

## Transcript of Oral History Tape

Norman Kemp T-6-131 Indiana State Prison

Transcribed by Patty Rivera 9/17/03.

T-6-131

Part 1

Interviewer Cis Jankowski: Okay now you've got that picture there.

Norm Kemp: Yeah, my name...this picture um...I'm Norman Kemp and I um was the assistant township's trustee under Trustee August...[name indecipherable]...from thirty-two until forty.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And uh, and in this picture...in referring to this picture here. This picture possibly was taken prior to thirty-two for the reason is that this line of people in this picture are not going up for grocery orders but they're going down to get surplus commodities down the basement.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: This building has been tore down see.

Interviewer: Where...where is that building? I looked at that and I didn't know where that's located.

Kemp: Well now you're at 406...you're at 406 Franklin.

Interviewer: Right.

Kemp: Well then just around the corner from you on the next corner...you...you're on the...on the east side of the street. Are you not?

Interviewer: Right.

Kemp: And you come to the corner.

Interviewer: Going north?

Kemp: You come to going to go north.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: The four hundred block will start at...at uh...now wait a minute...

Interviewer: Where the Ideal Paint store is?

Kemp: You're at 426 I beg your pardon. Let's erase that part of it see. You're at 406...you start at 40...you...you're on Fourth Street that way. Fourth Street on the corner now is um...

Interviewer: There's an Ideal Paint store and there's a tavern across...

Kemp: Yes all that...now come one...now come one block north. Come one block north back to the street.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And then across the street like that is this building here. It's tore down.

Interviewer: Oh. Okay. It's not there anymore.

Kemp: See. Now uh I'm...my father's business was on the corner of Fourth and Franklin...now that's your...that's 406 and...[indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: It's part of the library there. That's where our business was, see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: That's...that's...

Interviewer: What kind of business was it?

Kemp: ...[indecipherable]...327 Franklin Street. That was uh...so I'm...this is my part of the country.

Interviewer: That's right. You would have been in the new library then now.

Kemp: Then going back down Michigan Street now is um...an empty lot there. As you go down...as you go down Michigan Street now...

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: ...the um...the new court house is going up.

Interviewer: Okay, yeah.

Kemp: It's see...well anyway this is...this is the end of the uh...of the two hundred block.

Interviewer: Oh I see, uh-huh.

Kemp: This is the end of the two hundred block. On the east side of the street is the same side of the street's you on...the end of the two hundred block. Why this is confusing you is 'cause it's all vacant lot there you see.

Interviewer: Yeah right and it's probably many of those buildings that got torn down before I....

Kemp: And then this originally...originally this building here...uh...was house of...was uh...was the Chamber of Commerce building.

Interviewer: Hmm. And that's where they were picking up the surplus food?

Kemp: Yeah, but the Chamber of Commerce food....and then we took over this building and the offices were uptown and...upstairs...and the um...the WP office was downstairs. I'm talking about thirty-two on to forty. And this line here...

Interviewer: WP office. What is that?

Kemp: ...this line...this building has been tore down too across the street. That was a very important building. That was a ...[indecipherable]...building where...main ice cream place in town.

Interviewer: Oh really.

Kemp: In fact all the...all the tourists came there see. You'll...you'll hear somebody talk about...[indecipherable]...that would...that would...

Interviewer: How's that spelled?

Kemp: ...yeah...and that was...that was a uh...a ...[indecipherable]...but now our offices were upstairs here in...my...my office was right inside that there uh...in fact this was a...and there's only two of us living now during the thirty-two to forty. Mr. Ramion worked with me up there and later on became the township trustee, see. But this one man right here is...is Roscoe Stevenson and he was a police Captain and no doubt they had a police went out there to watch this...[indecipherable]...see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: I can recognize one...one man on there see.

Interviewer: Why would they need a policeman there?

Kemp: Oh for you know...some... [indecipherable]...didn't get enough to eat and all that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: Did that used to happen a lot?

Kemp: Not too much, no.

Interviewer: Oh. Just in case, huh?

Kemp: Yeah. During the...during this period of thirty-two to forty we had eleven hundred relief cases which adds up to forty-four hundred people on relief.

Interviewer: Hmm. Wow.

Kemp: Yeah. That's a...that was a big load see. And uh...and I took care of all the money cause I used to spend nineteen...I remember now...doctors were getting fifty cents for office calls and a dollar for house calls...

Interviewer: Oh my gosh.

Kemp: ...and the highest...uh surgery was seventy-five dollars. I used to spend nineteen thousand dollars sometimes for just medical in those days.

Interviewer: Oh my gosh.

Kemp: When I say I mean I wrote the order for it. And uh...uh and then the course...groceries at that time now one person got a dollar and a half a week. Two persons got two and a...two seventy-five. Three persons got three and a quarter. Four persons got four. That's for a whole week. But this here....

Interviewer: That wouldn't go very far today would it.

Kemp: But this here...that was surplus commodities. The government sent us surplus commodities like canned meats.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: Flour for baking. Lard. Anything for baking. And these people no doubt were lining up for surplus commodities. So this picture could be after thirty-two and not my days. But uh I was talking to a man this morning and he says, "No I think you're...I think that was before." But these were all the people...the same people that are there were with us from thirty-two to forty.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: See. And then WPA start up in after that. And of course a lot of these people then got on WPA. Work Products Administration. And they did...and they had their offices downstairs for a while and the township trustee was upstairs here. And I think that Mr. Ramion moved out of that building oh...I would say in the forties because the load had gone down. The load now as I understand from township trustee is about two hundred he's got on there now. I go down there once in a while and talk to 'em after all these years you see.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: Then I...then I left Michigan City after that and was gone for a while and came back here in fifty-one and went to work on the prison see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: But... [indecipherable]...you might ask about this here thing here. But I'm the only one. Mr. Ramion and myself and other people no doubt who were on

relief. But nobody working worked on...as relief but myself and Mr. Ramion see. He's now the township assessor.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: He's not re...re-running for office. But he started out there....he...he worked with me for eight years but he also worked eight years prior to that time for you heard the name...[indecipherable]...Fedder as Mayor. He worked under... [indecipherable]... And then when Mayor Fedder came in Gus Karne... [indecipherable]....took over as township trustee and was trustee for eight years. And that's when I worked under him. And then in 1940 why we terminated that part of it see. So...and now anytime you wanna know more about that... [indecipherable]...why you're free to contact me or... [indecipherable]...him up.

Interviewer: What's that sign say there? Right on the corner there?

Kemp: What's that?

Interviewer: Right there where your thumb is.

Kemp: Oh. That was Willard. Willard Battery Company. Willard Battery. Dry cell power batteries for automobiles.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: That was the... [indecipherable]...for Willard Batteries.

Interviewer: Oh I see. .... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: That was the building...on the other side of it, see. It says the word Willard.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And Willard Battery Company. But this was the old Chamber of Commerce building prior...many years ago now...downstairs was the...was the saloon.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: ...nobody... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: You sure all those people weren't standing in line to go to the saloon?

Kemp: No, no, no...this is...this is thirty-two my dear.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: And prohibition was in effect at that time yet.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: No, no, no, no the entrance going down there was down...there was a uh...step going down the basement just about there. See as I said I was at Fourth and Franklin and I know the stairs very...very well. And then up the third floor we had the sewing project.

Interviewer: What was that?

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...on WPA and then they made dresses and things for shirts and that.

Interviewer: Oh. Hmm.

Kemp: We...[indecipherable]...When I'm sitting in this window one time a woman comes...we had one time when the State had a fire drill there was a little...[indecipherable]...when the State took over and didn't give it back to the township trustee. The um State had it and they intercom telephones in up there that's so they can call us and we had a telephone and the head one could call me in my office and I could talk to her see.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: So up on the wall you had posted one short...three shorts...my name...my number was...if the telephone rang two shorts it was them calling me.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: We were making shirts upstairs there. So a woman walks in. The woman's still living by the way. Walks in and said "I want some shirts for my husband." Shirts. I said "Where'd you get that idea?" She said, "You...you got two shirts and Joe got three shirts." It didn't dawn on me. She had looked up on the wall and saw two shirts and three shirts. That's one of the humorous things that happened see. It was some of the... [indecipherable]...kind, see.

Interviewer: Yeah right.

Kemp: And then you have 'em...uh...you have uh, it's human nature. There's nothing peculiar about that. I just remember that story... [indecipherable]...and every time I see that woman I say, "The woman accused me of getting two shirts." Two shirts see. ... [indecipherable]...I suppose you...you're more interested in...in...in uh the prison deal, see.

Interviewer: You have a book there. What is....?

Kemp: Yeah I got all the...my records.

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Kemp: Here's something... [indecipherable]...I don't know...it's before my time. Uh that's a story....that I can't tell you. That man up there will have to tell ya.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Let me tell you who that man is.

Interviewer: ... [indecipherable]...I didn't read the... [indecipherable].

Kemp: Yeah that's Major Schmul.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: That's Major Schmul in Patton's armory. He was also was deputy warden but...but during the world's war he was Major Schmul...the first...one of the first men to go into from the um...concentration camps and liberate the...the Jewish people.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: He...he doesn't want to... [indecipherable]...but this is Major Schmul. Nationally known. Patton sent him in because he could talk German.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And he went in there and then liberated one of those camps. Not Buchenbalt.(sp?). One of the other ones. And Larry will not talk. He'll not talk. You won't get him to say anything. He also wrote...and getting back to prison...he's a very...here's the most prominent man in Michigan City but people don't know that. He also wrote Voice From the Chair in which he tells all about the different executions that he was on.

Interviewer: Huh.

Kemp: Talk about a career. This man has. He also was Major Schmul in the army. He was Deputy Warden. He was in on this here big deal when they tried to blow up the prison.

Interviewer: What is that about? I don't know anything about that.

Kemp: That is about going...getting um...making nitro...making explosive inside the prison with intention of blowing up the prison wall.

Interviewer: Who was doing that? Who was making it?

Kemp: Inmates.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Kemp: Um-hmm.

Interviewer: And he found out about it?

Kemp: Yes he found out about it. Now all I can tell you is hearsay on this thing you see. All or what this... [indecipherable]...tells you see. But he... [indecipherable]...and they discovered it.

Interviewer: Can you tell me just briefly what the story behind that is?

Kemp: You uh, yeah. Well it started that they made nitroglycerin see.

Interviewer: And that was in the 1930s?

Kemp: Oh this was prior to that time.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: He doesn't...he doesn't...on the day... [indecipherable]...as 1930 when Indiana's big house was held by John Dillinger and the gang. That's what's written right there... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: What is the big house?

Kemp: That's the prison.

Interviewer: Oh that's what they refer to the prison.

Kemp: Yeah the big house. The Warden...Deputy Warden L. S. Schmul...Lawrence S. Schul living out here in Watercreek, see. This is uh...this is a story that I was going to turn over to um...to Bob Kaiser (sp?) one time but he knows all...he...if he wanted to write...he did write this up I s'pose.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: I'm...I'm confusing you...I'm going to fast with you...I hadn't... [indecipherable]

Interviewer: Oh that's all right.

Kemp: But uh...now a little history on the prison. I...I'm going to use the word first and last now. I'm...I keep on boasting my own stock you see.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: My...that's a little more comfortable my dear. In 1909 the prison...now the...in 1909 the prison wall...the west prison wall was blown down by a...a cyclone. Six hundred feet of it. The west wall...the last wall back on the back end. That's west.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And I as a little boy heard about it. So us kids you know, we like...being little boys...got on one bicycle and we rode out there and the wall was loaded. So we rode our bicycle up and down again the wall.

