked with Chips on a number of programs. And, so he and Al Regnery of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, OJJDP, were interested. We’d been working with them in the whole area of crimes against children and were successful in helping to get legislation for missing children and crimes against children. So, they decided to award us money. And we received about a million dollars from them. We immediately purchased a ... back in those days ... a Cadillac of computers. It was a VACS-11785. The thing was bigger than this room.

And we had it put in a special room where we were, down in the sub-basement in the FBI Academy. We used to like to say that we were ten times deeper than dead people, down there. And we put this computer room in there and it was air-conditioned, you know, and all. And then we tapped into Associated Press, and United Press International. We programmed the computer with certain words, violence, serial killers, and that kind of thing and every wire that came across from those agencies, the story would be kicked out to us.

And so now we’re in a position where we could then go out to our Profile Coordinators and we could say, “Check this out, go to this place.” And so we started looking at, not only serial killers, but any kind of bizarre, any kind of particularly violent, satanic cults ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... you know, things like that ... weird kinds of crimes that suggested aberrant behavior. And then the Profile Coordinator would get the facts and send them back to us. And so we started building this reservoir of violent crime. Ken Lanning began to do work in satanic cults, wrote some excellent articles in there.

Depue: We also had the money to hire some people. At that time, we established this National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, of which VICAP was one of the programs. The other programs were research. We had a program dedicated to Research. Program dedicated to Training; program dedicated to casework, Crime Analysis; and VICAP. And had a, a Program Manager for each one of those.

Dick Ault was in charge of the Research. John Douglas was in charge of the Crime Analysis and Profiling. Roy Hazelwood was in charge of the Training Program. And, of course, Pierce Brooks came, he was retired from the LAPD; he had been a Chief of Police in a couple of cities in Oregon and one in Colorado, and we had convinced him to come back to the FBI Academy and see his dream become a realization. So he came back and he was at the Academy for several months. And we established VICAP. Put together the protocol for submission of cases to the FBI. We had the VACS computer, and we were ready to go.

And Pierce did a nice job. Pierce recommended other police people who had been involved in the VICAP program from the early days. We brought in police officers from Oregon, from North Carolina, and from Oakland, California.

Pimentel: This was about what year ... mid-'80's?

Depue: We're talking, about 1980, let's see, '85, maybe. And, they formed the VICAP group. And then, of course, we had Support.

In the meantime, we had a profiling program and several years before, in maybe about 1982, we began to bring FBI Agents back who were Profile Coordinators, and who wanted to be more involved in crime analysis and profiling. And so we began. We brought four of them in, to start with. And they were almost exclusively involved in analyzing the cases that were coming in. So the little Behavioral Science Unit grew from about a dozen people to over 50 people in these five ... four or five different programs that we had going on.

We also had some programs in looking at the critical incident support.

Depue: At that time, before that time, Howard or, let's see, Hassel, Conrad Hassel and Tom Strentz started a new unit in the FBI academy, the Training Division, called Special Operations and Research, SOARS. And that organization, or that unit had to do with terrorist research. Initially it was called TRAMS, Terrorist Research and Management; then it was called Special Operations and Research.

Pimentel: Could we take a little break here for a second?

We're back again. It's 2:17. Okay. Go ahead there, Roger.

Depue: I just wanted to make the point, Stan, that the members of the Behavioral Science Unit were conducting this excellent empirical research and publishing a lot of materials. And I just have a couple of examples here, you know. This one, "Practical Aspects of Rape Investigation," Roy Hazelwood and Ann Burgess. And this one, "Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives," by Ressler, Douglas and Burgess. And then, and then on the other side of the house, the "Critical Incidents in Policing." ...

Pimentel: Oh yeah.

Depue: With all kinds of the results of conferences that Bob Schaefer, Jim Horn and Jim Reese began to put on; these conferences after John Minderman's lead, you know. Bringing all of the psychologists, they began to bring back police psychologists every couple of years and then they began to bring back police chaplains. And started a whole program where police chaplains could meet and discuss the common problems of dealing with things. So you can see police counseling, you know, the development of a crisis care unit; critical incident trauma treatment; police stress response to civilian aircraft disaster, and all of those kinds of things, would be discussed and papers would be submitted and there were very professional kinds of conferences.

