MAY 1, 1988 INTERVIEW OF GERALD CROWLEY

KRISTI: If it's alright with you, I'd like to start and just ask you to tell me a little bit about what actually happened. We

have a description from the Carnegie Commission but it's just a very short paragraph and I'd like to know as much as you'd like to tell me about what actually happened and then something about

yourself in terms of specifically why you think you did this when other people would not have done something like this. Okay?

MR. CROWLEY: Alright.

KRISTI: can you tell me a little bit about what happened?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, it was on May 18 of 1986 and I was working in Mt. Tom ski area which is located in Holy Oak and I was in my office at the time and I heard a bunch of screaming I guess or just commotion, people moving, and I was at my window and I saw everybody staring, were looking towards behind the chair lift. There's a walkwick and a chairwich right within a chair lift, a kind of chair lift, and I saw people starting to move toward the slide up and I just starting walking over there and a group of about 200 people just standing around watching ••.

KRISTI: How many people?

MR. CROWLEY: About 200. And they were just all standing around and there was a group of kids in the center of this circle and they were all screaming and yelling, which I couldn't hear what they were saying because I was too far away. When I got closer,

I noticed that one of the youths there was wrestling with the

police officer, Dave Poole, and his group, his entourage he was with, were yelling Kill the pig! Kill the pig! When I actually came around the corner, I started walking through the crowd. I noticed that the guy had his hand on officer Poole's service revolver and was pulling it out of the holster and that's when I came around the corner again and I just tackled the kid and when

I tackled the kid I took down officer Poole also so he was on the

bottom, the guy was on in the middle and I was on the top and I had officer Poole's gun in my right hand trying to keep it into his holster and the kid was trying to pull it out. In the mean- time, a group of his friends were coming in and taking potluck shots at me. I got kicked in the head, I got kicked the ribs, in the back and just getting punched. And I got the kid in a choke hold in my left arm and I just started choking and I told him Let go of the gun or I'm going to choke you to death, and he wouldn't let go of the gun so I stood up and I pulled the kid off of Dave Poole and of course the gun was laying there out of the holster

at that time laying down next to Dave Poole and I just pulled the kid off and Dave Poole grabbed the gun and put it back in its holster and I let go of the kid and helped Dave Poole up and then that's when they started to run toward the parking lot, which is probably about 150 yards away.

KRISTI: You started to run?

MR. CROWLEY: Everybody did. But Dave Poole and I were just standing there. I was helping Dave because he was hurt, hurt his back and he couldn't get up, lift him up off the ground and everybody ••• We were outnumbered. At that time it was, well,

we figured it to be 9 to 2.

KRISTI: But they were running away from you. Is that right? MR. CROWLEY: That's right, after I got Dave Poole up off the

ground, yeah. What we were trying to do at that time was I just wanted to get the kids away from Dave Poole because it was 9 onto

2 and ·there was 200 people standing around and no one was coming in to help us at all. We were like, well, our backs against the wall and we figured that if we got them on the run we were able to at least apprehend one of them. So they started running to the parking lot and I went after one of them. Dave Poole went

after the other. Dave Poole and I, he told me Stay very close to

me because if we both are separated we knew we were outnumbered.

He said there'd be help on the way soon. I tried to get as close to Dave Poole as I could but everybody just scattered all over

the place and I actually went after one guy, the guy that was kicking me in the ribs, a guy by the name of Michael Bean. I'll refer to him by name because it's a lot easier. Michael Bean was the gentleman, the youth, who was kicking me in the ribs and a John Goddett was the youth who had the gun out of the holster.

.When Bean started running up the road to the parking lot and I chased after him, he got away and they all ran to their cars. So I went after Dave Poole now who was surrounded by I think it was that group of kids. I really don't know because everything

seemed to happen so fast. I wanted to find out later on. It was

probably the group of so-called "concerned citizens" who were standing around to see if there was going to be anymore blood• shed. I went back to Dave Poole and one of the youths got into the car and started to drive out. Dave Poole went after the kid and tried to arrest him before he got into his car but he hit

Dave Poole. When I saw that, I went back down closer to Dave and

the kid was revving the car and he started to back out but only one other person out of 200 people saw what was going on. He got his truck and he blocked the kid off trying to get out. The kid smashed into his truck and then he got out and he started to

run. That's when he ran by me and I chased after him and I tackled him. It was Michael Bean at the time. I tackled him right behind our ski shop which is in the middle of the parking lot and I held him down and in the meantime ••• Oh, excuse me. Let me go back. I forgot about the car. John Goddett was the closest to the vehicle -- it was a Camero and as I was walking over to help Dave Poole out, he got into his Camero and he drove right at me and forced me up against the building, ski shop building, and that's when he drove off and just barely missed a couple of cars coming into the parking lot. Then Goddett ~~~• Michael Bean, that's when I tackled him by the skis and he got

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out of his car and he started to run and I tackled and held him down until the police came.

KRISTI: How big were these boys? How old were they?

MR. CROWLEY: Goddett was 20 years old. He was about 5'811• He probably weighed about 160 pounds. Michael Bean was about 6'311 and he weighed well over 200 pounds. He was the guy in parking lot.

KRISTI: How big are you?

MR. CROWLEY: I am about 51711 and weigh about 155 pounds. KRISTI: So they were substantially at least as big as you are

and most likely bigger. MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KRISTI: Are you a wrestler? You mentioned you got him in a choke hold of some kind. Is that ... ?

MR. CROWLEY: There was only way you could get ahold of him because there's one thing knocking down on the ground. I just jumped right on top of him, attacked from behind, and •••

KRISTI: But you mentioned the word choke hold. Have you had some t ••• ?

MR. CROWLEY: I just grabbed him from behind the neck with my arm and just kept right on choking him until he let go of the gun.

KRISTI: Have you had any training as a wrestler or karate or anything?

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: No, nothing like that, uh huh. Okay. And how old is the policeman? Is the policeman someone that you knew before this happened?

MR. CROWLEY: The policeman is the same age I am, 37. Dave

Poole. I got to know a lot of policemen from working at

Mt. Tom. Now, they had to report to me or work with me at one time.

KRISTI: Poole works at Mt. Town. He's a •••

MR. CROWLEY: I knew Dave Poole just from working up at the ski area. I knew who he was.

KRISTI: You did know who he was. I was just curious. Sorry, go

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| ahead. | I didn't mean to interrupt you. | I was just curious about |
| some of | this. |  |

MR. CROWLEY: These people had to be under probably drugs or -- I think it was drugs. I didn't smell that much alcohol on their breath, but they were wild. I was holding Michael Bean down and he was like a little worm trying to get away and he was yelling and his girlfriend was yelling. He stuck his fingers in my mouth and pulled me off of him which was laughing until I bit his fingers. Now, during the meantime, when we had the guy on the

ground, the General Manager jumped on top of me to help me hold this guy down which was a nice thing to do but unfortunately when you have three broken ribs and somebody jumps on your back, it's the last thing you want. I had to have him get off me because I couldn't even breath. The police took a long time to get there and it wasn't their fault.

KRISTI: Who called the police?

MR. CROWLEY: Several people did. They received three telephone calls and the other strange about it is that the dispatcher

the police took their time -- would have to be Dave Poole's fiancee'. She did not realize that he was up at Mt. Tom

working. The police station from the ski area is probably about, considering it's an emergency, they could probably be there

within ten minutes. The fight started right around 4 o'clock

which is the change of shifts. The first call that was received to the police station was asking for a cruiser to come to

Mt. Tom, which they just take their time coming up. The second call that came in was identical, we needed a cruiser at Mt. Tom. The third call that came in was actually the right way to say it, telling people it was an officer and a civilian being assaulted. Now, that's entirely different. That's when everybody comes up very Whether you want them or not, you're going to ~ave more police than you know what to do with. That's when they took ten minutes to come up there, and uh ...

KRISTI: During that ten minutes, were any of the other, you said there were some bystanders who did actually call the police, but were most of the bystanders actually encouraging the boys who

were trying to beat up the policeman?

MR. CROWLEY: During the start, yes, there were. There were people there that were encouraging it. Mostly youths who were there encouraging.

KRISTI: Most of the bystanders were also young kids, sort of 18 to 20 years old who were skiing?

MR. CROWLEY: That's right. There were some amount of adults in this crowd also but they just seemed to stand back and let the kids take control of the whole thing, and they were yelling Kill the pig! Kill the pig!

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KRISTI: Do you know why the fights had started in the first place?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.. These kids, they were from Spencer \_ which is on the other side of Wooster, which is probably about 40 miles from here. They were up here for a graduation party.