Interviewer: Inside the wall?

Kemp: The wall...wall got blew in.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And then we...and then they called out the State Militia and of course the State Militia boys all had kids too....all children are alike even today. Of course you couldn't keep us kids off the wall so these fellas let us ride up and down the wall because they were on the inside...inside there guarding so no inmate could get out.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: So us kids rode up and down that wall.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: Now, uh I used to...I uh...uh...and so...

Interviewer: ... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: I remember that as a little boy. See I was seven years old. I'm eighty-one years old now. And uh...uh...I remember that one incident that happened. And when I got in the prison after a while in fifty-one there was only one old man in there that was...had served time was still in there yet...was in there in 1909 and was still in there in 1951 or 52.

Interviewer: Really.

Kemp: So I said to him, I said, "Joe" I said, "What did you do that day?" He said when that happened they...they hoarded us in and locked us all up and we couldn't get out until uh...'til they put the wall back up." Well I would keep it in mind he's a little bit vague there. I think they...they merely kept the...kept the militia there a little longer see.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: He was a real old man then see. But they locked 'em all up. Cause that wall blew in by a cyclone in 1909.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: How long did it take them to get the wall back up?

Kemp: Well you know that I couldn't tell ya. 'member I'm just a little boy.

Interviewer: Oh. I see.

Kemp: That uh I don't know when this...no doubt starting building it right back up immediately. It's now up of course now it's twice as high as it is. Yes I've seen catwalks up on top you walk through there.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: Uh...but uh...and then in uh...then in about 1917 I...I...I was still repeating that first and last deal. I'm the first to be there and the last to know about it. Uh...the biggest escape...not the Dillinger Gang was not the biggest escape in that prison.

Interviewer: Oh no?

Kemp: It was publicized... [indecipherable]... The biggest break in there was in about 1917-18...I don't know just...I can't remember. I remember being home from school at that time. I think I was at home school at that time from Wisconsin...and uh...uh...someone escaped out of IHIC. Now IHIC is Indiana Hospital of Criminal Insane.

Interviewer: Hmm. Where's that?

Kemp: Uh that's...that's Beatty now.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And uh...uh eight of 'em went over the wall.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: And I had... [indecipherable]...there. I got up...they made bed sheets uh...used bed sheets for ropes. And went over the wall. Now I can't tell you anymore than that cause nobody knows just where that was and what part of it was because nobody living that knew that thing. I just know about the...it happened the Deputy Warden that time was uptown and he...commandeered us in the car to drive him out there.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And then he made this statement which you can...I'll repeat to you a bit about that...the one thing he said was "Shoot first and ask questions after awhile." And I never forgot that statement as a boy.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: That was... [indecipherable]... Well then...when they caught...they caught those men after while see. Now that was...

Interviewer: They didn't have to shoot 'em?

Kemp: No, no. Huh-huh. That was not the Dillinger escape see. No the Dillinger escape when that comes in the later years...why uh...all I know is what you read in the books. You can get a book on that called Dillinger written by... [indecipherable]...library I know. But that's a little history on... [indecipherable]... And then uh...now I must tell you two little humorous incidents that happened up there. In the year...it was uh...I.... [indecipherable]...he was the warden. Murdock his name was. And Murdock was uh...he uh...he...you wanna stop that thing a minute or...or is it all right?

Interviewer: Oh no.

Kemp: Murdock was there part in 1891 and sometime before... [indecipherable]...times in the twelve years prior to 1891 they put religion into the prison. There was no religion in there.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: So one half they put religion in...uh...Warden Murdock was an Irishman see. And I happened to remember my mother was born out...just around the corner from the prison and she remembers old man Murdock. He was a man who went to town... [indecipherable]...and...in a car with two other... [indecipherable]...two horses...a uh...a wagon like... [indecipherable]...wagon if you ever saw...saw a picture of that.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: A regular coach. He was a big shot see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: But his story was after they put religion in there the inmates come to him and they said, "Warden do we have to go to church?" And being Irish he answered, "You bet you do. That's part of the punishment."

Interviewer: Oh, no.

Kemp: Now that story is...is being repeated by a lot of the wardens who have been in there hear it and when they give speeches they repeat that story.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: I had heard it before but then...when Warden Dowd (sp?) was in there at a certain time... [indecipherable]...my time.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: I remember him giving a uh...giving that uh version. Another little...I give the humorous stories first and then we'll go into some details.

Uh...another time during the depression...no during uh...during the wartime....the 2nd war time...meat rations...you was too young a girl to know about that...ask your mother and fathers and they'll probably tell ya. So they....they...they uh used to get meat once a day...once a week. Inmates see. And the...one family served meatballs. So they had an inmate...and this is a true story...they had an inmate there who always bowed his head and shut his eyes and prayed. He opened his eyes and the meatballs was gone. He never...he never prayed after that. That's too much. Now that's a real story that happened in...in the penitentiary. And he... [indecipherable]... Now the problem with that is a lot of them stories come from...I had a...a cousin that worked up to thirty-twos prior...prior till I did see. And some of those stories were told. Like this story about the...I'll show it to you in here...about this here uh...about this thing here. He told me some parts of that but I don't...can't remember it. You'd have to read the article see.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: I try to remember. I...I remember read...hear...having him tell me about this time when they tried to blow up...there's mention of... [indecipherable}...Ferguson in here. Well Ferguson was the one who told me that. And this happened...I came in on the information. I been lucky to get...come in on some information like that every once in awhile. Now um, that's from the history in that page...then there's the Dillinger break now.

Interviewer: When was that?

Kemp: That was in the thirties some time.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. And you were working there then?

Kemp: No, I was in school at the time. I was in...I don't know where I was. Oh I...maybe that Dillinger break happened during the time of the Depression ages thirty two to forty.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: I think it did see. Uh...I haven't...uh...gone into detail of what that was. Anyway after I was in the library I inherited one of the Dillinger men. Uh...

Interviewer: Working for you?

Kemp: Yes. He was my runner. Uh...he was one of the smaller small fries. Well I also knew one of the...one of the men I did know when I come in in fifty-one, one of 'em who had escaped with Dillinger was back in there. Claude Dietrich (sp?). I knew him.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: And he was uh...he had...we...we...used the word... [indecipherable]...that means he had trustee service. He wasn't locked up at night until 11:00.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And I got to know Claude Dietrich see....pretty well. But my man was a fella name of Molar (sp?) and he was Whitey Molar (sp?). So one day I read in the paper something about uh...something about uh...Whitey Molar being part of the...he never told me that he was in that gang up there in....[indecipherable]...up in Wisconsin. I don't think he did... [indecipherable]...he held up Mercer (sp?)...Wisconsin...that's when Dillinger was out and broke out...broke out. I'm going a little too fast I can see that right now. Now we...Cliff used to tell me little things that happened during...with Johnny. Now Johnny Dillinger...I think this now...I want this statement to be easy. I say that Johnny Dillinger was not the leader of the gang. Contrary to what you may ever hear. Unless Cliff Molar lied to me I say no. See. A fella by the name of uh...and I think Schmul will verify me on this one. By the name of uh...Homer...Homer...uh Metcalf that's his name. He was the leader. He's the one that sent those boys out to do the job. He's the one that think. He did all of it.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And they...cause...cause um Dillinger was hot-headed. He was a trigger man. But Homer Van Meter....Van Meter was his name...was the...was the leader.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: He was...[indecipherable]...Homer Van Meter...and Cliff always told me that Johnny he was just hot-headed...he...Homer Van Meter sent him on all the different escapades that you read about Dillinger. Home Van Meter was the brains behind the whole thing. See.

Interviewer: How did Dillinger get to be renowned as the head of the....

Kemp: Well because he's a...he was the front man.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: See. He was a front man.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: How did...what happened to Dillinger when this other fella was caught? Dietrich.

Kemp: Well Dillinger...uh...uh...uh Dillinger had...[indecipherable]...they picked up the...one of the...I'll answer your question this way...as I understand it there was about seven or eight of 'em went out. A fella by the name of Dill...uh Dillinger...Dillinger never escaped from this penitentiary you know.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Oh no. No. He was on parole.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: He's the one who sent the guns in and in...in...in the...in the barrel of thread. But it was Cliff Molar who wouldn't tell me that. But implied that he was the one that sent the guns in cause he was out on parole at that time.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: If I had questioned him any further on that I wouldn't have got no place. But he used to swear a whole lot and use profanity. And he was the... [indecipherable]...and I'd say Cliff...uh...I'd say, "Cliff, what you talkin' about?" And he'd come out with part sentences and you had to put the other sentences...for example he says...I'll give you an example. ... [indecipherable]...he says, "One time we was just coming back."... [indecipherable]...says, "Coming back from where?" And we was up in Calumet City. "We just come back"....stop... [indecipherable]...ask the next question. Then he said, "And we stopped up in Calumet City and uh Kansas City and a police car drove up behind us. And Johnny was in the car." That's Johnny Dillinger. He wanted to get out and shoot the policeman. ... [indecipherable]...Van Meter says, "Now just a minute, sit still there." Now this is a good story. "I'll take care of it." Homer Van Meter gets out of the car, goes back and says to the policeman, "Where did you get the sixteen....sixteen cylinder Packard from?" "Us little farmer boys we never saw one before." He said we got in the car and drove away and they didn't know they were talkin' to. Dillinger's in the car. Van Meter's in the car. Uh...Mohr's (sp?) in the car.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: Just come back from South Bend is where they come back from holding up the South Bend Bank. Dillinger uh....these fellas....these fellas will tell you things if you do not question them. And uh...and...and they know that they can't con ya. That means they can't get you... [indecipherable]...anyway. They don't tell you little....little... [indecipherable]...they wanna get it off their chests.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: Yeah. These inmates will try to get those... [indecipherable]...off their chests. They'll tell you little.... [indecipherable]...the one guy said he..."well I'm gettin' to old to come through those skylights in the grocery stores anymore and rob 'em." They'll make... [indecipherable]...see. And uh...and a...and I said to Clifford, I said, "What in the hell were you doing running around the country with a...with a machine gun?" ... [indecipherable]...answer, "Why Norman, you only live once." I had a...a...I'm a kind of a...uh...I...now he...he himself was my best friend because of... [indecipherable]...little violations of the rules. You know you overlook that. In the...in the library I remember one of the people I used to... [indecipherable]...I used to pick up magazines...pick up Playboy see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: See. And then I would take them in. And I would lock 'em up in a drawer and I would stick a match in the drawer..[indecipherable]... And when I come back the magazines were all gone.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Well. All right. They're gone. They got 'em see.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: Then all I would do is laugh. No I didn't give 'em to 'em see.

Interviewer: Yeah. But you was gettin' around it.

Kemp: But I had....but...uh...uh...uh...the thing was that they seemed to be gone. A woman out the beach used to give us a lot of magazines and among them I would probably pick up a few Playboys. And I would...and they knew doggone well where I had put 'em see.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And then when I come back they'd gone and I just sat there and look in the drawers and laugh see. And uh...uh... [indecipherable]...at the library all day... [indecipherable]...think about it but you'll find those fellas...a lot of 'em...read better stuff than you'd imagine...science fiction and that kind of stuff was in demand. They liked...uh...to uh... [indecipherable]...very much so see. They liked to uh boost up their...uh...their...their knowledge and schooling. Education was right above me in the library and course now I had charge of the library every once in a while. I mean the education. But those fellas tried to uh...uh...tried to better themselves for their own advantage of course a lot of times too.