And I think Jim Reese and Jim Horn produced about four of those books as a result of papers submitted at the conferences. And it was all done very professionally. And it was a major contribution to law enforcement from the position of self-help, you know, what can we do for our own people.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: How can we improve the emotional well being of our troops in law enforcement and FBI, and investigators, in general, you know. It's a difficult job.

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: Howard Teten, in the meantime, kind of specialized in dealing with undercover. He began to do some research from the Institutional Research and Development Unit. He was the Chief of that Unit and began to do some research in the impact of working undercover assignments. He developed a program called the Vanguard Program, in which Undercover Agents working undercover assignments were periodically brought back. They were given some training on the front end and then, periodically, brought back and evaluated and debriefed, and ...

Pimentel: And face reality.

Depue: Yeah. And give them some counseling.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: I used to like to say that the Behavioral Science Unit was the original and then other units just kind of spun off of it, you know.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: Institutional Research and Development, and then Special Operations and Research, you know, and then the counseling program. And eventually, when we were successful in starting the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, we then split the Behavioral Science into two units; and one was called the Behavioral Science Instruction and Research Unit, and the other one was called the Behavioral Science Investigative Support Unit. So, at that time, Smokey Burgess, I don't know if you know Smokey?

Pimentel: Yeah. Right.

Depue: Alan Burgess?

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: He was assigned as Unit Chief of the Behavioral Science Investigative Support Unit, I retained the Behavioral Science Instruction and Research Unit. Then those two units now made up the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, and the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program was like a sub-unit under the Behavioral Science Investigative Support.

So we took up the, just about the entire, in fact, we took up the entire sub-basement at the FBI Academy, located beneath the Gun Vault.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Depue: And, as you may know, that was an old relocation site.

Pimentel: (Laughing) If a balloon ever went up in Washington, Mr. Hoover had a place to live a few weeks. Other dignitaries, right?

Depue: Yeah. Other heads of law enforcement ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... agencies mostly.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: When we first went down there, when they gave us that space, we found, you know, cots and old survival gear and all that kind of stuff, under there. And there was a big door when, when you got off the elevator ...

Pimentel: It was a vault.

Depue: It was a vault.

Pimentel: I remember that.

Depue:

It was supposed to keep, you know, the bad air or radiation, or whatever, out. We used to laugh about it, you know. We had the Behavioral Science Unit and had some female Agents and we had, of course, support people, and we said that if the bomb ever did go off then can you imagine the world that would be populated by the offspring of people from the Behavioral Science Unit. (Laughing) You know, that's as scary as a bomb is. You know.

(Both laughing)

But at that time, we were really, I guess, in our prime and we were doing a lot of good work and we had probably about eight or ten courses that we were teaching from the Behavioral Science Unit. We had Joe Conley, who was teaching Terrorism; Tom Strentz came back to us from the SOARS Unit, back to the Behavioral Science Unit, and he was doing a lot of work on hostage situations and hostage negotiation. And we were going strong and we had an Advisory Board; we began to work on a manual.

The mental health community has a diagnostic manual that they call the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV (DSM IV) and it's used by mental health professionals to diagnose illnesses. We conceived the idea of ... John Douglas and Bob Ressler, in particular, and Ann Burgess, the idea of doing a similar thing for law enforcement because people were using words interchangeably and terms interchangeably. They were talking about mass murderer and serial murderer as if it was the same thing.

Pimentel:

Same thing. Right.

Depue:

And so we developed terminology where you had, you know, you had definitions of what these things were ... serial murderer, something we called spree murderer, and then mass murderer, you know. And, then a whole variety of other terms so that, as with any science or anybody with knowledge, you have to have common terminology. It was called The Crime Classification Manual.

Depue: In fact, there was a book written, called Mass Murderer, which really didn't have a lot to do with mass murder. It had to do with serial murders, you know.

Pimentel: But getting back to the origination of BSU, the Behavioral Science Unit. You guys started working very closely with the University of Virginia, at that time, and with mental health experts?