During the day, they were going up and down the chair lifts and they were yelling at people on the Alpine Slide yelling obsceni• ties at people that go up on the chair lift and right back down

to get the view. They yelled obscenities at them and that's when the management asked Dave Poole to evict these kids out of the area which he did. And Dave Poole, knowing his mannerism, he

just went up and he just asked the kids to leave and told them that the manager requested they leave, and their walking away.

One kid, Goddett, gave Dave Poole the finger and just happened to hit him right in the face, and that's when Dave said Your under arrest and went to place him under arrest

He didn't want to be taken and he started beating at Dave Poole and whole crowd joined in.

KRISTI: I see. Okay. So ••• I'm sorry I interrupted you. You were at the point where you had I'm just trying to recon- struct this. Someone tried to attack, basically backed you into the wall with a car and then you went to Poole's help again when he was in trouble with Michael? Is that his name?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, Michael Goddett. Oh, it should be Michael Bean. Yeah, I was at that time probably 100 yards away from Dave Poole.

KRISTI: How did you get away from the boy that was backing you into the wall with a car?

MR. CROWLEY: Actually he forced it against the back of the wall by driving right towards me, coming out of the parking lot

fish-tailing the back of his car, spinning his tires as he's

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| coming up the | road. In fact, | the | police that responded, they |
| passed him on  to 75 leaving | the access road  the area. | and | they said he was doing about 70 |

KRISTI: So then you went and •••

MR. CROWLEY: I went over towards Dave Poole because he was now being surrounded by the youths that were yelling at him and I went over to see if I could help out with him again and that's

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| when the guy backs his car, | his truck, | up. Bean got into it and |
| backed into him and then he | got out of | the car and he ran. |

KRISTI: And then you tackled Bean and then you got him down.

MR. CROWLEY: I tackled Bean because that Dave Poole was clear. It seemed to be once Bean was around, everybody was chanting on. As soon as Bean left, everybody quieted down.

KRISTI: And then you held Bean down?

MR. CROWLEY: I held Bean down until the police came, like I said about 10 to 15 minutes later. Takes them a while to get up

there.

KRISTI: I'm sure it seemed a lot longer than an ordinary 10 or

15 minutes would have seemed.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, yeah, it did. Well, besides being in pain, being on the ground keeping Bean down, I did not know where Dave Poole was. That's an feeling to~~~~~~~~~

then is to keep their eye on the policeman. But then some

employees from Mt. Tom came down at that time and they says Keep your eyes on Dave Poole, went around and surrounded Dave Poole and they stood around and waited. No one else left the area except for Goddett. Everybody else stayed in the area.

KRISTI: These were employees of Mt. Tom though who finally came down and helped Dave Poole. They were not bystanders.

MR. CROWLEY: No, these were employees.

KRISTI: So basically the bystanders did nothing during this time except occasionally ..•

MR. CROWLEY: They did nothing at all. The only person that did anything was the guy in the pickup truck.

KRISTI: And then did you know who it was who called the police? That was a bystander also right?

MR. CROWLEY: No, they were employees. One employee made two telephone calls that were received by Paul Murray and the other one was received by my girlfriend, Jo Irvine. She was the one that actually stated that there was an officer being assaulted. The other two phone calls just registered casual conversations.

We need a cruiser at Mt. Tom.

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| KRISTI: | But Paul | Murray didn't | actually come down and help you. |
| He just | stayed by | the telephone. | Have you talked with him about |

that afterwards? Why he didn't come and help you?

MR. CROWLEY: I didn't have to say anything to Paul Murray because last time I saw Paul Murray the next day, the story was around then that he helped out and that he got beat up and he was just like a glory hound I guess, you know, one that's happy when it stands in the background and watches what goes on but he'll tell everybody else he got involved. And he's supposed to be

involved with all the fancy fighting stuff. He had his reasons I

guess.

KRISTI: Did you say anything to him?

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MR. CROWLEY: No, I didn't say anything to him. I had to work with the guy and the episode was over. We had six of them under arrest, so the episode was over with.

KRISTI: So is he still there? Do you still work with him?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I don't. I left Mt. Tom. This happened in May and I left Mt. Tom a year later in June. I work for an all-girl school now.

KRISTI: Where do you work now? MR. CROWLEY: McDuffy for Girls.

KRISTI: I see. And what are you doing there?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm Superintendent of the buildings and grounds. KRISTI: I see, yeah. Is it a little safer?

MR. CROWLEY: When you work with 7th through 12th graders, I

don't know. Yeah, it is safer there but •••

KRISTI: Yeah. I have a 6-year-old that's pretty rough and tough. I don't know what a 7th grader's like but

MR. CROWLEY: Well, the girls there are ... I never worked with a group of girls before like this. It's a small private school. They keep me busy. Oh, they really do.

KRISTI: So you stayed at Mt. Tom for about one more year after this happened?

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KRISTI: The kids, you mentioned they were from a town nearby about 35 miles away?

MR. CROWLEY: 35 miles away called Spencer.

KRISTI: Called Spencer. What kind of background were they

from? Were they sort of working-class kids that are used to ••• ?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. It seems like during the court session that the seven of them, seven out of the nine, worked at a drywall place, a drywall manufacturing company in Spencer. It's a large employer. The only two that didn't were the two girls. One girl was only 17 years old and she was the girlfriend of Michael Bean and the other one was a 17-year-old girl also and she was the girlfriend of John Goddett.

KRISTI: What happened at the trial? What happened to the kids?

MR. CROWLEY: At the trial, only two were charged with assault and battery on a police officer because those were the only two that were involved actually as far as assault and battery.

Goddett and Bean were both charged with assault and battery on a police officer. Goddett was charged with attempted vehicular

How do I say it? He was trying to run me down. Assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. And Michael Bean was charged

with assault and battery on a police officer and assault and battery on myself.

KRISTI: What happened to them?

MR. CROWLEY: This was Bean's second offense. He was on probation for two years for assault and battery on a police officer. He was given three months in jail, $250 fine, $250 retribution charge to Mt. Tom.

KRISTI: That's all?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. And Goddett was given 10 days in jail and a

$250 fine, $250 retribution charge to Mt. Tom. Mt. Tom sued him for disruption of business. And the other people were given

Oh, yeah, they all received two years' probation also on top of their present jail sentences.

KRISTI: How did you feel about that sentence? Did that ••• ?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I was happy with it· because even though I would have like to have seen Goddett serve a little longer time in jail, I was happy because for a while there in court, it got to be ••• I had to rake it off. I really did. I had there's any risk left.



KRISTI: Really. Why is this? Did they have a good lawyer or something or what?

MR. CROWLEY: Funny thing about it, the lawyer didn't say anything during the whole court proceeding. They just asked a couple of questions and in regard to the event they didn't do any heavy cross-examination. They just asked a couple of questions

but they were going after like Goddett just got through college

and Bean was the father of a baby by his girlfriend and, you know, trying to go up the old hard streak. Then the judge surprisingly took a recess right in the middle of the trial and we had to wait around for like three hours and were called back and we finished the trial right after that and that's when he gave his sentence after the trial was over with. Everybody else was given ••• The other people involved, the other seven that were involved, were given $250 fines, two years' probation and

$250 retribution charge to Mt. Tom.

KRISTI: Was the recess related to the trial in any way? MR. CROWLEY: We never found out.

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KRISTI: Was it a jury trial or a judge?

MR. CROWLEY: It was just a judge trial. One thing the judge did ask us if we wanted the trial bound over to .•• well, actually

the defendants' attorneys asked the judges if they wanted the trial bound over to a grand jury and they declined it because they knew that if they went through a jury trial that they would

have received a heavier sentence. We were hoping that they would say yes.

KRISTI: You were hoping they would say yes.

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. Oh, yes. We wanted to get a heavier sentence. But we were all happy with it. I think we just made our point that you can't come to Mt. Tom and you can't do this

and just think you're going to leave. They spent 10 days in jail

or three months in jail and they got two years' probation. KRISTI: Have you seen the boys later?

MR. CROWLEY: No, they were barred from Mt. Tom ski area. They have a restraining order against them that we got in the court. They were never to step foot in Mt. Tom ski area for a period of five years.

KRISTI: But did they ever come up and say gee they were sorry they did it or anything like that?

MR. CROWLEY: No. In fact, one of the kids came and gave me dirty looks. Goddett gave me dirty looks. During the trial, everything I said he was talking to the lawyer, shaking his head, no that's not the way it happened. In fact, at one point the judge asked if he had any problems with my testimony and then he leaned over and started talking to the lawyer and turned around and said no. I don't think he agreed with what we were saying.

KRISTI: Did they threaten you in any way during the trial?

MR. CROWLEY: Not at all. We sat at one end of the courtroom and they sat at the other end of the courtroom and it was just more like staring at each other.