Interviewer: Yeah. Sure.

Kemp: Um-hmm. They...they uh...uh...but I had the faculty of...having some... [indecipherable]...cause I...we knew everyone and I wouldn't reprimand 'em for it. They were human beings.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: I came off of the railroad job where I had to...uh...I always uh... made one decision. I had never worked for anybody in my life. I worked with 'em but I never worked for anybody. I was always my own boss. And I went in the prison with that same attitude.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And uh...let me... [indecipherable]...see. ...[indecipherable]...uh...and uh...in the relief office there...Mr. Karne (sp?) was not always there and of course I was in charge of it so any mistakes were made it was on my shoulders and I knew it.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: But if a...you'll make mistakes... [indecipherable]...I've turned people down...

[Side one of tape one ends.]

[Side two of tape one begins.]

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...sent him home one time...  
[indecipherable]...little children. 2:00 in the morning got up and she had  
the baby in her arms and...[indecipherable]...down in New Mexico and get her  
out of Michigan City.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: And two months later I arrived in New Mexico and I realized what a cad  
I had been.

Interviewer: Oh. You realized what you did... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: So the... [indecipherable]...little children is...  
[indecipherable]...in New Mexico see. I always come back to the prison. But  
now uh...let me ask...let me stop now and you ask any questions you might  
have in your mind.

Interviewer: Well you mentioned...

Kemp: I give you...I'll... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Uh-huh. You mentioned that you...uh liked to work with people...

Kemp: Yeah.

Interviewer: ...rather than for them. Did the administration at the prison go  
along with that?

Kemp: Well.

Interviewer: Did they have that attitude too?

Kemp: You'd get along the best if you'd do that.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: See. Now don't...don't make yourself so feared so that you ain't gonna  
get no place.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: You were just inviting trouble.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: You were inviting trouble if you make a hit with a piece of soap. Now  
let me explain that to you. If they didn't like ya they'd put a piece of soap  
in a sock and hit you in the head and took the soap out and who did it?

Interviewer: Who did that? The inmates did that?

Kemp: Yes. That's a weapon isn't it?

Interviewer: It can...yeah it can be. Oh my gosh.

Kemp: See. There's a weapon they used. See.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: Put a piece of soap in...in...in a sock and then when you go by hit you in the head with a...with a...with a soap and take the soap out of the sock and there's no evidence there.

Interviewer: That's right. Did you work as a guard? Is that what you...?

Kemp: Yeah...uh...uh...I was a...uh...uh officer in charge in the library. Custodial Officer or a guard.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: The uh... [indecipherable]...prisoners called us prison screws. Wherever they get that name. That's the old name for a...for a officer. No, I worked... [indecipherable]...I worked 'em all because I worked 'em all prior to getting the library as the last days here. I had 'em all.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: I had cell houses. Cell house keeper. I had uh...the ... [indecipherable]...keepers. I had all the...I had all those.

Interviewer: What...what did some of those jobs...um...entail... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: Well...well...well like for cell house keeper you're in charge of the cell house...you gotta...uh keep the count and you gotta know where every man is located and you control that in one of the cell houses there...the 'C' cell house...it's got four hundred cells in. See...uh...

Interviewer: That's a lot.

Kemp: Yeah. And another one's got two hundred and seventy-eight. And another one's got three hundred and sixty. Now um...here's something...now sometimes in the paper you read about prisons being overcrowded. Incidentally that's not...uh...it's not true up here because in 1935 we had thirty-five hundred men uh...thirty-five hundred men in there and now the population is down to probably sixteen hundred. Now I'll explain that. Three hundred fifty of those were insane and going to Beatty. I was there before the...they was just transferring them to Beatty when I first started in there see. This was...this penitentiary was started in 1880 with a hundred and eighty-nine people...war uh...war prisoners...uh...Confederate Army men. This first prison was not started as a prison it was a...it was a war prison.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See. Uh...and uh...um...but and uh...and then the...  
[indecipherable]...one year in 1860 the hundred and eighty-nine inmates.  
Uh...I... [indecipherable]...twenty-four hundred and fifteen was the  
population...when uh...well they were transferred out of there see. So now  
the... [indecipherable]...population is about seventeen hundred. And that...  
[indecipherable]...all inside...all of 'em outside as they are today.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Remember Beatty now is closed. It's now uh...it's now uh...part of the  
prison. ... [indecipherable]

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: You probably heard that...[indecipherable]...and the fellas out  
there...[indecipherable]...new captain...[indecipherable]...I worked with  
both of those men....[indecipherable]...and uh...but uh...now you ask some  
more questions and interrupt anytime you want to so...I don't want to go on  
these tangents that you don't need.

Interviewer: Oh that's okay.

Kemp: Yeah I don't want to go on these tangents see. Cause my mind wanders on  
this stuff. I don't usually...I put that away. I like to leave the prison  
wall behind me when I left... [indecipherable]...and that's one thing about  
Larry does a better job than I do on that. He won't talk.

Interviewer: Oh really.

Kemp: He won't talk see. He and I been friends for years prior to that see.  
Although he was never Deputy Warden when I was there. He had been gone by  
that time.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: So we been big friends for years see. And uh...uh...me and a...once a  
while he'll talk about some of the things. He uh just told me last week about  
one of the old...[indecipherable]...you all remember a certain  
fella...[indecipherable]...when he comes out to my house now after serving  
forty years now I can give him beer you know.

Interviewer: A little different than that when he worked there.

Kemp: Yeah... [indecipherable]...but uh I started in fifty-one there...in the  
fall of fifty-one. And then I was in the front gate for a while when...  
[indecipherable]...see. I remember...that was on the night shift. Then I  
quit...I did quit for a couple months. I was gone in the winter of  
fifty...well the spring of fifty-two about five months. I didn't have a  
full... [indecipherable]...I quite for five months and I came back. And then  
I came back on the day shift. That was all nights... [indecipherable]...and I  
came back on the day shift see. And uh...then worked all week

through...then... [indecipherable]...worked all different jobs. First uh...I was a relief man. When everybody...anybody was off.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And then later on I got an assignment to... [indecipherable]...dormitory and then uh...I worked the hospital. That was interesting too.

Interviewer: What did you do there?

Kemp: I was the officer in that hospital.

Interviewer: What kinds of things did you do while you were you...? [indecipherable]...there?

Kemp: Well uh...I had the second floor where the TB ward was and...uh...and uh...the TB floor was up on top there and uh...uh...downstairs...[indecipherable]...one time they did surgery...[indecipherable]...surgery all and all was done at Memorial Hospital you know that?

Interviewer: I knew that it was done at one of the hospitals.

Kemp: Well I also am uh...I'm at the hospital... [indecipherable]...afternoon as a volunteer.

Interviewer: Oh not... [indecipherable]...at the prison... [indecipherable]

Kemp: No, no, no I'm a volunteer there... [indecipherable]...see I worked in it so I don't go... [indecipherable]...but they...they had their surgical... [indecipherable]...Dr. Gardner's the...was the operating surgeon now see for the prisoners.

Interviewer: Is that very safe...to be transporting the prisoners to the hospital or does it matter? Kemp: It's the same upstairs... [indecipherable]...lock up the same...

Interviewer: Oh are they?

Kemp: ...it's...it's a prison upstairs the same as it is out there.

Interviewer: Didn't they have it happen a couple of times though where someone got away or tried to get away while they were transporting them?

Kemp: That was...well that always happens. Uh...you mean that... [indecipherable]...run away from there. We call 'em rabbits.

Interviewer: When they try to run?

Kemp: A rabbit...a rabbit always runs when...and they...it was... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Are those the times when people tried to escape from there?

Kemp: Yeah that...that's when the...when a fella's as the rabbit see. That's what my... [indecipherable]...used to say... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Just like that, huh?

Kemp: Yeah. Well they could...they...what're they gonna do? Sometimes they would get caught up with themselves. You know there ain't so many escapees. You hear of an escapee that never is caught. But there ain't so many of those.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: I kept a record one time and uh...of all the parole violators come back after they been paroled and came back. I...for my own use...in the library...I started keeping a...a little statistical record. I found that twenty-five percent of the fellas... [indecipherable]...came back. They may...some of the other ones may have gone to some other institution. But parole violators came back at twenty-five percent...my way of figuring it. Figuring again people are moving... [indecipherable]... are released. And then came back. Took those two figures and the percentage for them I found that the people...which percent of the people go on out...thirty-five percent of those came back. In this institution alone.

Interviewer: Hmm. Yeah I heard that it's much higher on a larger scale.

Kemp: Yeah see....and uh...then you....you hear 'em kick around that word rehabilitation see.

Interviewer: What's that mean to you?

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...change of attitude. Who's gonna change your attitude? Can I change yours? You change your own attitude. So this rehabilitation is kicked around all the time. If a fella wants to change his attitude and straighten out he's gonna do it. If a fella wants to rob...if some...if anybody wants to commit any other crime...if he wants to change that...you ain't gonna change. An alcoholic you know. An alcoholic...you can't change an alcoholic. He himself has to go to AA and do it, doesn't he not? To uh...to...straighten his...his case out like that see.

Interviewer: That's right.

Kemp: So is...he uh...that's where rehabilitation means only one thing...change of attitude. And you can see now we have cases here in Michigan City... [indecipherable]...we have uh ex-convicts in Michigan City who have made excellent good citizens.

Interviewer: Hmm. I didn't know that.

Kemp: Oh yes.

Interviewer: What do you think is the function of the prison then if it's not to rehabilitate?

Kemp: Yes...it is the function to rehabilitate but they can't do it. You can't change a man's mind somehow. You uh...you...you have to try to change it. You have to give him...you uh...you...you have to have your caseworkers...your social workers...your psychiatrists...your sociologists...all those...[indecipherable]...people there. But you not gonna change him unless he changes himself.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: You give him the tools to do it with.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: See. And then you have the man who will never uh...who...you have the fella now...now uh...in this book here...this other book here is a...here's something you don't...this is another thing. Brief history of capital punishment, see.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Fifteen...what do you think is...no, I'll tell you the first of the... [indecipherable]...is and then I'll read right here. Eleven convicted... [indecipherable]... Fifteen percent of the people executed were... [indecipherable]...their wives.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: So fifty of those fellas who were electrocuted or hung up there were executed or killed probably killed their wives.

Interviewer: Huh, that's... [indecipherable]...high.