Depue: Yes. Yeah. As you know, the FBI Academy Training Division, is affiliated with the University of Virginia.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: Those five departments that I mentioned earlier were academic departments. There were other departments, or units, in the Academy, which were not academic and did not award credit. The Firearms Training, the Physical Training and some other kinds of things.

So, you had those five academic units who were affiliated with the University of Virginia. We began to work with Park Dietz. Park Dietz was at Harvard and came down to the University of Virginia. He's a psychiatrist. We have a Psychological Institute in the University of Virginia, and Janet Warren and Park Dietz were down there on the staff. They would come to the Academy and we would have interaction; and they participated in some of the research projects and began to co-author books with us. Ann Burgess was from the University of Pennsylvania, I think, at that time, School of Nursing.

Pimentel: Hm-hmm.

Depue: And then there were a number of other academics who wanted to become affiliated with us. And so we had Marvin Wolfgang, and people like that, who served on our Boards and, and participated in some of the things that we did.

At that time, we started a Fellowship Program. It was just a very successful program and I'm sorry to see that it's been discontinued. We realized that we couldn't share our profiling skills. There's no way you could have a two-week in-service and teach these skills.

Pimentel: No.

Depue: To teach these skills you had to have hands-on analysis of crime, of crime scenes. Roy Hazelwood was primary in this case and we developed this Fellowship Program where we brought back outstanding investigators from major police departments around the country.

The first time we did it was, was we brought four of them back and they stayed with us an entire year. And during that year we could give them three months of intensive training, and then we would begin to assign cases to them under the tutelage of an experienced profiler. And then, after that, they would work the remaining four or five months as members of the unit and we would just assign cases to them and, with some supervision, and then they were expected to go back to their departments and start Behavioral Science Units in their departments. It, it was very successful. One of the members of our group here, the Academy Group, Larry McCann, was a graduate of that program.

Pimentel: Just a second. Let me flip the tape over here, Roger.

Depue: Okay.

Pimentel: And we're back again.

Depue: So the Fellowship Program ... you can see some of these plaques on the wall, were awarded to me by various Fellowship classes.

Pimentel: Hm-hmm.

Depue: And we eventually had these experienced investigators who were trained as Profilers, in many of the major law enforcement agencies in the United States; many of the State Police agencies in the major cities, almost all of them, have one of these profiling, law enforcement police profiling experts.

Pimentel: Hm-hmm.

Depue: And we eventually had these experienced investigators who were trained as Profilers, in many of the major law enforcement agencies in the United States; many of the State Police agencies in the major cities, almost all of them, have one of these profiling, law enforcement police profiling experts.

And then we began to bring some in from foreign countries. We brought one in from Canada, Kate Lyons. She now has started a Behavioral Science Section, which is very sophisticated and includes, not only Crime Analysis and Criminal Personality Profiling from a psychological aspect, but also from a geographical aspect. And, I was up there and spoke at a conference in violent crime. And I was just very impressed with what they're doing there.

We have, here at the Academy Group, right now, an intern from the RCMP, Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Her name is Cindy Ramos. We conduct violent crime training here and we bring people in from around the country and around the world. And when she goes back to the RCMP, she will be a Profiler in the RCMP.

We also have a graduate out there by the name of Matt Logan, who is a Staff Sergeant with the RCMP. He's a Clinical Psychologist, has come through our training and just outstanding, excellent. Canada is doing some tremendous things.

Unfortunately, the FBI discontinued the program.

Pimentel: When did they discontinue that, Roger?

Depue: I think it was after I retired. So it must have been in the, maybe, the mid-'90s, or early '90's. I'm not sure. But it was a tremendous program from the standpoint of liaison.

Pimentel: Sure. Sure.

Depue: Since that time, these police agents who have completed the Fellowship Program, have started their own organization and, and they're very active. They now conduct training themselves for interns and the FBI's lost that leadership role.