KRISTI: How did you feel when all this was happening?

MR. CROWLEY: My thought about the whole thing was first of all I could not sit with the people not getting involved. I can't understand Why didn't I get involved, and except for this one person who backed his truck up which I understand that the guy

was in his 60s. There's no way he could have done anything. I just didn't like to get near the gun first of all. I hate guns. Hand guns. I didn't like the idea of the gun being pulled out of the holster. I didn't the idea at all of police officers being assaulted. And I just really didn't like these kids at all but, you know, the looks on their faces were like they were just

trouble-makers anyway and I didn't like the odds of 9 to 1. 9 to

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2 is not good odds either but a lot better than 9 to 1. But I knew the police officer too. If I didn't know the police officer, still I would have done the same.

KRISTI: Would you? So it wasn't the fact that you knew him that was relevant.

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: You didn't have any feelings about some of the other

Mt. Tom employees who did so little to help?

MR. CROWLEY: Paul Murray, I tolerate him.

for 11 years and I just tolerate the guy.

I've worked with him

He's a know-it-all.

He's brags a lot. A lot of the things he says, you can count on

99% not being true.

KRISTI: But if he would have put a call through properly right away, the police might have gotten there by that ..• yeah, earlier.

MR. CROWLEY: He probably just didn't know how to make the proper telephone call to the police department. But we did hear the tapes afterward. Down at the police station afterward, we did hear the tapes.· They played the tapes back and forth and it was definitely him.

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| KRISTI: | You | said it was your girlfriend at the ski resort who |
| actually | did | place the call that got the police to come. |

MR. CROWLEY: Right. She's the bar manager. The bar is outside and she did make the phone call and heard her state This is Jo Irvine, the bar manager from Mt. Tom ski area. We have some truism up here. Get here right away. We have a police officer who is being attacked by some youths. And then one of them called a code 50. That means everybody's responding •..

KRISTI: I see. But you don't feel bitter at all that none of the bystanders or any of your fellow employees came to help.

MR. CROWLEY: No. In fact, I find it quite humorous afterward because after it was done, in fact the next day, everybody was saying Well, if I would have known that this was happening, and I would have come in if I would have known that this was happening, and I would have done this, and I just say Well, why didn't the hell you guys come in? You knew what was happening because you were no more than 50 feet from the incident. Even though you couldn't see it, you could sure hear it. But the General Manager there, Dave Moore, he never even once acknowledged that that episode even happened up there. He was worried about getting bad press. When the article broke in the paper the next Monday of

the police officer and myself, he was more worried about this giving Mt. Tom a bad name. Well, it should give Mt. Tom a good name because at least they know that if there is trouble up there

that you have employees who will help you but he didn't think about that. He was more worried about all the people who aren't going to bring their kids up here anymore because of what happened. And the only congratulations I ever heard him say to anybody was to the operator of the chair lift that the operator of the chair lift stayed by and kept the lift running.

KRISTI: He didn't say anything to you? Not even a thank you? MR. CROWLEY: No, he never said anything to me. Never has.

KRISTI: It seems strange to me but I guess people are

different. You were hurt in this weren't you? MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I received three broken ribs.

KRISTI: You had three broken ribs. Were you *in* the hospital for a while or .•• ?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I received hospitalization at the Holy Oak Hospital and apparently it was just the broken ribs. They just bandaged me up and gave me some medication for pain and told me that if I have any problems, any coughing up blood or anything like that, that I should return back to the hospital.

KRISTI: I see. Can you tell me a little bit more about yourself in terms of your own background, particularly anything that you think might be relevant in helping me understand what there was

in your background that might have meant that someone like you would do this whereas somebody else wouldn't do it.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I don't think there's any one particular thing in my background. You know, as I told you I'm 37 years old, I single, I work at an all-girls school, I'm a Vietnam veteran, and most of my jobs have just been ••. My longest employment has been at Mt. Tom. I've been there for 11 years. And I think the reason why I did this is because I just don't like this kind of thing happening. It just gets my adrenaline

going. That's one of the things that one of the people were there said that the only reason why I tackled this kid who was

6'311 and outweighed me was because I had the adrenaline going and

KRISTI: You didn't really think about your safety when you went in and did this?

MR. CROWLEY: No I didn't. I just ..• KRISTI: It was just instinct?

MR. CROWLEY: More or less, yeah, because I didn't ••• First of all, I did not like what was going on. It's not what I like and

I just wanted to go after it and try to correct it and these kids here just got my adrenaline going, especially being hit. I don't like being hit and if he's going to do so he can do it to my

face, not behind my back. That's what was happening because these guys were kicking me in the ribs, they were punching me in the head, or kicking in the head, or kicking me in the back or whatever, and it was just like When I turned around, I didn't know which one was which because they were back in the crowd. The crowd was that close. The crowd was no more than two feet away from us at that time.

KRISTI: Do you think your Vietnam experience had anything to do with it? You know, the fact ... Had you been trained? What did you do in Vietnam?

MR. CROWLEY: I was with the First Calvary and probably it did, you know. It's kind of hard to say really. You know, I thought about this because I received a questionnaire in the mail and I thought what caused me to do this and I don't think it was any experiences in Vietnam but it was just ... I don't know. I just didn't like the idea of one person getting beat up like that.

KRISTI: Have you had anything like this happen before where you were involved in a situation where you helped someone like this?

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MR. CROWLEY: No. No, never before.

KRISTI: And you don't think the Vietnam training had anything to do with it.

MR. CROWLEY: Not really because ...

KRISTI: It sounds as if what you're saying is that you just saw something happening. Did you realize right away there was some problem over there?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yeah. When I saw the crowd move, I knew there was a problem over there but what it was I had no idea. I thought it was maybe just two youths fighting.

KRISTI: I see. And then when you saw what was happening, it was just total instinct that took over? Is that what you're saying?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah and also probably for other reasons. Probably for a lot of respect for law and order. I mean, you've got a policeman here, I mean It's a different story. Like if you're in trouble, the first person who calls the police, there's no reason why you should take it out on the police because he wants to do his job even though you ••• I mean, if the -kid just said okay I'm going, everything would have been fine but he was just a wise-ass little kid, just wanted to like play big man to his friends and that I can take care of this guy, you're not

going to kick me out. See back in Mt. Tom, that was my area. You know, it was like somebody coming into your house at night, you're not going say Come on in, you're welcome if a guy's breaking into your house. Well, to me Mt. Tom was my little area. I work up there. I almost lived up there really. In fact, I lived right at the bottom of the mountain. So to see

somebody intrude into my area and do this, I just didn't like it.

KRISTI: You think you would have done the same thing if it had been, you know, you'd been a tourist in New York city and saw something like this though?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, definitely. Yeah, I would do this if the event ever occurred again. Oh, definitely I would.

KRISTI: I see. Can you tell me something about where you grew up, where you were from, your family, things like this?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, I grew up in, well in this area here, in what they call Chicopee-Holy Oak-Springfield area. I educated all in Chicobee schools, public schools, and I spent

KRISTI: Chicopee? Is that what you said? Chicopee?

MR. CROWLEY: Chicopee. C-h-i-o-p-e-e. And I attended the community college here. It got my degree in Arts and Science.

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KRISTI: I'm sorry. Where did you go to school?

MR. CROWLEY: Holy Oak Community College. And my parents are divorced and I have four other brothers. I don't mean to belittle. Having four brothers is [chuckle] and being number 4.

KRISTI: You grew up seeing lots of fights and getting involved in things.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. a lot of jokes. A lot of pranks too. My parents are both dead now. My father died I think in January of '86. My mother died January of '87. They died almost a year apart from each other.

KRISTI: So your mom was still alive when this happened but your dad had died.

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KRISTI: I see. So you were the fourth child and family of all boys. I'm just thinking about your poor mother. I have two boys and I can hardly keep up with mine. I don't know what it would

be like .••

MR. CROWLEY: There's five of us. I have myself and there's four brothers so there's five of us.

KRISTI: That's five. That's a lot. That's a lot of boys. can you tell me whether or not there was anybody when you were growing up that was real important in your development.

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, my father. Definitely my father.

KRISTI: What was your father like and how did he influence you? MR. CROWLEY: He always showed us what was the right way to do

things and what was the wrong way to things. Like when we were younger, we were a very religious family. We all went to Catholic churches together. I learned how to play golf with my father. Most things I learned I learned from my father, you know, as far as repairing anything, working on cars. My father showed me how to do a lot of stuff and he was very supportive of

me when I was a kid. When I was an adult, he was very supportive of me. He always gave me advice, good advice, as far as when I went to Vietnam, he was ••• Even though there were a lot of people against it, he was for it.