Kemp: And eighty-three cent...and uh...uh...oh and...forty-three percent... [indecipherable]...talk about killing...committing a...penetration of a robbery and burglary including killing an...[indecipherable]...but fifteen percent of them were uh...were executed for killing their wives.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Now... [indecipherable]...well this is... [indecipherable]...warden... [indecipherable]...the warden... [indecipherable]...gave me that stuff see from the library.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: And I didn't believe it. ... [indecipherable]...just for the sake of...just for curiosity more than anything else. See I took it out see and uh...but uh...so...so I...I...I...and millions like me have a good knowledge of things like that that happen see and uh...like...like one...[indecipherable]...you...you read in the paper all night about juvenile

delinquency in town and all and robberies young kids fourteen and fifteen years old. Like one of 'em that said to me one time...he said... [indecipherable]...he was an...[indecipherable]...a real saxophone player he was a musician. And he... [indecipherable]...he said, "you know Norman... [indecipherable]...that's one thing I... [indecipherable]...prisoners to... [indecipherable]...trust you. ... [indecipherable]...Officer Kemp.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: And I didn't believe in that. I called them by their first name and I allowed them to call me by my first name. Get down on the level with them. Sometimes you'll get places with 'em see. But he says, "Norman you know something?" I says, "What?" I said, "Jonesy, what's the matter?" He said, "I stopped robbing my mother's pocketbook and I wind up killing somebody." See.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Yeah. And they'll come and tell you those things you know if you let 'em talk, see. They kind of get it off of their chests those things that they got them...it's in 'em. It's like I'm also a college graduate from Dale Carnegie. ... [indecipherable]...who Dale Carnegie is...get it off your chest.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: See. Get it off your chest see...get it off...get it out of there see. Um...uh...he and uh... [indecipherable]...I want to say Dale Carnegie...that was Warden... [indecipherable]...that induced us to go to Dale Carnegie school when he was here, see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Yeah. He's the one that induced uh some of us to go there and we got a raise. And we...we graduated all from Dale Carnegie. Now that's a great teaching school. But you...but you cannot keep Dale Carnegie rules anymore than you can keep the Ten Commandments. The first rule in the book is do not criticize, condemn, or complain. ... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: ... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: See the Ten Commandments can't beat that one.

Interviewer: That's right.

Kemp: Uh...I see Ann Landers writes it every once in a while too see.

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Kemp: Yeah... [indecipherable]...uh one lady was uh...was uh...uh was a graduate... [indecipherable]...took another... [indecipherable]...took the course at Dale Carnegie and induced some of the people to take it and you could use it in there see. But you can't use the first rule.

Interviewer: Yeah it'd be tough to do in that for sure.

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...complain. And give honest appreciation to everybody's opinion. The best way to win the argument is to avoid it. Try that one.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: Now that one's... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: That's right.

Kemp: See. But uh...I'm uh... [indecipherable]...from this prison up there but you're question to me awhile ago was um...uh...why the prison...the prison does try. If it's well administrated. Now Michigan City is fairly good administration. I don't know nothing about them as far as the man up there. I think he's a good man...I know nothing about him. But then you have officers of course who don't fit there. They... [indecipherable]...at that institution. They get... [indecipherable]...bully and you're not gonna get anything. Remember... [indecipherable]...if you're talking about...about them psycho...psychoanalysts... [indecipherable]...inmate. I know inmate who...[indecipherable]...he knew...they had me psyched so well they knew any...they knew my modus operandi so...uh...they knew just what I was gonna do any minute.

Interviewer: The inmates did?

Kemp: Yes. And I caught 'em...they would know...they would know when I would come in and they would know that I do a certain thing a certain way and they adjusted themselves to that thing or re-adjust themselves if they didn't like the way I did it see.

Interviewer: Like what for example?

Kemp: Well...for example like...I'd smoke a pipe. You think for one minute that those fellas...and I set my pipe on top of the desk and...and my tobacco and they would touch it? No. They wouldn't touch it. But let me pick that empty uh...uh...uh...tobacco can and set it to one corner and it would be gone the next day because they knew I said they could have it but I wouldn't give it to them.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: See. They knew that they would psyche me on that thing. I'd take that can and set it and that they opened up and saw it was empty they would take it. They used to put their cigarettes in it. So I... [indecipherable]...my name under my cans in there but I never gave 'em to 'em. See.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. Was that against the rules to give them something like that?

Kemp: Oh yes. ... [indecipherable]...that's a very good question. They'd come to you and say, "Do you want a shot?" They'd mean by that do you wanna...they

could buy uh just some coffee and you start drinking that coffee... [indecipherable]... But you take something from them see.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: Pretty soon... [indecipherable]...from that point. Pretty soon they get to the point where they're asking you to carry a letter out to their beloved ones.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: They'll ask you to bring in contraband. They just...just caught a manager some time ago for dealing with 'em in...in...in narcotics.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: But if they know you...you can know... [indecipherable]...but they know that they can't handle you they won't ask you. That's what I meant when I said psychoanalyze you. If I don't take that. They said to me, "You want a shot of coffee?" I can... [indecipherable]...at home. I don't want your old coffee. And they won't ask you again. ... [indecipherable]...one time he uh...he drank the coffee. They put the jar on his desk and drank the coffee out. Pretty soon they got him to a point where had to compromise him. But you drank my coffee now didn't you? Now you're gonna tear this letter up for me or I'm gonna tell on ya.

Interviewer: Oh. I see.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: So you....

Kemp: That I uh...that I was told about by my cousin who was up at thirty two years. I didn't learn that myself. I asked questions and found weapons. Don't go in and let them cut your hair in the inside. It seems like such a small item doesn't it?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: Go to the regular barber shop on the outside that is set up for you. Because you may hand that man on the inside...you may say you owe me a package of cigarettes.

Interviewer: Hmm. For cutting your hair?

Kemp: Yeah. Bring me in something like that see. Bring me in something see. How much to each do you owe? Now if you wanna have 'em...if you want 'em to...to smoke your cigarettes you'll throw 'em down and eh...eh... [indecipherable]...but you never hand 'em to 'em. You never give 'em to 'em. That's be the wrong cause that's contraband then.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: But you see right now in the penitentiary as it is my day...they can...they can buy anything in there that um that you want but contraband. ... [indecipherable]... Here's a homemade lighter from prison.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: They made that. ... [indecipherable]...this becomes stolen property.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: I took that out when I left. That is made up there. Why they don't make them anymore is because they used to charge three packs for that. It would be about a dollar see. Cigarettes were thirty cents a pack and they...they'd make you one and then... [indecipherable]...inmates would bite...would bite off them. I...I didn't. I found that laying up there, see. That's made with a...a, that's a rattail file there and a screw and made up uh...up uh...but they don't make 'em anymore because now they...they can buy cigarette lighters themselves and they...they can buy 'em in the commissary. So there's no way of dealing with them anymore. They did away with the dealing part of it see.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: But this...all they did was... [indecipherable]...on that thing and it'll light every time see.

Interviewer: Oh. What kinds of things are contraband?

Kemp: Huh?

Interviewer: What kinds of things are contraband now?

Kemp: What is contraband?

Interviewer: Yeah. What kinds of things are they not allowed to have now?

Kemp: Just about nothing but the...but narcotics and drink.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Uh...I went...I...I...I will...[indecipherable]...that's a very fair question you've asked me there. Um...I don't know what you would call contraband...uh...uh bringing in anything that they...it's contraband. They don't need...uh...uh clothing they can get. Uh they can buy all the tobacco they want. They can have all the candy they want. They can have uh...they can...they can buy it rather in the commissary...uh...um...uh...meat...nah, I mean uh...sandwich spread, candy, clothing, shoes, they...they're issued shoes but they can also buy good shoes too you know. They...they had money.

Interviewer: They can buy all that inside the prison?

Kemp: Inside. They can buy anything they need in there. They can buy clothing. They can buy tee shirts. Half of those fellows don't wear uniforms you know. You...you couldn't determine the inmate all the time.

Interviewer: Oh really?

Kemp: Oh no. Uh...with the exception of wearing uh...wear...uh dungarees or something...well you can probably...you can see a man on the street with them on.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: If you saw an inmate you...you...you can't determine an inmate now at all. There's no way of determining him. If he's out there...if uh...if an escapee were to walk by that door I couldn't tell you that unless I knew who he was.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: Because they...they don't wear the...the...the...they wear dungarees and they... [indecipherable]...now of course they are furnished with the...the...the even the tailor shop could make up some little tailors made up zoot suits uh...

Interviewer: What are those?

Kemp: Pardon me. Zoot suit...I mean that the fellas... [indecipherable]...used to like getting cut long coats you know with uh...

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: ...the flairs in 'em you know.

Interviewer: Well yeah.

Kemp: Like you see in the rock...in the rock and roll gang wear. ... [indecipherable]...with a suit in there, see.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: See. A rock and roll suit, see. And uh...I uh...one fella he'll tell you...he had a zoot suit on one time see. What's the difference?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: What's the difference? He ain't going no place, see.

Interviewer: Are they allowed to have people bring those things in for them? Or do they have to be inspected first?

Kemp: Always inspected.

Interviewer: But they do allow them to bring it in?

Kemp: Oh yes. Oh yes. Oh yes. Oh yeah. If you can bring it in...like a watch for example.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: First it goes through uh...first it uh...uh...if it's coming from the wife or from a mother or father or like that oh yes. A watch for an example like that. But no...contraband would be anything like narcotics or drinks or anything like that. But... [indecipherable]...I would say would be contraband. Anything like that. Of course there's dope in there right now. There's uh...money in there right now and people don't even know. I know some of the folks got money. Why'd they get the money?

Interviewer: Where do they? I don't know.

Kemp: Well. The one... [indecipherable]...wife when she's kissing him goodbye had it in her mouth and hands it to him. You...you work in there and you find out see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...bring their baby in and here comes this baby and the baby's got contraband on it.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: And you can't inspect the...and you can't inspect the woman's baby.

Interviewer: No, that's right. That's right.

Kemp: That's where...that's where contraband can come in if they wanna bring contraband in you see. But they're taking a chance because then their...uh...uh...uh criminally liable too anybody that brings in that stuff, see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: They...they just caught a manager some time ago I read in the paper bringing in contraband see. Of course... [indecipherable]...a forger...that was a forger case. A fella on the inside minted money and give it to uh... the guard and the guard peddled it and then brought money back...forgery.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Oh yes. See.

Interviewer: Well it sounds like the rules have gotten more lenient.

Kemp: Yes. Definitely. When Larry had the place it was very strict.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Was that good do you think?

Kemp: No. Not necessarily. Oh it won't. Then you had...then you're unable to... [indecipherable]... riots.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Oh boy... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Did you ever have that happen here while you were working there?

Kemp: They didn't have no trouble up until one time... [indecipherable]...trouble one time but Wayne and...[indecipherable]...paper was in on that. They had a little trouble but it didn't develop very far. And then later on that they had it out there when they were in there...years...some years ago before...before your time they had a little trouble...my...during my time but you had violations of the rules of course. See. But you didn't have any uh...no...not..not my time. And since that's a very fair question, I always knew that I was waiting for that.

Interviewer: Were ya?

Kemp: Yeah. I knew just what Norman was gonna do. And I'll tell ya. If that had Norman was gonna run as fast as he could run for...[indecipherable]...cell. And Dillinger and that. It was to lock us up. I was as safe as I was safe...safe as sitting in this chair. See nobody was gonna touch me I can tell you that.

Interviewer: I see what you....