- Pimentel: No university is really conducting any profiling. They may have pick and choose or, or some courses, I imagine on behavioral?
- Depue: Yes. There are some, there are some.
- Pimentel: Nobody, no one, except maybe like you guys now, the Academy Group, doing full-fledged training for future profilers.
- Depue: As with any new discipline, you've got a lot of charlatans.
- Pimentel: Yeah.
- Depue: And there are a lot of people out there who think that, because they have some letters after their name, they can do this, you know. And they can't, you know.
- Pimentel: Right.
- Depue: It takes years of looking at cases. I was talking about burglary, you know.
- Pimentel: Right. Right.
- Depue: You have to spend the time looking at those cases and then you begin to get the insights and that's essential, and so it's hard in universities to do it. Because you have, you know, you teach a semester course, you know, a three-hour course, that meets for what, 15 weeks, or something. And you can, you can impart some theory and do a little bit of hands-on things, but you can't really do it in the depth that it really needs to be done.
- Pimentel: Why do you think the Bureau discontinued it ... because of possible litigation?
- Depue: No. I don't think so. Not, not at all. I think it was someone's decision in terms of funding. Plus experience. I mean it was expensive to bring people in, and keep them at the FBI Academy for a period of time like that. We reduced it. We started out with a year and then we reduced it down to six months.
- Pimentel: Right.

Depue: Nevertheless, it was expensive. I think the largest group we ever had come in were six at one time. As a matter of fact, Ken Baker, now, Ken is a retired Secret Service Agent. Ken was like my counterpart for the Secret Service. He was in charge of their Behavioral Sciences.

Depue: Ken came to the FBI Academy and went through the Intern Program, or the Fellowship Program, and he became so enthralled with the program that he asked to stay for an additional year. And so he spent two years at the FBI Academy, and we cross-trained and he had a great deal of expertise in assassins, you know, in assassination. And, of course, we had a lot of expertise in other areas of violent crime so it was just very valuable there.

And we've had Fellows from Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; DEA, and almost all of the Federal law enforcement agencies and then most of the major cities in states, and a number of foreign countries. Going through the Fellowship Program.

Pimentel: Now, are the programs still down there? I know the Fellowship is not, you said that's discontinued, but the rest? VICAP is still ongoing?

Depue: Yeah. The National Center for Analysis of Violent Crime still exists. It's now off campus. It's not at the FBI Academy anymore. They have a building, I think they're leasing a building by Aquia Harbor, out that way.

Pimentel: Oh. Okay.

Depue: And I think they have a hundred or so employees. And they've now sub-divided. I mentioned that we split the Behavioral Science Unit into two units. Well now they have, perhaps, five or six units out there.

Pimentel: (Laughing) Oh geez.

Depue: One specializes in adult violence, suicide serial killers; another one specializes in crimes against children and that kind of thing ... sexual crimes. So, yeah, it's apparently it's still a growing concern.

Pimentel: A growing concern. And I'm sure it'll probably continue to be in the way crime ... crime is never going to cease to exist.

Depue: But, the crime wave has subsided in this country and there's all kinds of speculation as to why that is. I have my own ideas. I think it's because we started locking the people up.

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: And once you, you take a bad guy off the street, then all of the crimes that he would've committed, you know, don't happen; at least not outside. So our homicide rate right now is in the area of about, between 16 and 17 thousand homicides per year, down from nearly 25 thousand.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And so, that's a significant decrease. And homicide is the most reliable of all violent crime statistics, because it's the most likely to be reported.

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: So, when you look at that crime rate and then you see that there was subsequent increases or decreases in other kinds of crime, like rape and aggravated assault, and armed robbery, then you know you have a trend. You know, if they're all moving in the same direction at one time. Right now it's down considerably. It's still too high. It's always too high when you have that kind of homicide, but our society is a very violent society, you know. And guns are plentiful. I'm not an anti-gun advocate, necessarily, but I'm certainly against guns that are designed to kill people.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: I'm opposed to that. People don't need to have AK47's and M-16's. They don't need them.

Pimentel: They don't need them.

Depue: They say, "Well, I'm a deer hunter." Yeah. Then you must like Swiss deer because you don't need an automatic weapon to do that.