KRISTI: Were you drafted or did you enlist in Vietnam?

MR. CROWLEY: I enlisted. Well, I enlisted into the service. When I got out of high school, I attended college in September and I just didn't have the .•• I attended it but I really didn't want to apply myself to it.

KRISTI: This must have been when, around '72, '73 when you graduated from high school?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I graduated in '68.

KRISTI: Oh, '68. Oh, right. So Vietnam was still going pretty strong then wasn't it?

MR. CROWLEY: Right. I was in Vietnam from '69 to '70. He always told me that if I wasn't ready for college, which I

wasn't, that I should consider going into the service even though the chances of going to Vietnam were very high, he said you

should go and serve and that would give you like the leeway of deciding what you do when you get out. And so I did. I went to a division of the service worked with the war defense for

the missiles. But I still was sent to Vietnam.

KRISTI: Were you out in the field? Did you actually get involved in any combat?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I was with the First Cavalry Air ••• First

Air Cavalry it's called.

KRISTI: Where were they stationed?

MR. CROWLEY: My god, our main base was Cameron Bay. That's where all the helicopters came out of. We worked out of mostly out of Cason which is in the northern part of South Vietnam. It was kind of like a second base to us. Cameron Bay was actually our traditional base. That's where •••

KRISTI: And what were the actual dates that you were in the service then?

MR. CROWLEY: I was at Cameron Bay. It's quite a distance from

Cason. Quite a distance.

KRISTI: And you were working primarily with nuclear weapons doing programming and things like that?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I was an Evaluator ••• When I got out of Vietnam, I was stationed in Miami. I was with the 52nd Air Defense and Artillery and I was an Evaluator and what I did was I just travelled around to different, just was assigned to a

station down and through Miami and sometimes I even went to other states and we lost the operation of them tearing down a nuclear warhead and lost a missile and doing their maintenance on it and putting it back together again.

KRISTI: But in Vietnam itself, you weren't actually out in the bush with, you know, a rifle fighting ••• ?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, sure were. KRISTI: Oh, you were.

MR. CROWLEY: We were more or less reconnaissance. Yeah, we flew

with the helicop ••• We flew out of Cameron Bay and a helicopter dropped us off at the field and then we were picked up days later.

KRISTI: Oh, boy. Did you see a lot of action there? MR. CROWLEY: I saw my share.

KRISTI: Were you injured at all in Vietnam?

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: No. You were lucky I guess. Let's go back to your dad. Can you tell me a little more about him? What did he do?

MR. CROWLEY: My father was the Vice-President of Engineering for a local company here. I lived with my father after my parents were divorced. I lived with my mother for a while.

KRISTI: How old were you when your parents were divorced?

MR. CROWLEY: I was in the 5th grade so I think probably whatever

5th grader is today. KRISTI: About 12 huh?

MR. CROWLEY: It would have to be about 10 years old, about '59

to '60. I have a younger brother who is 28. My mother gave both of us up. We were in an orphanage here for a year called Our

Lady of Providence Home for Children. We were put for, well not for adoption. She gave us to the state. We became wards of the State. We were in an orphanage for a year during that time my family was split up. My oldest brother was in the service in Vermont. My other brother, the reason I keep in contact is due

to the fact that my mother remarried and her husband at times did

not want us kids around and he especially didn't want my father around so he was My mother was able to get a restraining order which was made up falsely to keep my father away from us. So we had no contact with my father and I had no contact with my

brothers, so when we were placed in an orphanage, the only person who knew that we were there was my mother. My brothers did not know where we were. They had no contact with her.

KRISTI: Where were the second and third brother? You said the older one was in the Army. Where were the second and the third brother during this ..• ?

MR. CROWLEY: The second brother -- that's Jack -- he lived in Westfield, which is about 50 miles from us, because every time he came over to the house, my mother's husband would start fights

with him him so Jack never came over to the house. My brother Richard, he was in a what they call a training school for boys. It's a reform school. He was put into reform school because my mother's husband assaulted him one night and my brother Richard beat him over the head with a cane and because he was charged he was put into a reform school. And so the only one left at home was myself and Jimmy, with my younger brother. Jimmy was a

little over a year old, almost 2 I think it was. We were both in this orphanage.

KRISTI: How long did you actually live with your mom then after your parents separated and divorced?

MR. CROWLEY: About two years.

KRISTI: So you mom and dad were divorced around when you were 10 and then when you were 12, your mother put you in an orphanage basically. And you were there for a year. And then what

happened? Did your father find out about it? Did you have his address? Did you not write to him or anything?

MR. CROWLEY: I did not know where my father was. We were not told where he was. It wasn't until ••• by accident because Jack had to come over to the house for something and he was looking

for us and my mother didn't tell him where we were. But a neighbor who saw my brother Jack at the store one day said Did you hear about your brothers, but we were already in the orphanage six months, and that's when he found out about it and

he came up one night. I remember the night he came up and wanted

to see us and the sister who was in charge of the place wouldn't allow him to see us, but the head priest, Father Jacoby his name was, he granted because he knew the circumstances and that's when we did finally see my brother after six months. During that

time, it was just Jimmy and I. We were in different buildings together. Jimmy was in, of course, the toddlers and I was in with the teenagers. Jack was able to locate Bob and the following weekend Bob came down.

KRISTI: Bob is your oldest brother.

MR. CROWLEY: Oldest brother, right. And then they were able to find my father and locate my father and bring me stuff.

KRISTI: What happened then?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, my father finally came down and he went to court. He tried to get custody of us but it was not granted.

KRISTI: Why -- I'm sorry to ask you about this. This must be painful for you. I apologize.

MR. CROWLEY: That's alright.

KRISTI: But please tell me if I ask you anything that's too difficult to talk about. Why was your father not granted custody? I don't If you mother •••

MR. CROWLEY: I have no idea because I was only 12 years old then. I have no idea. But we were, this is after about a year being up there, we were able to leave the place back into the custody of my mother who was now separated and divorcing my stepfather. And we were granted back. The restraining order was removed from my father, which I understand was ... If my mother wanted us kids back, she had to remove this restraining order

from my father which she did. And we lived with my mother from

the 7th grade until I was in 8th grade. We lived with my mother for almost a year. And in the summertime, I would go to Vermont to be with my brothers. My two brothers and I would go up there for the summer and Richie was out of reform school then. As soon as he turned 16, they released him. He went back so there was three of us, myself, Richard and Jimmy. And Jimmy and I would go to Vermont every summer to be with my two older brothers who were married at the time and lived up in Vermont. And it wasn't until one day when it was time for me to come back home to go to

school ••• My father used to come up, pick us up, and drive us

on this bus six hours from here. It wasn't until then that my father told us that we would now be living with him because he went to court. He got custody of myself and Jimmy and Richard

and from then on I lived with my father. I was in 8th grade actually.

KRISTI: Do you still live with your father now? No, after your father died but did you live with him then up until the time he died?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I moved out.

KRISTI: You moved out when you were in college.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, when I came down and went on to college. KRISTI: Are you close to your mother? How did you feel about

all this?

MR. CROWLEY: I lived with my f ••• My mother took ill back in

1980 and she took ill, she had cancer and she had her voice box removed, and so I moved in with her. I lived there for five years with her and we never discussed anything about what happened in the past. I figured that she had her reasons even though I thought they were wrong. We just never discussed it.

It was just something that happened. You weren't going to change your mother how long you discuss it. You can discuss it until

you turn blue in the face but it was just never brought up and

KRISTI: So basically, you forgave her for what she did ... ?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. I figured she was suffering enough with cancer and she developed respiratory problems and so she dealt with the respiratory problem. During the last year of her life,

I didn't have that much contact with her because I disagreed with her on a lot of things that she did. At that time, I was married and my wife and I were separated and she wanted me to move

around. She was getting a job as a Manager for a department and she was going to be transferred every six months and I just could not see being transferred every six months.

There was other reasons though. We separated but it seemed like my mother always stuck her nose in my business and many times I told her to keep your nose out of my business, she always stuck her nose in my business. She saw me someplace, she was the first

one to call my wife up and tell her and so the last year of her

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| very little | contact with her. |  |  |  |

KRISTI: Do you have any children? MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: And you're not married now you said.

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: Let me ask you a few questions about how you view people's nature. Can you just tell me basically how you view human nature? Do you think people are self-interested? Other regarding? They take care of other people? How would you characterize man's nature? Is it a cold cruel world or are people nice to each other or what?

MR. CROWLEY: It all depends. I think people are more or less somewhat self-centered. They watch out for themselves.

KRISTI: Do you think they're essentially bad or good?