Kemp: I had... [indecipherable]...give him every privileges that I was prepared to. I had treated him as a man and he had a...and he...I treated him like he wanted to be treated.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: And he...and there was a man who... [indecipherable]...that would never in his life ever made one despairing remark about a woman. That was... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: He...he...he wouldn't care about taking a gun and going into a...into a uh...uh bank and...[indecipherable]...but for you to walk on the street with him you had the safest man I ever knew of. Never did that man...oh he hated the...he had associated with them. But he hated rapists. That's encouraging. They were there. But...but never would you hear him say one word or swearing remark or any remark of other female...about a woman. That was not his...not

his to his... [indecipherable]... He may cuss and swear and use profanity from A to Z but never...never...never did he.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: And he...and he...and his...his sister and niece used to come to visit him. And he looked forward to that night. They lived in Fort Wayne and he looked forward to it. His remarks... [indecipherable]...that. That's one thing was against his character. And you never heard him remark. Now some of the fellas like that...they're very nice....uh...uh...you know there's some people that think sometimes an inmate being...some of the...they all got a code of ethics a lot of 'em. They're not all rapists.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: Uh...or you take the...right now who is the safest man in the penitentiary? Now there's a good question. Now answer it. Who do you think should serve the less time? The fella who killed his wife. It don't calculate, does it?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: He had it. I've had him. I had him in the dormitory. A fella from down in Richmond, Indiana. Found...uh...infidelity in his wife...caught her with another man. He goes out and kills her. And then he goes in the chicken coop to kill himself but he doesn't do a good job. Now that man when I...his name was Floyd...and when all I had him in the dormitory...he lived that...he had nightmares. He lived that thing over and over again. See. He knew a ... [indecipherable]...and he killed her. He never commits uh...he and all of those fellas there...but they have to do a straight fifteen years you know it's a first degree murder charge.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: But you'd have to do fifteen years. You never heard a one of 'em coming back. I don't think. You'll never get them to commit another crime and they. They had it. They're not criminals. Surely they performed a criminal act in killing their wife...surely they performed a criminal act there's no question about this...you can't stop...you can't stop that thing, but uh...uh...but you'll never get them back.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: I had another... [indecipherable]...that uh...in there for the same thing before I had Cliff. Cliff was in there for uh...for uh... [indecipherable]...see. That's what we call a ten and a quarter man. Ten years for twenty-five. Harvey...[indecipherable]...he...he...he was ten...I think Cliff was a ten and a quarter man...uh...uh...that's what...[indecipherable]...they say, "I'll...wait...[indecipherable]...I'm only doing ten and a quarter see." And the two at the twenty-one men. That's a...that's a man who gets uh two twenty-one man first degree murder...uh manslaughter case...I beg your pardon...manslaughter case. He's a pretty safe man too. I'll tell you the reason why. He's probably a fella who got in a card game. He got in a card game. He reached over the table, hit a guy in the

head with a bottle and killed him. That's manslaughter. He'll never do it again either. Two and a quarter...two at twenty-one man now they changed that already. But he's pretty safe. But the bad man is the ten to twenty-five man. He comes back all the time. He's never satisfied. Never satisfied...next time I do it, I'm gonna do it better.

Interviewer: Oh yeah?

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: But uh...uh...you will find that... [indecipherable]...not a lot of people want...not psychiatrists, sociologists ... [indecipherable]..., and all of 'em disagree with me. But that's my own conviction of talking to certain ones in there see. And of course now the fella comes....

[Side two of tape one ends]

[Side one of tape two begins]

Kemp: ...if he's smart he can be a little... [indecipherable]... He'll behave himself and he'll probably go out in eight and nine months.

Interviewer: What is the one to seven? That means he can serve anytime between one and seven years?

Kemp: Yeah. He must...

Interviewer: Minimum of one and maximum of seven.

Kemp: Yeah and maximum of seven. He requested an auto max. When a man may have had...has had his maximum you can't hold him regardless. If he is...uh...unless you have other charge again. When his twenty...when his uh maximum is up he goes. He could've violated...he could've violated all the rules inside of the penitentiary but they are not criminal. And you'll have to let him go at the end of his term. See. And many a...many a fella uh...uh...does his uh...term the best he can. Now you see a fella doing a ten flat...sorry a fella doing a ten flat...if he behaves himself he goes in six years and eight months. He gets credit of one month for every year he's in there and the second year he gets credit for two months. And the third year it's three months and the fourth year it's four months. And the fifth year it's five months. And then five months thereafter.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: See. So what he gets...when that...that adds up to...adds up from...from ten years to six to eight and he's out. With a maximum.

Interviewer: What happens if he does something between there? Doesn't he lose everything?

Kemp: Yes he could...

Interviewer: And has to start over.

Kemp: ...he could...yes he could.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: That was the discretion of...of the uh...of the board.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: See. Not the parole board but the uh...the custodial board. See. Depends on how...how custody... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: I...that don't happen very much because the fella they won't take that all away from them. They gonna get rid of him in the second place. Cause you wanna get rid of him...get him out of there if you can. You see he's using up your and my...my money. Taxpayers. If you can get rid of him why you got one less man...man to feed. If you can trust him of course.

Interviewer: Right. You don't want to just send him out there if he's gonna commit crimes again.

Kemp: Yeah. See. If you feel that he's a safe man don't call it again...let him go. Let him go over in Illinois. We're rid of him. Let him go to Illinois...Michigan...let him do what he wants over there. Get outta here. See. Get a going. See.

Interviewer: How do you know he's gonna go somewhere else though?

Kemp: You don't

Interviewer: He may just stay. Yeah.

Kemp: I...I...I had...I had a good clerk in the library and I never figured that they would violate.

Interviewer: Have they?

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...did run away.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: And I had those boys...young fellas and clerks and that in that library and I never figured in knowing those fellas that they would ever do that.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: And then I had one clerk who was in six different institutions. And you know...I don't know of any librarian that knew more about books than that boy did. And the Dewey Decimal System was used in the libraries and all that.

That's uh...and I...uh I asked him about any book and he knew. ... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: He did time in six different penitentiaries. ... [indecipherable]... That was his...that was his vocation. His avocation was...was being a librarian...being a librarian see. See.

Interviewer: Do they train them at all for any kind of vocation?

Kemp: Beg your pardon.

Interviewer: Are they trained for vocations?

Kemp: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: The inmates.

Kemp: Oh yes. We had...oh yes...uh...oh sure you got the...we...we...we had...we had men in there who became very good uh...nurses. Practical nurses. I knew one fella who was a ballplayer who...who performed major...minor surgery. The second this fella gets...uh...hurts his arm and cuts himself badly or playing football...I remember one fellow played football and uh...got his head cut open here and that uh...he called the doctor up and the doctor said go ahead and fix it up and this guy...[indecipherable]...it and sewed up. I saw him do it. ... [indecipherable]...I've seen that see. See. Uh...uh...I've seen them do that. This fella that...was mingling in Michigan City now. He...this fella here came in at the age of eighteen years old for killing his uh...brother-in-law because he um misused his sister... [indecipherable]...sister. Killed him. Put him in a small deep... [indecipherable]...and shoved in a gravel pit. Now he's eighteen years old. Today he's married, has two children, owns sixty acres of land out here...employees for one of the companies here.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: When he...after he got in he became the chief electrician. Chief tinner. One of the electricians. Uh...run the... [indecipherable]...machine. Taught typing in...uh...education with the typing instructor. Here's a kid eighteen years old and educated himself to do all those things. That man lives in Michigan City. He never misses church every morning at Christian Church. Every Sunday. Chester's there every Sunday morning. See. Chester earned his laurels inside there. Whenever we had a little...you asked a while ago about trouble...sure you have a little setbacks where you sort of lock 'em up a little bit. Not Chester. Chester was a...Chester was... [indecipherable]...all the time. Meaning by that he didn't have to go in his cell until eleven o'clock at night. But when Chester told you that he would be sitting in that chair that's where Chester was. Means you didn't have to worry that he was going to be on the run. Chester says, "I'm going to be a certain place." That's where Chester was. And he would be there. And so uh all the wardens got... [indecipherable]... Now they took him out... [indecipherable]...he wasn't...he wasn't allowed for you to take him out... [indecipherable]...be seen some place. See. But they'd violate it because

they know Chester wouldn't run. See. I was working in a hospital and I uh...um... [indecipherable]...on the charge of... [indecipherable]...and in turn he worked with Beatty...so I won't... [indecipherable]... I said, "is your husband...what's your husband's name Chester?" She said yes. I said, "You go tell old...go home and tell Chester that Norman said hello." His wife has a...has a one year college education and there's an exception...there's the exception my dear little girl. The exception... [indecipherable]... There's one here in town. But all of 'em have...have made good. There's two fellows...one fellow has...uh...has the...uh...this company over here he's the uh personnel director. He...he...I think he was just doing time for a little embezzling or something. He's a...he's a...he's in there see. I meet him all the time. I meet a fellow living with him see. I meet um a couple old men. Now they all um...coming from this... [indecipherable]...I meet him going through my barber. They're in town here and they're all made good. So they made good. This colored fella he took a became a barber and now he doesn't...he doesn't work that now but they...and all licensed barbers in there incidentally they gotta go through the same school as any other barber does. They're taught barbering in there. ... [indecipherable]...in there. But what...what they're running... [indecipherable]...is... [indecipherable]...cows belong within a farm. That's why the farms are being abandoned. They can't get men to work on a farm. See. But you take electricians...any profession that you know of we've got it. We had it up there. We had a fella...but it's like I said before that was not their vocation. That was their avocation. Their...their uh...their vocation was... [indecipherable]...getting out... [indecipherable]... See that's what you'll find see. You'll find male nurses. You'll find anything that you want. We've got it. You'll find plumbers.

Interviewer: But a lot of 'em aren't using it?

Kemp: No.

Interviewer: They abandoned it.... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: No, they don't... [indecipherable]...that criminal mind there... [indecipherable]...that criminal mind for some reason and you don't know. That's what...coming back to when they go to rehabilitate them.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: What're you gonna do...with that in mind. Or a thief or a bank robber. See.

Interviewer: How about capital punishment? Do you think that would change their attitude any? When that was enforced?

Kemp: I'm against capital punishment and I'm for it. I'm against it from individual cases...and for...uh...uh...uh...I'm a...a...of a...against...I'm for it for individual cases and against it in general. It never has depreciated me. History doesn't...uh...doesn't teach that either, see. You know they used to...they used to put people in...in stocks in the east there and then...and then the pickpockets would...they would uh...they would uh...hang...hang people for being pickpockets and the pickpockets was in...[indecipherable]...the pickpockets worked the crowd. See that. You would

see that no...eighty-three...eighty-two...eighty-three had been executed in Indiana.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Oh...only I have...I had the privilege when I lived in Florida. ... [indecipherable]...that this Schmul wrote an article in a magazine called A Voice from the Chair. In ... [indecipherable]...magazine. And I read that.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: But you won't get Larry. He...uh... [indecipherable]...every once in a while when he has a few he'd be... [indecipherable]... I think the... [indecipherable]...has run out all of 'em now, see. But now this was in the forties when he wrote that...and...and he had that...but he smoked them then and he won't give 'em up. He won't. He don't want any publicity...this man don't want no publicity. He didn't want to be noticed as...as...as Major Schmul, the man who uh...who went into the camp...he don't wanna be known as that. He wants to live his own life. He's a man about eighty-three or four years old, but he started out as...as... [indecipherable]...I remember as in my youth...but uh...he didn't wanna be known that. He was probably... [indecipherable]...as I showed you a while ago.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Yeah. I can't get nothing out of him. He don't wanna call....he didn't wanna talk see. But he...we get along pretty well that way. But he... [indecipherable]...he wrote a book from the chair. That was some article.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: I don't want to...uh... [indecipherable]...another friend of mine on the newspaper and there well he never got into that... [indecipherable]..... [indecipherable]...a long time ago about one of these men out here by the name of uh...uh...Noble. Noble confessed to killing seven people. And when they proved he didn't do it he confessed to the eighth one.

Interviewer: How'd that happen?