- Pimentel: What about in comparable country to ours, with their murder rate, like England, for example. Does England have a murder rate comparable to ours? Or is it much less because there's less guns?
- Depue: No free and democratic society, that I know of, has the homicide rate and ...
- Pimentel: Violent crimes.
- Depue: ... violent rate comparable to ours. England is much lower. Canada, our neighbor, ...
- Pimentel: Yeah. Much lower.
- Depue: ... and their society is very much like ours, in terms of major cities and all that kind of thing ... it is much lower. That goes for free and democratic societies. There are other societies where, you know, China, you have no idea how many people are killed in China. They have no idea, I don't think.
- Pimentel: Anyway. So, you retired in April 1st of 1989?
- Depue: That's correct.
- Pimentel: And then you formed up the Academy Group about that time?
- Depue: What I did there is ... I'd just been through the experience and, certainly not me, alone, with my team ... I was very fortunate to have a team of high energy people, and very creative people, and hard working people, and willing to go out and, to do these things. When I looked at the private sector, you know, I said, "Gee, look what we created for the public sector." You know, a resource of expertise in violence and aberrant behavior. I don't see any counterpart in the private sector.
- Pimentel: Right.

Depue: So I talked with Bert Brown and some friends. Con Hassel was retired at the time. I said, "What do you think about doing this? Creating a resource for private industry, for private security, for corporate security, for law firms, and a whole raft of organizations that could benefit from someone who had expertise in analyzing aberrant behavior and planning strategies to reduce it or control it in some way." Bert Brown and Con Hassel said, "Boy, it sounds like a great idea." They're both very supportive.

In 1989, after I retired, we incorporated and, and then I began to draft members of the Behavioral Science Unit as they came to retirement age. (laughing) And so I got Tom Strentz. And then Ken Baker from the Secret Service, when he retired, joined us. Then I started bringing in some other people who had some tactical backgrounds, like Don Bassett, who had done a lot of the training of our SWAT teams and Special Weapons.

Pimentel: And, so this is, the Academy Group has become kind of like a mini-Quantico, I guess, a mini-BSU.

Depue: That's safe to say. So Roy Hazelwood, Dick Ault joined us and Con Hassel and now we've picked up Steve Mardigian from the National Center, and Mike Napier from the National Center, are now joined us. Ken Lanning, we handle all the training that he does and others. And we just talked with Chuck Robb. Not Chuck Robb, but Ed Robb, not to be confused with the former Governor of Virginia.

Pimentel: Right. (Laughing)

Depue: Although he is the former Senator of Virginia and current Sheriff, up in Albermarle County. A lot of people with behavioral science backgrounds. And, as I said, we do work now doing selection and screening of people for specific kinds of jobs with the U.S. Government, and State and Local Governments through Polygraph examinations and, and other kinds of testing, and interviews, and that kind of thing.

Depue: So, we still conduct a lot of training. We have specialized courses in Violent Crime. We have a two-week introductory course. And then we have a one-week, Violent Crime II, we call it. We're just developing a Violent Crime III. And it's the closest thing that we can do to help people understand this whole area of profiling, analysis of violent crime. So we can, over that period of time, we can give them the basics in the first two weeks and then the next week we give them a lot of hands-on in crime scene analysis from actual cases. And then in the third week, we'll construct it ...

Pimentel: Let me change this other one, if I may. Here we go.

Depue: Yeah, and in the third week we stage crime scenes and have them go in and look at them, and make notes and what not. Then we put them together in teams. To try to ferret out what the, what the teaching points are and ... and instructional ...

Pimentel: This is all done just with you guys. Not, not with anyone ... another organization.

Depue: No. No. We did that all ourselves.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: We also do a lot of training for Fortune 500 corporations.

Pimentel: Corporations. That's good.

Depue: Yeah. And we do a lot of operational support to just about any major corporation that, that you can think of. We've done work with them in terms of problems in the workplace. I like to say that problems in the workplace run the gamut from mischief to murder, everything in between. And if you have disgruntled employees, they can do all kinds of things.

Pimentel: Right. Yes.

Depue: We work with law firms in premises liability cases. And, lots of times people claim that they're victims of crime when, in fact, it's a false allegation.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: We've interviewed a lot of people who are true victims of crimes. And we know the difference between a true victim ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... and someone who's feigning to be a victim. And, in fact, Roy Hazelwood, one of the first cases that he consulted on was the Tawanna Brawley case.

Pimentel: Oh yeah.

Depue: You know. And he said, "No. Never happened."

Pimentel: Never happened. Right.