MR. CROWLEY: It's not that bad really. I mean, I know a lot of people ..• All my friends will be, all the friends that I have,

I mean, they always come if you needed them. I'm very cautious who I make friends with. I know a lot of people and a lot of people I just don't agree with what they do and what they stand for. A lot of them are just watch out for themselves and if they can get ahead by stabbing your back, they will, and a perfect example of this is Paul Murray at Mt. Tom. He would stab his own mother in the back just to be able to stand next to the General Manager. He worshiped the guy but he had ... When the General Manager wasn't around, Dave Moore, he would stab him right in the back too. Oh, well.

KRISTI: How do you explain why some people act that way and some people don't?

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MR. CROWLEY: I really don't know. I think that Paul Murray's one of these guys that have get a pat on the back every day to

say that he's doing a good job. He always had to be competent at what he does, or what he wears or, you know, everything. He has to be ••• If you have something that he likes, he says Gee

that's nice and he walks away, but then he goes down and says Did

you see what he just bought, you know, or what he's learned

today, but yet he had to be competent at everything he does. And he has to be the one ••• If you have a conversation, he knows more than you do. If you got bit by a horse once, he got bit by two horses. He always had to be one over on you. As far as mankind, I think human beings just watch out for themselves.

KRISTI: But how do you explain that some people are like that and other people are very forgiving? It seems as if you had at least not an easy childhood and yet you seem to bear no anger to your parents, to your stepfather, to any of these people.

MR. CROWLEY: Well probably because my father was the main influence on us. Bringing up five boys probably wasn't the easiest job and we just had our little share of troubles and we'd get into a lot of trouble and my father was the first one there

to forgive us. He always explained to us that, you know, Whatever I do for you, you better do for your kids. It's never brought up, you know. If someone does something wrong, you forgive them because it's not their fault.

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KRISTI: So you think you got that from your dad basically. MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yeah. Definitely.

KRISTI: Yeah. Do you think that people are essentially alone in

the world? You have to kind of take care of yourself?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I don't. If they are alone, it's their own problems. I mean it's their own fault. There's a lot of people around that, you know, that I know that feel they don't have any friends, and they do. You just have to be friendly to someone and that person will be friendly back to them.

KRISTI: You said you are rather choosey with friends but do you see yourself as part of a kind of cohesive community? You mentioned that you really loved Mt. Tom and you really felt that it was your place. Do you feel that way about the Duffy School now and you feel that you are a member of a group?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yeah. Definitely. Definitely; because I do a lot of stuff for the girls up there and they a lot of stuff for me.

KRISTI: Do they?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yeah. I chaperone dances for them and a lot of times I have to work by myself and if I need help carrying

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something or like that, they're always right there to say need some help with that or is there anything we can do to help you out today? The school is what they call self-help school. The girls have to be involved in the maintenance of the place too.

Not only myself but, you know, doing the job, but they have to be involved a place and they come by and they ask me can I paint rooms or paint stairs or clean carpets and stuff like that. And what I understand that the last superintendent they

had there, the girls would do nothing for this guy, because he always walked around and he wouldn't say hi to them, wouldn't even talk to them, and always had this strange look on his face like they disliked him royally that they didn't even trust him. And one girl said he was weird. But for myself, they seem to be very friendly to me and I feel whenever I can just call on any one of them and know they're right there to help me.

KRISTI:

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KRISTI: What I'm hearing you say that is that you think if you're nice to people, they're nice to you back basically.

MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

KRISTI: How about social responsibility to help other people? Do you think people have a social responsibility to help others in need?

MR. CROWLEY: They should have it. They should have it .•.

KRISTI: Do you feel you have a strong social responsibility?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yes, because right now I'm working ... Yes, because right now there is something that might happen at the apartment complex I'm living at and I'm going to get involved in it because I disagree with with it. I disagree with it totally what's going to happen here.

KRISTI: What is this that's happening?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, we had a tenant here last year and he used to get more traffic in 45 minutes than I got in two years of living here and

KRISTI: You mean more people coming to see him or ... ? MR. CROWLEY: Yeah but they weren't staying very long. KRISTI: Right. I know what you mean.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, they weren't staying, and finally he moved

out and moved to Florida and just my casual conversation with friends of mine that are policemen, I mention to them about it one day and the following day somebody's tires up here were slashed. This is a very quiet, a very small apartment complex. It's right at the base of a mountain. There's only 56 units here. And we're away from the city. We're away from all the

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| noise and the people here respect each other's privacy | but are |  |
| still friendly, and this guy was a complete turnaround | to us. | He |

was having all these people come up and •.. KRISTI: Do you think he was doing drugs?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. Oh, yeah. I was sure he was doing it. You don't get that many visitors in 45 minutes that don't stay more than two minutes. So somebody's tires were slashed up here

and ... this was after I told the police. You know, a friend of

mine is a cop and he came up here one day and he was responding to the call of tires being slashed and it was like about two weeks later, he said is that guy who slashed the tire, is he the person with the company? I goes yeah. He said you know who he is? And I said no I don't know who he is but said get me his license plate number off his car which was right across the street and so I said yes. And come to find out he was suspected of being a drug dealer. In another city here, Agowom, the head

of the Narcotics Bureau wanted to use my bedroom, which overlooks

the parking lot, as a surveillance post, and I was sure go right ahead. And they were going to do it but they had to call it off because apparently the Federal Government had them under surveil• lance in Agowom and so finally had to drop off but the kid got away. They couldn't prove anything on him because all the dealings were being done out of here. So the kid went to Florida and he came back and now he's moving in here again. He's sup• posed to be in this weekend but he hasn't moved in yet.

KRISTI: So what are you doing? Are you working with the police?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. Oh, yeah. They know he's moving back up

here and they asked if they could use this house again and I said sure, you're more than welcome to because I just don't buy

that This is a nice community here. We have people here

that go around and plant flowers around the area just to make it look nice. They take care of their own little cubical of land they own or they rent and We have one guy here that painted half these buildings free of charge because he liked the area here.

KRISTI: Really. You mean it's a small community that you live in?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. Well, what we call our own community is our little of apartment complex. This is our own little private community. As I said, people are very friendly arid they respect your privacy and you respect their privacy but if you're out there shoveling you car off, they'll come out and help you. It's very small. It's probably one of the ... And on top of that, what makes this place so unique is that it's the last in Holy Oak. This is the last area in Holy Oak. Holy Oak has a very large population of Puerto Ricans and it seems to me that there's always some trouble in Holy Oak with Puerto Ricans. I'm

not being prejudiced. It's just there are ... And it seems like where they live, they destroy most of the area they live in.

This is one of the last few places you can go in Holy Oak. It's right here. It's quiet. We are surrounded all by mountains and it's a beautiful area.

KRISTI: This an Anglo area basically that you live in. MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KRISTI: How about when you help other people though, what about if it hurts somebody that you love? Did that go through your mind when you were going through the crowd, you know, that your girlfriend might be upset if something happened to you or that you dad I'm sorry. You said your mother was still alive. Did you think about that at all? Your brothers? That if anything happened to you, you might I have the impression you're very close to your brothers. Is that right?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. Now we are because we are the last. I mean, I shouldn't say the last but there's no one else around.

KRISTI: Did you worry at all about Jimmy for example? He's still kind of young. Did you worry about what would happen to him if anything happened to you?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I did not, but I did realize something is that they were all supportive of me. My girlfriend was very proud.

My brothers were very proud. My brother Bob who owns a store

clipped out all the articles in the newspaper on me and everybody who comes into the Shell store, he shows them this is my

brother. They were all very supportive of me and very proud of what I did.

KRISTI: But you didn't worry about your own physical welfare when you went in here to rescue Dave Poole.

MR. CROWLEY: It didn't even dawn on me. I didn't even think of it. I hate to say it but I didn't even think of it.

KRISTI: How would you describe yourself? Are you somebody who's willing to take responsibility in situations?

MR. CROWLEY: Definitely. Definitely. I would like to be held accounted for for everything I've done.

KRISTI: Are you a self-confident person in general?

MR. CROWLEY: In general, yes. Yes, I know what my abilities are. I know I could at least come to the aid and help Dave Poole.

KRISTI: How about tolerant of other people?

MR. CROWLEY: Very low. That's a joke at McDuffy, my tolerance, because that seems to be like every day there's a new word up

there and up until Friday was tolerance. My tolerance are getting very low! [chuckles]

KRISTI: Well, you said you don't like people pushing other people around or being on drugs •..

MR. CROWLEY: No, I don't. No. I do not like that. I have no compassion for these people at all. I hate to say it, but if they had open season on drug dealers, you know for like deer hunting, I'd be first one out there. I have no tolerance with them. I just •••

KRISTI: How about the standard kinds of questions on tolerance? You know, people that are different. I mean, do you have any friends who are different religions, friends from different ethnic groups or racial groups? Things like that?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yes. Yes, definitely.