Kemp: After a while they...they had him in Beatty when he come back. And uh Noble gave me another philosophy and I had... [indecipherable]...education one day. ... [indecipherable]...Sunday morning just us talking and he says, "Norman, you know something?" He says, "God said you could have automobiles. But he said you shouldn't it's... [indecipherable]...privilege." We were talking about liquor. He said...about...alcohol...and he comes out with that philosophy. He says, "You know if we wasn't supposed to have automobiles we wouldn't have 'em. But he didn't say we should abuse that privilege."

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Now there was a fella... [indecipherable]...that I always remembered you see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...help him out and...[indecipherable]...bought him some. But now he um...he's a sick man...the last time I saw him was in the hospital there...why it would take...[indecipherable]...I don't know where they take him to...maybe in Atlanta...maybe he's dead by this time see. Very sick man. But very... [indecipherable]...very...very peculiar. Very distant... [indecipherable]...but uh he was a very British fellow see. Come over for... [indecipherable]...he talked...uh he taught uh English up in...in education.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Do you think he killed those seven people he confessed to or did they... [indecipherable]...

Kemp: No...no they proved that it wasn't him at all and then... [indecipherable]... Psychiatrists analyzed him that way. That he was...that he was trying to be...what the...what the word they used up there. I forgot what that word is. Uh. I uh...he...he makes it... [indecipherable]...he admits to be...what that...what they call that. Uh psychologist's the one who told me that see. About what that was, see. I... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Look at me I'm the big man. I'm the fellow that did that. I'm a...I'm a uh...I'm a...I'm a big man. See. I said... [indecipherable]...the Grigsby boy in Michigan City. He killed two little children... [indecipherable]...he served time up there. Then he come in...[indecipherable]...he had him in orientation...in orientation. He saw me up there. I happened to be leaving up there one time. Gee I know that man. I'm gonna show him how big a man I am. ... [indecipherable]...he could play ping-pong better than the... [indecipherable]...fella with him and that was only a watch guard.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Um. ... [indecipherable]...was I think was, is the name they used there, see. Kid... [indecipherable]...and...but that was... [indecipherable]...I'm a...I'm a killer. ... [indecipherable]...see I killed them two girls.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: That's what you find see. That's what the psychiatrists and the psychologists work on see. And sociologists and of course they... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: No my degree's in education.

Kemp: Oh education... [indecipherable]...but the um that's what they work on see uh...

Interviewer: How 'bout...uh this inmate by the name of Grigsby. Did you know him at all?

Kemp: Grigsby?

Interviewer: Grigsby. Wasn't he there for like sixty-six years and then...

Kemp: Oh yes.

Interviewer: Did you know him?

Kemp: Yes I knew that little man. But why I didn't know him personally is because he was in Beatty in the insane ward... [indecipherable]...time.

Interviewer: Oh. I see.

Kemp: He was in IHIC...Indiana Hospital of Insane Criminals.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: And by the time I come in there in fifty-one he's put over to Beatty's in fifty-three.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: He goes to Beatty's. And the time he comes back I'm out of there practically. See. By the time they transfer him back to Grigsby. I don't get to know that man Grigsby very well because he goes over with that bunch in fifty-two or fifty-three when I 'm first starting and don't know. He goes and he does... [indecipherable]...he didn't spend all his time in...in the institution here. He spent it at Beatty's.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Kemp: IHIC...Insane...IHIC...Indiana Hospital of Criminal Insane. See.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: That's where he was. But he wasn't doing his time in here. He was doing time of course...over there in...in the...in Beatty see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: And that's why that man Grigsby I didn't get to Grigsby very well. I don't remember him.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: He's had a lot of publicity.

Kemp: Yes he gets a lot of publicity. See. So uh...uh...that's the same with the uh...uh...some of those fella... [indecipherable]...they ain't like that there, see. Like the time they had the trouble out there after I left there.

Why...I always remembered... [indecipherable]...a fight there. Had a bunch they used to call 'em newspaper men... [indecipherable]... Some come out of the cell house and you can see it from the... [indecipherable]...there's flashing... [indecipherable]...back and forth see. And he said, "He's signaling." I said, "He probably... [indecipherable]..." He just kind of draw attention to you. He...he...he moves out in front here. He's...he's...he's playing a game as you... [indecipherable]...he's signaling somebody. He was taking the light and flashing it off and on, see.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: See. ... [indecipherable]...they don't know nothing. See. That's the...that's the way they...they don't tell ya that kind of...that kind of stuff see.

Interviewer: How about the solitary confinement. Did they have that there and what did an inmate have to do to get put in solitary?

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Like what...

Kemp: Perversion is one of 'em. I hate to tell you that but that's one of 'em.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Uh...that's one of the biggest crimes in there...uh...something you don't talk about. I just mention the word and leave it go at...it's found or uh...or uh fighting. Which has happened in the factory.

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: Making uh...here...I...I could show you it out of my car...I wished that I brought it in...the uh...the uh...weapons I picked up.

Interviewer: Like what? Just describe some of these...

Kemp: Now...uh...I've got a... [indecipherable]...knife. ... [indecipherable]...if there ever was one. How did I catch it? I'm not that smart. Uh... [indecipherable]...if you know what I mean uh...uh see...solid brass. But I'm not that smart to catch that and...[indecipherable]...some fella walks up to me and says, "Say there's something up there" and he keeps on walking. Something up there. He'll tip you off see. When I had 'em all together up the dormitory if there's something up there I'm gonna get it. And I didn't know what he was talking about. When they go... [indecipherable]...drop on the cement floor. That fella had it in his pants and he dropped it. After he let it out of the bottom of his pants who...who has it. I don't know. So I...down the step and grabbed the thing. That's the end of the story. And they know it's me investigating the... [indecipherable]...I got it see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: See. Oh like this thing here of course you see....you...you're not supposed to take it...but this was laying in the drawer of the machine shop one time when I was...[indecipherable]... The fellow who had it...the...the uh...he got up and left. So I said, "Hell, I'm gonna take it home." As a...as a...uh...as a memento of some kind see. But uh...most guys got stuff like that. But do you see what they go into solitary for. Fighting... [indecipherable]...watchacallit...and uh perversion was another thing that's very...very prevalent there you know...which you don't talk much about that. And uh...the fighting. Pulling knives, killing...in your...in the last year we've had somebody killed up there. But you...you see they... [indecipherable]...kill in the factory. See. But it's not only there. They go to trial and up there they're put into solitary confinement and if the prosecuting attorney justifies you...you will bring him up again for a trial. See. But if they're doing...if they're doing life what use is it to hang another charge on 'em see. Only good thing that does is to hold 'em in a little longer see. So let 'em do it... [indecipherable]... But that's uh...you have 'em...you have...and you have uh also...well not too much that no more...making raisin jack whiskey.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: And now that's made by you get a...uh...you get some apples for the... [indecipherable]...all...all the apricots you can peel and sometimes you serve 'em in with meals. And then if you get...baking bread...it's called the sponge. That's the bread you know with the yeast in it. And if they...they can get in there and get their hand...uh handful of that dough in their hand, they've got something which will ferment.

Interviewer: Oh, uh-huh.

Kemp: See. See. See uh...uh...uh...they know. If you wanna make whiskey you don't have to have yeast...if you...if you...if you go to the baking shop and picked up a handful of that dough out of that trough...that big trough...that's yeast and it'll make...I...uh...uh...I...I...I caught some one time...but remember I didn't catch it...I was the one that caught it. I was somebody who tipped me off. You always have stool pigeons. And...and here comes... [indecipherable]...but I... [indecipherable]...yet unless I had a stool pigeon. That's an informer. ... [indecipherable]...more polite word.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: See. That's who...what Cliff was.

Interviewer: Oh. You worked together.

Kemp: Caught this guy who was taking books out of the library. This fella...this fella is gonna come back and ask ya for some more magazines. He's coming back. I didn't remember if I had... [indecipherable]...magazine every man that I gave him a magazine and he may come back fifteen minutes later. But he would say that guy you... [indecipherable]...he's coming back. And when he come back I'd say, "Listen, I gave you a magazine this morning." "No you didn't." I'd say, "The hell I didn't." I wasn't that smart... [indecipherable]... He...he's got...he knows what he was talking about. I didn't know nothing. But somebody tip...tip...tips you off see. See he tips you off. Uh...uh...on them kinda things like that tips you off. I had my

other little runner Willie from South Bend. I had a...I had a...a...clerk in there who wanted to commit murder. He wanted to murder himself. And so he would...he got himself a hypodermic needle. But I never caught the syringe. I mean...the needle. But Willie come in and said, "Look behind the picture. There's something back there." And...[indecipherable]...the guy had hid the um the hypodermic needle behind...the hypodermic syringe behind the picture.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: When the fella...when the fella finally found out he said, "Oh he's a smart man...he...he...he watches. He shakes this place down." I didn't shake it down. No. I was told where all that stuff was. So they toughed him. But Willie was a gambler so I had to give him permission to gamble.

Interviewer: That's what he got out of it. He had to pay off.

Kemp: Well see. You give that permission back. And Willie would gamble if there were two flies walking across the...uh the street but he'd gamble for the one to beat the other one. He was one of those kind of.... [indecipherable]... And he uh...he uh...I...I...I asked him, "When are you gonna catch ... [indecipherable]..." They won't catch me yet. Oh you... [indecipherable]...I'll watch myself. You gonna get caught there little boy.

Interviewer: Was there a lot of gambling that went on inside there?

Kemp: Oh yes... [indecipherable]...you see it's not...it's like prohibition years ago. ... [indecipherable]...alcoholics there now. One time there was a lot of those playing cards in there. Did I get my first lesson in that since you asked that question there. When I first went up there, uh...I... [indecipherable]...farm one time and they were gambling out there. And uh...I can... [indecipherable]...the fella tipped me off see. He was definitely working see. When this... [indecipherable]... He said you don't have to bring this up...well it happened to be the guy...I just saw his picture the other day in here see. He uh...I don't know... [indecipherable]... Anyway I came in and a young officer... [indecipherable]...gambling out there on the farm. And then I made a mistake...that I was standing at the end of the table reading the paper and watching. "Don't read a paper like that. That's against the law." He didn't say I...then he then he found out after a while I found out that the Deputy Warden set the cards out there see.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: You see. You keep 'em quiet. See. The Captain, "You don't read the paper in there. You're uh...you're uh...you're...you're not supposed to read the paper." I said oh I'm gonna learn this question some time see. But they allowed that... [indecipherable]... And oh I used to tell the fellows if I found 'em gambling. I said, "Now listen. When you gamble you come up and...[indecipherable]...again. And I don't know what you do. But when you go stand behind the fence and watch if I'm coming down to watch you then I know you're gambling. I don't know what you...you're playing here..."

[indecipherable]...in front of me." But this fella here...this...this...this Deputy Warden that said to me...he's the one that set the cards out there see. But uh...that's what he...that's the way...that's the way a successful man like this warden who we have today... [indecipherable]...they know how to uh...take the easiest... [indecipherable]...from those fellas see. You want...you wanna... [indecipherable]...these riots that happen always happen by something like that. Course...and one...and remember...you protecting life...because they killed three officers over in Pontiac. For what reason? Why'd they pick on them three? Why would they...why...why did those three get killed instead of some of 'em didn't. That you don't come out in the papers.

Interviewer: Why do you think it is?