Depue: And so we were able to do that lots of times in these cases, by looking at the deposition and the statements of the alleged victims. And we can kind of sort them out and say, "Hey, we don't think this one is bona fide, and here's how you'll be able to find out."

Pimentel: What was, while you were still with the Bureau, when you were heading up the BSU, what was probably one of the most significant or the most interesting, or mind-boggling matter you handled there?

Depue: (Chuckling)

Pimentel: That you recall? I'm sure that there were many.

Depue: There are some fascinating cases of FBI Agents, you know ...

Pimentel: I'm sure.

Depue: ... that, that just occurred to me, but we may not want to discuss that one.

Pimentel: Because you did mention the Ronald Reagan assassination ...

Depue: Yes.

Pimentel: ... by Hinckley. That, that had to be a very ...

Depue: High profile.

Pimentel: ... high profile...

Depue: Absolutely.

Pimentel: ... extremely high profile.

Depue: Yeah, other cases were the Atlanta kidnapping child murders.

Pimentel: What, Williams, was his name?

Depue: Wayne B. Williams.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: Uh-huh. And John Glover was the SAC at the time, down there. We sent Roy Hazelwood down there, at first. And, Roy kind of sized it up. Roy, it only took him a few days to say that this is not a white man. This is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan or, you know, some racist who hates Black people. And that was some of the rumors that were going on around down there.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: He said, "No. This is one of your own. This is a Black person." There's no way that a person could go through those neighborhoods and to not arouse suspicion. They didn't like to hear that very much on the local level.

But then John Douglas went down and the two of them began to analyze the case and they constructed a profile. Did a beautiful job. And they said that this individual was educated, articulate; this is a person who has appeal to children; would have some kind of talent, either a musician or something that would be attractive to children. They suggested that he might try to insert himself in to the investigation. Which we've seen a number of times, especially serial killers. I mean they will do things that are high risk. I mean BTK wrote ...

Pimentel: Wrote?

Depue: ... numerous letters. Zodiac writes these letters. Ted Bundy, you know, was on a telephone hotline for people who, you know, that were contemplating suicide or other kinds of problems. Here he is taking the calls and counseling the people.

Pimentel: Oh geez.

Depue: And Edmund Kemper who killed the college co-eds, used to drink in the bar where the investigators hung out. And, and so he could exchange, "What do you guys think?" And all then he was, in fact, the person who was picking up these young college girls who were hitchhiking and putting them in the trunk and that kind of thing, you know?

Pimentel: Um-hmm.

Depue: The possibility of people returning to the scene of the crimes. I mentioned that one, that story at lunch. In Chicago, in the cemetery.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Depue: People like David Berkowitz.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: The Son of Sam. Who said, "Yeah." He returned to the scene of his crimes. So, I think it was Bob Ressler who said to him, "What, a bright guy like you. I mean you're able to convince people that the dog, the neighbor's dog, Sam, spoke to you and caused you to kill these people and you're able to pull that one off. Well, why would you take the risk of returning to the scene of the crime?" And Berkowitz said, "Well," he said, "when you go out and look for a victim and you can't find one, and your juices are flowing ... He used to go back to the scene of one of his crimes; one of his successes as he said, quote unquote. And he'd take that 44 caliber revolver at night, and he'd remember how these two young lovers were ...

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: ... were in the car, and he'd walk up to where that car was and, sometimes he'd, you know, he'd even ... and he would re-live it, you know. And it was the next best thing to, ...

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: ... to actually doing it ... remembering it, you know. It's not unlike. It's certainly unlike it, in many ways, but from a fantasy standpoint, it's not unlike a high school athlete, you know, a football player, who goes back and stands on the field and remembers that touchdown pass, or reception or whatever it was. And, it's a similar kind of a thing, you know, he goes back to one of his places and, and he relives it.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: And he thinks about how sweet it was ... that he was able to pull it off.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: Yeah. There were a lot of cases. One was Army of God. I don't know if you remember that.

Pimentel: Yeah, I remember. Yeah.