KRISTI: That doesn't bother you. It's just people who hurt other people that you don't like.

MR. CROWLEY: Right. Right.

KRISTI: Would you characterize yourself as a rugged individualist or a leader or a follower or a loner?

MR. CROWLEY: Somewhere in the middle of the road of all that. As far as leading, most of my jobs have been supervisory positions or being the do what I say. As far as being a follower, I can't say I'm a follower, no, because I go my own way.

KRISTI: But it sounds as if ... Would you characterize yourself as somebody who marches to his own drummer?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, definitely.

KRISTI: But it sounds like you still have a very strong sense of a group, of membership in a group and community, that that's important to you.

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. Yes, I do. I said that the people that hang around are more or less in the same category that I am if that's the right word, category. We do a lot of things

together. We have in the wintertime ••• because we're all

roughly right around the same age and we've known each other probably longer than you'd want to ever admit to anybody.

KRISTI: You're not that old.

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| MR. CROWLEY: | No, but we've known each other for quite | a few |
| years, I mean | a lot of them since high school and then | even |
| before then. | We have our own little more like a click | like. |

Well, we allow other people to come into it. In the wintertime,

we have to do something together. We start our own bowling

'

league. In the warmer months, we start our own golf leagues.

Then when golf ends, we go right into bowling. When bowling ends, we go right into golf.

KRISTI: You sound like you're a very physically active person. MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

KRISTI: Are you an optimistic person about things? About the

world in general?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I think it's going to get better. KRISTI: Are you passive or do you think of yourself as a

strong-willed person, kind of takes charge? MR. CROWLEY: Right. Yeah, I am.

KRISTI: You think that you're strong-willed then, not passive.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

KRISTI: You mentioned before that you have a very strong respect for the law and would you characterize yourself as someone who's patriotic?

MR. CROWLEY: Definitely, yes. In fact, last week ..• People can't understand this but it made my day. We had President Reagan come to Springfield, which is the next city over. That would be the city where I work. Even though I did not get a chance to see him, I did see the airplane, and that was a thrill because .I've only seen it on TV before. I saw it fly over the campus and it was great. I just saw it fly over. And I waited for them to leave so I could run outside and look up in the sky and I saw it leave because ... I saw it twice in one day and it was a thrill.

KRISTI: Are you a big Reagan supporter? MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I am.

KRISTI: You have any politics at all? Are you a Republican in

general or ••. ?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I'm independent.

KRISTI: Independent, yeah. Do you have any preferences in the upcoming elections?

MR. CROWLEY: Not really. Not right now, no, considering that our Governor is running for President, Dukakis.

KRISTI: Yeah, he's doing pretty well.

MR. CROWLEY: That's not going to ... That doesn't mean he's going to· get my vote. I do like Reagan due to the fact that I think he put a lot of pride back into the country. I think he has. He hasn't done .•• I mean, he's done some screwy things

but I think he did put a lot of pride back into the country, made people feel proud of themselves again.

KRISTI: Now, I'm struck by the fact that you have such a strong respect for the law and the legal system in general. You mentioned that you went into save a policeman because you think that's important, but at the same time you were kind of knocked around by the legal system. The court basically took you away from your dad and put you in a situation where you were with a stepfather who sounds as if he wasn't the best thing in the world

for you and then you were put away in an orphanage for a year. I

find that kind of a contradiction in terms of your own personal experiences.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, as far as the legal system goes, it has it's problems. What I have the respect for are the people that enforce it, such as the policemen. As far as the judges go and

the lawyers, that's I think we could do better without a lot

of them. As far as the policeman goes, he's the first step in the legal system. He's the person you see the most. You very seldom see a judge unless you go in front of him or you know one. As far as the policemen go, you see them all the time.

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That's why I have the respect for the law enforcement agencies and the police.

KRISTI: I see. So you do have a lot of respect for the law. And do you love your country?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

KRISTI: Yeah. Do you think of yourself as a brave person? MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: No? To go in when the odds are about 9 to 1 and try to save somebody, you don't •.. ?

MR. CROWLEY: No, because it was probably the principle of the whole thing is that going back to having respect for the law, hav~ng respect for the policemen. The policeman is only a person who wears a uniform. Underneath that, he's just like me. And even if it wasn't a policeman, if it was just a regular citizen that was being assaulted, I would have done the same thing too.

~ISTI: You don't think that's brave?

MR. CROWLEY: I don't know what you would call it. The reporters from the papers came and they asked me the same question too and

I said I really didn't stop to think about it. I just saw

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something that was going on that I do not like and I just jumped into it. Call it brave or whatever you want. I just saw something I didn't like.

KRISTI: That's interesting.

MR. CROWLEY: To me, someone being brave is probably, oh my god, it's like my idea of a hero, okay. It probably Just recently, that 737 Aloha Airlines, now that was a hero. I mean, you know, I would even hate to be anywhere, never mind flying a plane, I'd hate being on the ground to see the thing come off, the roof come off the plane. Alright, that is my idea of a

hero. I don't consider myself a hero. I just saw something

I never even expected any awards out of this thing. It just blew right up, you know •••

KRISTI: But really what he did .•• He was already in a situation. If he didn't do anything, he was going to die and everybody else and you were in a situation where you were perfectly safe. You didn't have to do anything and you wouldn't have been affected by it, but the fact that you did do something did put you into jeopardy, into danger. They could have beaten you up. You didn't know what was going to happen. Yeah, you don't see that what you did was brave at all.

MR. CROWLEY: No, I don't know what you would call it. I just don't like the word probably brave or you're a hero. I just don't like the words.

KRISTI: Okay, that's fine. Listen, are we wearing you out? MR. CROWLEY: Nope.

KRISTI: Okay, this is great. You tell me when you get tired. Do you think you have any personal ethical credo which guides your life? Any set of ethics? Any kind of beliefs that you try to live your life by like, you know, do unto others or something like that?

MR. CROWLEY: No, not really. I'm really proud of my nation. I

just like being friendly to people.

KRISTI: You were in a catholic home. Did that affect you at all? Are you a religious catholic still?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I have no preference now in religion. I got out of the Catholic religion. I just disagree with what they were preaching.

KRISTI: I see. How did your rescuing Mr. Poole make you feel about yourself?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, definitely good. Yeah. Definitely good that I could come to his aid and help him out. We've become very good friends.

KRISTI: Were you surprised by this?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I was. The first award that I received was at a retirement dinner for retired policemen in Holy Oak and I received one award from them and I thought that was it, a

citation. I thought that was it. Then I received another one a

couple months later from ... I had to go to their annual convention in Hianis, down at Cape Cod, for the M Police Association and I was given a plaque by the Attorney General Elect. And then I thought well this could be the end of it. Then I received another award from the Western Massachusetts

Chief of Police Association, and then after that was the Carnegie one. I still have no idea who nominated me. They claim they

have no idea who nominated but I have an id ••. Well, somebody gave me one guess. I would guess who did it but

KRISTI: Who would you guess did it?

MR. CROWLEY: A guy by the name of Pat Higgins. He was the President of the Massachusetts Police Association. He's another policeman. I think it was him who nominated me for it.

KRISTI: And none of this had .•• The fact that you did all this didn't have any impact on your view of yourself at all?

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: You didn't think gee I'm a great person. I did all th ••• this nice thing?

. MR. CROWLEY: Well, I go around the house here and, you know, I go around the house and I tell everybody that you don't know who you're talking to. You're talking to the Carnegie hero award recipient for 1988. It's an honor to receive these awards. It's an honor to receive the press that you get, and it only happens, if you're lucky, once in your lifetime. So it's great to be acknowledged for something you have done. Right after, a TV station came up and interviewed me one night and I have a copy of the tape and I'll be I have a copy of the tape and everybody that comes over, let me show you this, and I throw it in~ It's like going to someone's house and watching home movies, you

know. Boring. But it was fun because the next day I went to the bank and people recognized me in the bank and they were saying congratulations and on the way back from the bank I stopped to

get a haircut and I was at a traffic light and this guy, I don't even know who he is, was in front of me and the traffic light looped and I was watching. He looked in his rearview mirror and he got out of his car. He came over and walked up to the car and he shook my hand and he said congratulations. I saw you on TV

last night. You did a good job. Thank you. And he got in his vehicle and he left. So it's great to have this notoriety, at least once, because people get to recognize you. But I think probably the biggest thrill is that when you're honored by the people, like who you work with. Mt. Tom never said anything about this whole thing.

KRISTI: They didn't talk about it.