Kemp: Because they...they said we're gonna get that guy. He's been...he's been... [indecipherable]...on top of it. They take a chance. Any officer gets killed today...uh...not...nine times out of ten he's killed with...on account of they had it in for him. Oh I never had a bit of fear. I never give fear a...a...a thought in there...among those men. I never give it to because I remember the fellas around me are...all knew me. They knew I was uh...a...I wasn't going to be look and see... [indecipherable]...over their shoulder and see what they were doing every five minutes. They're human beings. There's no question about them...when they're human beings. You gotta remember that. And uh...some of the wardens operated on that level. ... [indecipherable]...thousand... [indecipherable]...operated on...after... [indecipherable]...what was...? [indecipherable]...ones I don't know see. Remember one of our wardens up...up there was a...played drums in the...in the band with 'em.

Interviewer: Oh yeah?

Kemp: Sure.

Interviewer: Huh.

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...the last he came in after my time. And he was uh...his father was uh...very good uh...champion runner here and they used to kid about...we can't run away cause he runs faster than we can. See. I heard about that. But he uh...they...they had...they got good musicians up there and Russell... [indecipherable]...kid drummer in school or something he sat in and played drums with 'em see.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See. There's a human element there. ... [indecipherable]...didn't have much trouble up there. Of course he...after a while...uh...and then of course a young fellow coming in...he got cockier about it...but after a certain time he cooled down...some of the big old timers was... [indecipherable]..."Now listen. You want you're throat cut? Now you cut this stuff out. Don't uh...don't uh make it bad for us so we get locked up."

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: You'll have young fellas come in from the reformatory that've been problem cases down there. Pretty soon they...they quiet down and you wonder

what quieted them fellows down a little bit. You find out that maybe some of the old timers and these lifers in there were good to 'em and tell 'em, "You know if you wanna live why you better cut that out." And the worst fella we had in the institution they killed him up there see. I had to...what a character that was. ... [indecipherable]...a black man. That was a character. In that...what do you think he was doing time for? ... [indecipherable]...prostitution for juveniles in Indianapolis.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: ...[indecipherable]... we had him...we had him stripped over...they had it one time that he was so bad they...they did everything with that fella. Uh they did everything with him and uh...they even had him chained to a cement slab at one time he was so bad. That isn't...that isn't known see but uh...

Interviewer: Doing what?

Kemp: Everything.

Interviewer: To other inmates you mean?

Kemp: ... [indecipherable]...everything else and uh...watchamacallit...he was mean. He was a killer. Unfortunately the man was black. Unfortunately that's what I didn't like.

[Side one of tape two ends]

[Side two of tape two begins]

Kemp: Convict anonymous.

Interviewer: Huh.

Kemp: But a doggone perversion killer.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: And all these punks we call 'em... [indecipherable]...I had him in the library. ... [indecipherable]...he read and writes a book. Someone please help me. This inmate... [indecipherable]...he wrote the book there. And...I got a...somebody got the copy off of me. Somebody comes in and hands me a bunch of uh...paper clippings. He writes his own story and dresses it up. All about perversion. All about house of prostitution of juveniles. He writes his own story.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See. Gets it done. Then I got...me... [indecipherable]...that time. So I just let him sit around the library and just... [indecipherable]...around. Pretty soon we got to be pretty good friends. ... [indecipherable]...and he starts Convict Anonymous you know. And uh...the warden lets him have that. So then on Sundays that they're supposed to meet up there so. "They won't say we can stay up here." I said, "The warden don't run this damn place. I am." And

I...I get away with it. I get away with it. And they even found out after a while and I'm getting away with it. He would uh...let me tell him certain things without pushing him around. But I couldn't stop this other deal. No I'd get my throat cut. I knew what was happening. ... [indecipherable]...so did the warden...but how you gonna stop it? You stop that one... [indecipherable]...you put him in solitary confinement. When you do all that and it don't do no good what're you gonna do with him. But you wait for somebody to kill and I did.

Interviewer: Is that what happened to him?

Kemp: It happened...

Interviewer: One of the other inmates?

Kemp: Last yeah...last New Year's.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: One of those punks got him see. Of course...and...that...that...didn't get publicized. I'm telling you a lot of things... [indecipherable]...getting... [indecipherable]...but the uh...that's what happened. But you'll never find that out see. I didn't...he was living on Fifth Street down there. I saw him on Fifth Street there. He got out for a while. He got married to a girl. He was married to a white girl living on Fifth Street. Then he went back in for...for something.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See. Jessie Battles. That was a character see. Ooh what a character that was. He musta had some ... [indecipherable]...I'm sorry... [indecipherable]...the blacks all bad. The whites are not all... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Wow.

Kemp: Yeah. And that's why I said... [indecipherable]...I don't find that. I... [indecipherable]...but that's the only man. Now you get along with your blacks inside there better than you do when you're alone with your whites.

Interviewer: Is that right?

Kemp: Oh yes.

Interviewer: Hmm. Was there much problem between the blacks and whites within the prison.

Kemp: It's uh...definitely... [indecipherable]... But they gotta live together. And if you can put uh...a...um...a demarcation line between the two of 'em in any way why uh...uh...you wanna do that see. In other words, don't uh...when you got 'em in the library...I had two or three blacks...why you treat them definitely the same as you do your whites. And you don't show any preference.... [indecipherable]...because you get to...don't give the whites

the idea that you're for them or the blacks that you're for them. Don't do that see. Don't let 'em be successful. Not only me...I uh...any other uh successful uh officer up there knows that see. Don't...don't uh be... [indecipherable]...they all make their own decisions see. They'll play ball together. They'll play in the band together.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: But they...it...it's the same prejudice there is...is on the outside. But it isn't so prevalent to the fact that uh that they know you know what you're doing see. But uh... [indecipherable]...see.

Interviewer: Do they purposely put like um whites together and blacks together rather than mixing them in?

Kemp: Oh yes.

Interviewer: Is that to avoid problems that would come up?

Kemp: Yes. Yes. But uh...but that...uh that showed up in...in that...that was the trouble in...in...in uh...uh Pontiac. It was the white and uh...it was trouble here... [indecipherable]...read some time ago the fight in um...in some other penitentiaries. But you had the same fight in Chicago as they do in the High School.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm. Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: See. They had the same thing in Chicago and High School so what the...uh...uh...uh see. If you going to have it in these...these High Schools you gonna have it in lock up. There's no difference in that thing there. If they can't control...can't control in Chicago or any other town they can't control it in prison. See.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Kemp: See. My...my theory is that...there's no difference in that place than it is on the outside. If you use your outside knowledge to some of your inside stuff you're gonna get along up there. And then of course...but if you get some numbskull uh...uh officer who comes in and tries to throw his weight around...why he ain't gonna get no place. They're gonna get ya. Uh...they gonna...they gonna frame ya. Then...then...they'll alienize you. They...they knew just what I was gonna do. They knew the acts in that warden...they knew just what...what uh...what uh Warden Lane was gonna do every time he came in. What he...they knew how far they could push him and how far he would go to help 'em. They knew all of those things. They...they know from the captains they know. Exceptional captains up there.

Interviewer: Captains?

Kemp: The Captains.

Interviewer: What are those?

Kemp: Well...the...the...the head of the...

Interviewer: Oh...the...uh...the guards?

Kemp: ...uh...uh...uh...uh the guards.

Interviewer: Oh. Uh-huh.

Kemp: The best men we had out there are supposed to have come out of uh...the best officer I found...were fellas who had been trained...like in Studebaker...[indecipherable]...we hired some officers up out of Studebaker who had been Corpsmen.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Used...used to handling the men.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: And you put 'em in there and use their... [indecipherable]...knowledge and they get along very nicely. But you can't teach them something that you...and then put him in there with a uh... [indecipherable]... Remember the old saying is there's nothing like education cause there's nothing like experience. ... [indecipherable]...you for experience. You'll get... [indecipherable]...see. My training starts out with a fella who worked on the railroad. He was...I was in the... [indecipherable]...department at the time. And he handed...er...he said to me one time he said, "I never canned a man in my life. I made it so hot for 'em they quit." Now I knew that in my own farm up there. Shut 'em off. And then... [indecipherable]... I never wrote up a man in my life in there. I didn't have to. But believe me I laid it in to them when they...when they violated the law. But they said, "well... [indecipherable]...I won't...I won't do it again cause he won't...he won't stand for it." But I warned 'em. Now that's the last time...time I catch... [indecipherable]... [indecipherable]...get on 'em. So the other guy said, "Oh well. He won't... [indecipherable]..." He will not follow you in the hold. Cause anything I...I... [indecipherable]...solitary confinement. That...that breeds contempt by those men. I didn't do that. Like it's some little kid was there...I didn't do it. See. "But he had it in for me, that's why I went through solitary confinement." Well I don't believe in that. See. And uh...uh...you take the...when he worked the desk... [indecipherable]...for example. Now... [indecipherable]...he was saving face in... [indecipherable]...but you cannot go in there and you gonna treat them the same as you treat a man on the outside. ... [indecipherable]...stay there waiting for the...for the chair. You...you use a little bit more precaution of course. But you don't uh...don't get in...in...if they wanna talk to you, you talk to them the same as you talk to 'em if they were all right. You didn't bring 'em there. You didn't sentence 'em to the chair. ... [indecipherable]...you hope to God they get the chair but uh...uh...if that's what the law says for. Or you have a fella...and you have another...another class of fellas...that...that...that uh...going for religion. They had no religion at all. And they happened to find out that you had no religion see. I'm happy to be a Lutheran see. And I like my... [indecipherable]...that uh I'm a Lutheran. ... [indecipherable]...says, "I wanna see a Lutheran minister." Uh-huh. Well the one we had was uh...was too easy going. He was too much a milquetoast. So I went to another one in town and sent him up

there and I said this fellow wants to see you. And after he come back I said what... [indecipherable]... He said, "He was not Lutheran. He was Jewish." See.

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Kemp: See. ... [indecipherable]...Lutheran and the Pastor says anyway, "He wasn't...he wasn't Lutheran." When I questioned him... [indecipherable]...he was Jewish.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: See. Then he was... [indecipherable]...find out see. Or they...they find out other things. See. See. I used to kid 'em all the time. Boy some of the fellas...right off the prison there's a saloon that I call... [indecipherable]...and you can see it from the top cells. And I used to kid 'em. They'd say, "Where you going tonight?" I'd say, "I'm going down to... [indecipherable]...and get drunk cause where I'm going...you can't."

Interviewer: They could only watch ya.

Kemp: They...they think that was a joke see. You get along with 'em...and you say, "I'm going down to... [indecipherable]...down there right there and get drunk and you can't. See. You gotta stay in here." And then they did think it was a joke. They laughed. That's how you get a way with 'em see. You joke with 'em see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: Like my...I got that from my cousin one time...I uh...when he was up there. It was raining and we went out to a parole board... [indecipherable]...laid up and not feeling well. Well we both went to the parole board meetings back in the thirties. The other warden let us go up there. So on my record in the prison I... [indecipherable]...through the parole board meetings already. This is... [indecipherable]...also see. But uh...I remember... [indecipherable]...a time my cousin working out in the front and uh it was raining and I come... [indecipherable]...it's raining Cabby. He said, "where the hell... [indecipherable]...you ain't going no place"... [indecipherable]...take that as a joke see. You get along just fine with 'em see.

Interviewer: Right. What does the fella by the name of Rice was an officer over there?

Kemp: Yes. I know that man.

Interviewer: And something happened to him a couple years ago.

Kemp: You mean Rice was killed in...the...the robbery. Oh yes I knew him very well.