Depue: St. Louis, the kidnapping of two medical doctors. Zevallos, the name was. And, Army of God wrote a 40-page epistle and they taped it to the bottom of a sink in a public restroom in St. Louis and it made its demands. And that case was handled out of the Springfield Office because it was East St. Louis. The SAC called and said he wanted us to look at it, "Right now!" And, I looked around the office ... Roy Hazelwood, Dick Ault, Ken Lanning were still there, you know, it's in the evening, 5:30, six o'clock. So I said, "Come on, I got a fax for you - 40-page epistle." So we got it and, and the guys sat around the desk like this, you know, and I just kind of dealt it out like with cards. And we speed read the thing and then I got the tablet out and said, "Okay, what have we got?"

And they start telling me. We constructed a profile of the guy that we felt would be responsible for this kind of thing on the basis, the more they write, the more you can tell.

Pimentel: Sure.

Depue: You know, about them. The more they betray what's really bothering them. We constructed a profile and it was ... we got feedback about a year later. The case was closed, saying they made the arrest. And, out of, I don't know, 30, 35 characteristics that we identified, I think there was only one that we missed on. You know. It was really a lucky one. We had a lot to work with there. I think now that the three-legged stool has kind of been gone.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: You know. Once you get so large, now the National Center; they're, they're almost exclusively involved, it seems to me, I ... you know I've been gone a long time, but ... almost exclusively involved in analyzing cases, you know.

Pimentel: Um-hmm.

Depue: Case work. And the training and the research ...

Pimentel: Died. Gone by the wayside?

Depue: Doesn't have the same importance. And so, consequently, you don't have that, that cross-fertilization and that's real important. And, if you're not careful, you lose the Behavioral Science component and you begin to be experts at analyzing the crimes very much like homicide detectives. When the beauty of it was understanding the criminal mind.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: Understanding the motivation and the fantasy, and saying, "I know what this guy's thinking." I know. I've seen this before. I've talked to people who are like this and I can now plan strategy that the average detective can't plan. And perhaps be there the next time he shows up, or something like that."

In the Wayne B. Williams case, the Atlanta kidnapping, they had Agents and officers stationed at the bridges because he was throwing bodies off bridges.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Depue: And they identified someone close to where one of the bodies was thrown in, and that's how Wayne B. Williams was eventually identified.

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: But even he was an amateur photographer; went to the police and said "can I help you take some photographs of, of some of the crime scenes?"

Pimentel: Right.

Depue: So sometimes these people ... like moth to the flame, you know ... they want to be close to the investigation. And they will actually insert themselves into the investigation.

Pimentel: So I guess the clue would be that if there's a major homicide, or several major, what you think is maybe a serial killing, killer. Look around you, in your immediate vicinity ...

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: ... because the guy might be right there.

Depue: Yeah. He may even volunteer to look for the body.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Depue: May be drinking with you.

(Both laughing)

Pimentel: Right. Yeah.

Depue: Or somewhere, inserting himself into it.

Pimentel: Yeah. It's almost three o'clock in the afternoon. We've been at it for a little bit. You could go on and on, I'm sure, Roger. But, your time is valuable.

Let me say that I read your book, which was published, when?

Depue: February (2005).

Pimentel: Oh. A year ago.

Depue: Yeah.

Pimentel: The book's title is, Between Good and Evil: a Master Profiler's Hunt for Society's Most Violent Predators, by Roger L. Depue. Which I just read the last weekend and it's a page turner, like I said.

Depue: Thank you.

Pimentel: In fact, Roger has autographed it, or signed it for the Oral History Project and I'm going to include it with this interview; as well, Roger has given me a lengthy biographical or curriculum vitae that I will include with this interview so that you can see the different awards and different places you've been et cetera, et cetera.

So, what I want to do on behalf of the Oral History Project of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI is to thank you for your time and your dedication and thank you so much.

Depue: It was a pleasure. I hope I didn't bore you with too much.
(Laughing)

Pimentel: (Laughing) No. No. If there's any further questions, I'll certainly give you a buzz.

Depue: That's fine.

Pimentel: They wanted to get, for the Oral History Project, the beginnings of the BSU, the Behavioral Science Unit, and these offshoots, of which I think you've given us a pretty good background there. Once again, thank you so much Roger.

Depue: It's my pleasure.

Pimentel: Okay.

Depue: Thank you.