MR. CROWLEY: No. I got the award. The girls were on Spring vacation. No, it was on Christmas vacation. When I came back, the head mistress got up there and announced to the school, explained the story, announced that I received the Carnegie hero award and I was given a rousing standing ovation. So, you know, it was an honor to receive it, not only to get the acknowledgment from your peers.

KRISTI: But that's the sort of praise and recognition but the actual act itself, did you feel you had done something that was a real good thing?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yes.

KRISTI: Was it important to you simply that somebody save

Mr. Poole or was it significant for you that you were the one who actually did it.

MR. CROWLEY: That someone did it.

KRISTI: That somebody did it. Do you believe in an afterlife?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, my. No. I wish there was but no I don't. No, I don't believe in an afterlife,'probably because of the reli• gious upbringing.

KRISTI: You've kind of rejected the religion.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, I have rejected the religion only in certain parts. It's like a lying veto, you know. Okay, you want to preach this, forget it. It's vetoed. I don't buy it. There are things that they learn being Catholic, being brought up Catholic, that they still do believe in and one of them, of course, that there is no •.• Well, of course, Catholic church doesn't believe that there is life after death. I have no proof there is and I have no proof that there's not. I will say I do not believe in

any of it.

KRISTI: Let me ask you a little bit more about your family.

When you were growing up until your parents got divorced, did you move around a lot or did you stay in the same community?

MR. CROWLEY: Stayed in the same community.

KRISTI: Was it a close-knit community? Small town?

MR. CROWLEY: No, Chicopee .•. Most of my life was spent in Chicopee. Chicopee was a very large community because when I was brought up they had a very large military base there and so there was a lot ...

KRISTI: So you didn't know a lot of the people in town. MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

KRISTI: And then obviously when your parents got a divorce, this was a pretty destabilizing event for you. Was there anything

else that happened that was a particularly destabilizing event in your past?

MR. CROWLEY: As far as them getting divorced, I never fully understood why they got divorced. It all depends on what member of the family you spoke with. When my mother was alive, she would say this and when my father was alive, he would say the

other things. As far as ••• The only thing I did understand was

their getting a divorce is really the conflict. The two parties that are involved in divorce have nothing nice to say about either one of them.

KRISTI: Was it an acrimonious divorce? MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

KRISTI: That must have hurt you.

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. I was nine going on ten then and Jimmy was

only a baby. He was very

around that time.

He was born in '59 or '60, right

KRISTI: Have you talked about it with your ex-wife, I mean having kind of gone through one yourself? Do you ••• ?

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: You did~'t think about that at all. MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: Is there anything else you can tell me about the divorce and how it affected you in any way?

MR. CROWLEY: Not really. It's just that that time was very confusing, you know, being ••. I mean, probably for my brothers, you know there were three who were older than I was, they understood it more. I did not understand it.

KRISTI: Was there anybody there for you during that hard time? Anybody who helped you in particular to get through it?

MR. CROWLEY: No. Well, you see yes there was. ·yes there was. One person, yes. I forgot all about her. How could I ever do that? My grandmother. Grandmothers are probably the greatest people in the world.

KRISTI: Well, I'll have to quote that one to my mother. She believes that.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. Grandmothers are the greatest people in the

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| world and | she was the only one •.. In fact, we lived | her, myself |
| and Jimmy  divorce. | lived with her for almost two months during  She was great to us. | the |

KRISTI: It was your mother's mother or your father's mother? MR. CROWLEY: My mother's mother.

KRISTI: And you were real close to her. Did she know about your being in the orphanage?

MR. CROWLEY: No, she did not. She didn't even know about it either until about six months later. She was one of the parties that came up. She was alone. My grandfather died some years before and she used to take buses to come up. She was just off Hadley. That's a pretty good size bus trip. When she'd take a cab, she'd come by Sundays with her little baked goods for us.

KRISTI: Is she still alive? MR. CROWLEY: No, she's not.

KRISTI: Was she alive when you got some of the recognition for the .•• ?

MR. CROWLEY: No. No, she died 1980.

KRISTI: Did she have any influence on you in terms of your development in particular?

MR. CROWLEY: No. The only thing my grandmother did to us is

give me her rocking chair. My grandmother got me into a habit of rocking when I was a kid. We used to go over to the house and I used to get in my rocking chair and I'd just sit there and just rock. And she used to tell us that rocking was one of the best thi~gs in life. When things are bothering you, you can sit there and rock.

KRISTI: You have her rocking chair now .•• ?

M:R. CROWLEY: I do.

KRISTI: You rock in it, yeah. Do you use it a lot?

MR. CROWLEY: No, one of my cats sleeps on it and when you get in the rocking chair, he comes over and he looks at you like what

are you doing here.

KRISTI: So you think your grandmother was there for you during this rough period but your dad was really the person who was more important in terms of your developing your values and your view

of the world. Is that what I'm hearing you say?

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KR+STI: You mentioned that you're a member of the housing

complex that you live in, apartment complex. Are there any other particular groups that are real important to you in terms of your identity? Right now, you mentioned that you have a group of friends you go bowling and golfing and things like that with.

Are there any particular groups that are important for you right

now?

MR. CROWLEY: Just the group at school.

KRISTI: Were there any groups that were important for you when you were growing up as a child?

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: Boy Scouts or anything like that?



MR. CROWLEY: No. Never in them.

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| KRISTI: And | I've already asked you about your | role models. That |
| was your dad | basically. Anybody else? |  |

MR. CROWLEY: Nope. I think my father was the main, for all my brothers, my father was the main person in our lives.

KRISTI: can you tell me a little bit more about the values that he taught you?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, my father was somewhat forgiving. As I said, bringing up five boys wasn't an easy job. Even when we lived

with him, there were .•• There were times we had our little

share of troubles, little bouts with the law, you know, just minor things where the police had to be involved, arid we'd be taken home and given the father lecture and then the whole subject was dropped. After that, it was okay. You made your

mistake, you're sorry, I forgive you, so we'll drop it. Don't do it again. That exactly ... That's the way he felt. I cannot remember even during the divorce, my father, really I never heard my father say anything mean about my mother. Maybe he hid it and never said anything to us about it and I never heard my father

say too many unpleasant words about anybody.

KRISTI: It sounds like your dad was an extremely patient, caring person then.

MR. CROWLEY: He was. He was quiet and he had a sense of humor. My father liked to tell a joke and even though he'd be the only person to laugh, he would laugh for an hour over it.

KRISTI: Doesn't sound as if he was a real stern, harsh disciplinarian.

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, no. He wasn't. No. I don't think my father's ever laid a hand on us. I can't remember my father even yelling at us.

KRISTI: How did he discipline you if he didn't ever yell at you or lay a hand on you? I'm asking ... Personally, it would be nice to know.

MR. CROWLEY: You always knew when he was upset with you. KRISTI: Did you? How did you know?

MR. CROWLEY: His face, you know, and probably one of the worst

things you could do to a person is give him the silent treatment

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| like | don't come near me, just leave me alone, and we knew | he was |
| mad. | And when he says you have hurt me and boy you could | really |
| feel | bad, you know? And that was it. |  |

KRISTI: He was an engineer. Had he been to college? Is he

a ..• ?

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MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

KRISTI: Can you characterize his particular philosophy of life or view of the world? Did it differ from yours in any signifi• cant way?

MR. CROWLEY: No. No, as a matter of fact ••• Well, in fact, I would think all my brothers are the same as he is. Well, there are some differences between all of us besides looks, but there's also differences between attitudes and things we should do. My father was ••• He was just so forgiving to people, you know? Someone would hurt him, he would let them know that he hurt him and he would just walk away and it was forgotten like it never even occurred. He had a way of making you feel bad. Just the look on his face, you could tell like oh, my God, I hurt him.

How could I do this to this poor guy.

KRISTI: How would you characterize his philosophy of life'then? MR. CROWLEY: My father's way of life was ... Well, the

following years of my father's life, he was a minister for

Jehovah Witnesses. He converted probably back when I was in the service, well since '70, and he was a minister to all the Witnesses. So he was always there to help people out. My father always liked to help people. In fact, the day he died, that's what he was doing at the time. One of his members of his congregation was .•• When he was at a meeting, a member of his

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congregation called and said that his wife could not come to the meeting because she was having a hard time breathing and he said I'd better call for an ambulance, she's really having a hard time breathing, so my father said okay I'll come right over. My

father got in his car with a friend of his and went to this person's house and the lady was definitely having a hard time breathing, and when the ambulance came there, my father stood up

to give the person a hand and he died of a heart attack.

KRISTI: When did he become a minister for Jehovah

. . . ?.

MR. CROWLEY: Back in 1970.

KRISTI: 1970. So you were basically kind of out of the house by that time?