Interviewer: What happened there? They did....

Kemp: I never got...

Interviewer: ...some inmates might have done that?

Kemp: It was inmates did it. Why it was done...surely I didn't never find out.

Interviewer: He got along well with the inmates...till... [indecipherable]...surprised...

Kemp: I...I don't know.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: He didn't have the... [indecipherable]...I knew...he was a very fine man that man. I don't know what that was. Either he caught 'em and they went...and they got...went berserk and killed him because he caught 'em in...in a watchamacallit, see. The...caught 'em in some kind of act like... [indecipherable]...any kind of an act that you might think of. I don't know what it is. But you'll never...that's off the record. You'll never find out. There's no way to find out why...what that was.

Interviewer: In the laundry room?

Kemp: What?

Interviewer: In the laundry room?

Kemp: Yeah...yeah...yeah...you...you... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: What...what kind of things would they be doing in the laundry room though? That he would have caught them at?

Kemp: Oh uh...washing...uh...well...doing somebody else's laundry. But that's the smallest thing see. You're not supposed to do the other fellas laundry and get paid for it. That would be contraband.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: All it'd be...well it may be the act of...that I don't talk about. Act of perversion.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: I don't know. I don't know. Early in the morning. Rice walks in there early in the morning when they're supposed to be out eating.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: Of course I can...the story I'm told. These two fellas are in there. Or there's one fella in there or whatever there was I don't know. Whatever happened they were caught. They...maybe Rice had been on their neck before

for something. I don't know. ... [indecipherable]...the killing. A brainstorm they get. See. A brainstorm they get. I don't know. Uh...that's the only one that I know...I've heard of another one when they stabbed a fella years ago but I don't know...that happened and this happened in Pontiac with those three fellas. What happened there. As I said before why did they kill them three men?

Interviewer: Um-hmm.

Kemp: Why those three men? What'd they happen in the line of fire? That's all possible. It's all... [indecipherable]...

Interviewer: Were you ever afraid of that yourself?

Kemp: No.

Interviewer: How come?

Kemp: Like I said...

Interviewer: It seems like a potential...

Kemp: ...I told you well no because I never give it a thought because I....I never tried to catch 'em and if I caught 'em...I caught 'em and didn't like... [indecipherable]...I would say to 'em, "Uh-huh...now what am I supposed to do? Now what am I supposed to do?" See. "Am I supposed to write you up?" I never had it...I never had to...had an occasion to do it. ... [indecipherable]...no I never caught anybody. I saw...I knew...I knew who the perversion boys were. But I let 'em know if they're gonna do that...it's gonna be...be on my way home. I don't want to be around ya. That's it see. Well...the specific case I had one time. Two fellas got in a fight on the farm. And I... [indecipherable]...now listen, "You can kill each other but wait till I get back in that truck. And when I get in that truck then go out and shoot ya and kill each other. But let me get in that truck so I'm all gone from here. I don't care whether you kill yourselves."... [indecipherable]...the fights all over...then they...see...see how...how ridiculous it is. I remember...and I had an inmate with me...he was a lifer too see. And uh...uh...he was quite a guy. I had... [indecipherable]...and oh he was quite a fella. He was from all over the country. Um. We have the dogs here. I found him over here. A lifer, see. He...they kept moving him see. Charlie. And uh...I've got... [indecipherable]...the food truck those days when we were... [indecipherable]...to the farms. And we used to... [indecipherable]...and uh...but I says to him one day...I said...now he had...the electric chair. And uh he was...he was uh given a change...change to life imprisonment. Charlie was his name. So when day I read in the paper some fella said he was gonna have a...uh...the death penalty to life imprisonment. So I get in the truck one day and I says to Charlie, I said, "Charlie, I read in the paper uh this fella says he'd rather have the chair than life imprisonment." Charlie never answered. He never answered. But... [indecipherable]...a little while after and says, "Norman life's pretty sweet." See. He had...the night before...he was shaved already and uh...and the... [indecipherable]...ready...and the priest comes during the night. One of the officers...now he's dead now...had said goodbye to him that afternoon. In the death cells. The next morning he sees Charlie walking on the street. So you see where he went. There he is ready to go. When the reprieve comes.

He's had his head shaved already for the electron. The next morning so then that's when I...I just...I didn't...like Charlie said...Life's pretty sweet.

Interviewer: And it was him?

Kemp: Yeah it was him.

Interviewer: He changed his mind.

Kemp: Yeah he...I mean...uh...he was going to the chair. You see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: And he...up until the time that come...the Governor reprieve came.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: Then...then after a while he did time up there see. As a...the lifer. And he became a trustee. But then I mentioned that to this one...one Lieutenant there... [indecipherable]...that day. ... [indecipherable]...is what it's called. And he said I had... [indecipherable]...that day see. And uh...uh...he said goodbye to Charlie. ... [indecipherable]...says goodbye Charlie and the next morning... [indecipherable]...comes to work and there's Charlie on the street. See. See. See. But uh...that's the way...that...that...that...all those cases that I...come to my mind and try to since you asked this...see me...I brought 'em all out. I'll probably never repeat 'em again but.... [indecipherable]... Although I'm not as innocent in that as I am innocent in this... [indecipherable]...case here, see. But this was more prominent.

Interviewer: What makes that more fun?

Kemp: Huh?

Interviewer: What makes that more fun?

Kemp: More fun? Because humor some of those people see. And you know 'em personally.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kemp: You know 'em personally. And you know what...you always see that they you know 'em personally and you know that they...the most of 'em will...were supposed to be on release. A lot of 'em had not business being out on release see. Uh...most of these people I suppose...were hard hit. But the...the...um...some of 'em...well not all of 'em...most of 'em rather...should...should've saved a little money sometime. We have cases you know where they squandered their money to get themselves...or you find...people who...who uh...who have...gotten ten-eleven children and they won't help 'em. ... [indecipherable]...some of the fellas... [indecipherable]...and the kids won't help 'em. And then the...the...the old people have raised those eight and ten children and have accumulated the property. Big uh...big mortgage.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Kemp: They can't... [indecipherable]...and then you give 'em money and some in politics say, "See you're helping John Jones and he owns his house." Then you gotta contend with all that political item. So them people you could...they can't heat their house. The kids are not obligated to help 'em. They're married and got their own families. And you help people who...who own their own homes. And then you're criticized. And the...one of the worst things in the world is...working a political job and being criticized all the time for something. I feel sorry for that...you have that kind of a case to have. You say, "well here how 'bout this here uh...I see him...I see him in the saloon."... [indecipherable]... I...I don't know what they would say about that. You have people...you find out where people took their uh grocery orders and turned it in for drinks. You have that case. And then you're blamed for that.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: How do you go to know all that, see. All you are afraid of being crooked and that's a...that's a... [indecipherable]...when you're in politics like I was... [indecipherable]...like that one... [indecipherable]...about the surgery see.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: I was... [indecipherable]... Maybe I did...I don't know. But uh...but uh...the relief is the business see. And I... [indecipherable]...when you have people that you know...see...when you have business men. When you have superintendents of a factory that lose their jobs and they haven't got anything and come on relief the next day. You get very callous to things like that. I had to...I had the superintendent of the railroad of a big factory out at Josam. Lost his job and he was down to relief office the next day for a grocery order.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See. Well what do you do with a fella like that? Well I tell you what we do. We box him up and send him to his home in Canada.

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Kemp: You get more high...[indecipherable]...than that than you do on the prison job.

Interviewer: Oh really? Politics...

Kemp: Yeah...politics see. You got you're...stressed with that kind of stuff all the time see. And then uh...[indecipherable]...a lot like uh...a lot of funny things happened with the former trustee with him Fedder...you heard of Fedder's Alley...he had a lot of...he pulled a lot of funny things...humorous things...I can't remember all the stories see. But... [indecipherable]...a lot of the funny things on some of these people see. Uh...uh...the...the one story...uh... [indecipherable]...story was a very interesting... [indecipherable]...could tell that one too. A fella comes up there one time

and he wants a ton of coal very, very bad. And Mr. Fedder says, "What do you want the ton of coal for?" And he says, "My wife's gonna have another baby." Fedder in his own way told him you shouldn't have any more children and told him why...why he shouldn't have any more children see. See. Now...

[indecipherable]...home with three or four children himself see. So that night it gets bitter cold. And he refused the fella a ton of coal and the wife's pregnant and gonna have a baby. He gets on the telephone at one o'clock in the morning and called up... [indecipherable]...and he says to him, "Stanley. That fella with the gray overcoat and the brown hat on. Send him a ton of coal the next day." Stanley... [indecipherable]...thinks all night long who came in with a gray overcoat and a brown hat on of three or five or six hundred people coming in. He tried to figure...oh you know the guy with the gray overcoat. Stanley stayed awake all night long trying to figure out who he's talking about.

Interviewer: Who was it?

Kemp: I...I don't know the...I don't know...

Interviewer: Oh...

Kemp: ...but I mean it seems like that the man turns him down and then called up see you see. Or you'll have people come in like that...

[indecipherable]...see. They came in on the relief off of the....or you'll have businessmen come in and want teeth.

Interviewer: Teeth?

Kemp: Yeah...who...who want false teeth. Who own big stores in Michigan City had gone bankrupt and had one of 'em come in. What do you do with these fellas? If you refuse 'em then, see, you can't refuse 'em. I bought these from a very prominent man in Michigan City. He's dead now.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: His son owned the...his son owns the uh...the Chevrolet agency here now. It's...why I can say this is because Jim Vine never always said if it wouldn't have been for you I wouldn't have got teeth. Jim Vine was so old and gone out of the ice cream business that he couldn't buy teeth. And I...and I okayed the order. And Jim Vine now... [indecipherable]... See the best thing that ever happened on this relief is these Christians and good people are a lot of people who have been drifting away from good morals. People who would buy furniture and then couldn't pay for it. And uh...I've known families who... [indecipherable]...a big contractor in town....

[indecipherable]...went on relief and now they own ten or twenty trucks. They learned the lesson. This...this depression in the thirties was...had some merits to it. I didn't...I never...I never suffered. And of course I was working. I never lost a day's pay in my life. ... [indecipherable]...put it politically inclined I realized all that...but uh...politically inclined...but uh...but the uh...but you found people in the...the...but most of 'em...ninety percent of 'em were entitled to everything they ever got. And now you hear people talking about medical service. Now were our medical service adequate those days. The doctors seem to be more...doctors seemed to be more dedicated than they are today. The way I see it. I don't see the dedication into the medical profession so much. And I deal with it every...at

the hospital there. Uh...uh I...they are not dedicated...oh sure they're doing wonderful paying jobs and all that. But we had dedicated doctors. We had dedicated doctors. Just imagine like one doctor used to uh... [indecipherable]...people called him up and...and...in the dead of winter for one dollar...all he's got. Said tell her the child's cold. He said, "well how long has your child had the..." "Oh he had it for two days." They call him up in the middle of the night to go out there and he went out dedicated and didn't make no complaints about it. He went way out someplace to give a little couple of pills for a little sick girl when they could've called him up during the day.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: See. We had those cases see. The doctors went and done it and made no complaints about. You do it in the day...and what she tell ya...come into my office...go up to the hospital. I got this one now. For one dollar. They got fifty cents for office calls. See. They got seventy-five cents for...seventy-five dollars for the biggest operations.

Interviewer: Hmm-hmm.

Kemp: See.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Kemp: Well that's my sermon here.

[Side two of tape two ends]