MR. CROWLEY: Right. Right.

KRISTI: And you mentioned your grandmother. Was there anybody else *in* the family or anyone at all that you were particularly close to?

MR. CROWLEY: Just my father and my mother. Jimmy, well probably one other person, my brother Jimmy even though we were in ... We were more or less isolated. My mother was living with her second husband. Jimmy and I were isolated from the other members of the family who weren't allowed in the house. Jimmy and I were

honestly together. Every time I used to go out and shovel

people's driveways and make money, I'd take Jimmy with me and put him in the back of the sled, pull him around with me. We were in

Brison together. I was always up there every day. Before

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| school, we'd have | breakfast | and | even after school have dinner, |
| and then watch TV | together. | So | I was always there with Jimmy. |

KRISTI: Where was this?

MR. CROWLEY: He was only about a year old.

KRISTI: But where was this that you went to the ... ? You're talking about the orphanage?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

KRISTI: But when you were growing up, was there anybody in your family or a friend who helped other people like you said your dad did? Anybody else?

MR. CROWLEY: All my brothers are helpful. They are. The oldest brother is ••• If you come to him with a problem or needed something like money or whatever, he would say aw for crying out loud but he'd give you the shirt off his back. He'd complain but he'd help you out.

KRISTI: was there anybody that you think was particularly important in your becoming a rescuer and you emulated in some way?

MR. CROWLEY: Probably my father again. I just wish that he was alive to see these awards. I think he'd be extremely proud and I just wish he was alive to see these awards. I really do. It's

an honor to receive every one of them. It's honor to have the notoriety. I just wish he was alive to see this ..• This is my son.

KRISTI: You mentioned ••• I'm sorry. I'm getting confused here.

MR. CROWLEY: I hope I'm not doing it.

KRISTI: No, no, it's not you. I'm just thinking of so many things as you're talking. It's so interesting. I have so many questions to ask you. Did anybody else ... ? You said your

brothers and your dad kind of had a family tradition of helping

people. Have any of them ever been involved in this kind of situation where they were called upon to rescue someone else and did it?

MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: Now, let me just ask you a couple of questions about the situational factors when you actually saved officer Poole. You were in pretty good health?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

KRISTI: And how old were you, 35 when that happened or 34? MR. CROWLEY: Yes, 35.

KRISTI: Okay. And it was in May. Did you think about any of these things? You said it was a kind of a nonconscious act •. Nothing went through your mind in particular like oh my God I could get hurt or ..• ?

MR. CROWLEY: No, the only thing that went through my mind was getting that gun away from the kid. That was it. That was the only thing that was on my mind was get the gun away from the kid.

KRISTI: Was it a conscious choice to act or was it just kind of spontaneous and intuitive?

MR. CROWLEY: I knew that Dave needed the help. It was conscious. Also, I forgot to say one thing I was doing before this thing started off is that I was sleeping.

KRISTI: You were asleep?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I was in my office and I was sleeping. I had my feet up on the desk and I was leaning back in the chair and I was sleeping. The noise woke me up.

KRISTI: I see. So it really was totally nonconscious action here.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. I mean, there was so much noise you couldn't help but not hear it. I'm not a sound sleeper so •••

KRISTI: You are a sound sleeper? MR. CROWLEY: No, I'm not. No.

KRISTI: You're not. But were you supposed to be asleep while you were working?

MR. CROWLEY: No, not really, but what happened This. happened on a Sunday and my oldest brother owns a store and the store opens up very early in the morning, at 5 o'clock in the morning, and the local newspapers here you have to put them together on Sundays. And since he's been working the store for quite a few years by himself, he was getting sick so to give him time off, myself and my brother Jimmy decided that we would work in the store on Saturday and Sunday to give him the weekend off. He worked Monday through Friday so Jimmy worked Saturday and I worked Sunday so I was up since 3 o'clock in the morning and this

whole thing happened at about 2:30 to 3:00 it happened. So I was already up 12 hours and I probably went to bed late the night before so I didn't get that much sleep. So I was sleeping.

KRISTI: So you were asleep and you kind of heard the noise. Did you actually take much time to deliberate before .•• ?

MR. CROWLEY: I just looked my head out the window and I just happened to see these people. Everybody was standing up facing to where the trouble was and I just started walking out of my office real slow and I was walking across the front area of the

ski slope and then I heard the yelling and then I just started to run.

KRISTI: So you really didn't take any time to deliberate what you were going to do, you just kind of did it.

MR. CROWLEY: No, I just wanted to see what was going on and I

got at one corner of the area and I could see that Dave Poole was having a hard time with one of the youths and it wasn't until I came around the crowd and worked my way through the crowd that I did see the kid pulling out Dave's revolver and that's when I tackled him.

KRISTI: At that point you just moved fast. There was nothing conscious that went through your mind. You just sort of zipped in.

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MR. CROWLEY: Right. Right. I didn't even stop. I just came right through the crowd and just went right after the kid.

KRISTI: Because you thought it was the right thing to do or were there other emotions that were more important like it could be me there, it could be a brother of mine, somebody might need help? Was it mostly duty in other words or was there other ••. empathy, things like that?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, definitely because it was the right thing to do. To see this going on, it's something, you know •.• Like I told the reporters that have called here, it's something that you see in the paper or you hear on the news happening and then you see it in real life and it's entirely different than what they

say on TV or read a newspaper. It's finally happening. It's like watching Air Force One fly over. You see this thing on the TV every day, so you pick up a newspaper but you don't get a thrill out of it until after you actually see it flying

overhead. It's almost the same as that. That you see this stuff happening and it's not like they say it is on TV or on the radio or in the paper. It's

KRISTI: How is it different?

MR. CROWLEY: Because you're involved. You're right there when it happens. In fact, what I really started to stop and think about this whole thing wasn't until I think it was about six

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months afterwards that I was reading the paper about a Dallas policeman who was attacked by a bunch of youths. One of the youths was able to get the policeman's revolver out of his holster and he shot the policeman.

KRISTI: He was killed.

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. And there was a group of people around watching. That's when it finally I was involved in a situation similar to this and the policeman was alive. You know, he's still with us. Now he is not. That's when it actually made me stop and think saying wow I wouldn't do something like this. Why didn't these people act? Why didn't they ••. ? I mean if you've got 200 people and one guy's pulling a gun ••• I mean 200 to 1 is very good odds. I mean somebody could have done some• thing.

KRISTI: So it really was nonconscious action. It was not anything that went through in terms of a calculation of any kind that ..• it could be me, it could be my brothers, you just acted.

MR. CROWLEY: No. In fact, my younger brother Jimmy is a

part-time police officer in South Hadley, the town over, and that didn't even occur to me. I just saw the policeman being

assaulted. I knew that if the guy got the gun out that the policeman could have been shot and I didn't even stop and think. I just went right for the gun and ... I don't know how you can

explain it, but the only thing that occurred to me was that this guy needed help and these other 200 people are standing around watching this thing so somebody's got to be involved.

KRISTI: You didn't have any expectations about possible repercussions for the action or how it might affect you later or ... ?

MR. CROWLEY: No, none whatsoever. None whatsoever. KRISTI: You didn't expect any of the •••

MR. CROWLEY: I didn't expect any awards at all. I really didn't think it was that big of a deal really at the time.

KRISTI: Do you think now ..• A lot of people would say that

what you did was an extraordinarily good deed and that you should be rewarded for it.

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KRISTI: What do you think?

MR. CROWLEY:· Well, these people apparently think it's a good deed and I think it was a good deed too to do this considering what would have happened if I didn't come to his aid. That's the

scary part is what would have happened if I did not come to

Dave's aid.

KRISTI: But. what about the rewards that you've gotten. You feel you deserve those and that ..• ?

MR. CROWLEY: Uh •.. hum ... I think, well, not all of them. I mean, if the Chief of Police would have come up to me and said thank you, you did a fine job, I would have been happy.

KRISTI: How about Dave? Did he thank you? You said you're good friends now.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, definitely did. One thing that I think myself and a lot of police officers are also thinking about too that have come up to me after this event happened, even up to this year when I received the Carnegie award, like I've been

gradually Police officers that I don't even ... See,· I know

a lot up at Holy Oak from this event, but even the ones I do not know they say hey you're the one that's on the bulletin board in our roll call room. You know, what does it say? Wanted? No, congratulations. You know, even police officers when I received the award in Hianis, I thought I was going to be a politician because everybody was going around shaking my hand. The police probably through the state, I mean from Boston to small towns like Lee which are on the other side of the state, are congratu•

lating me for doing it and some of the police officers I've spoke

with down there, they've all had a situation where this has happened, so this is not something that's very uncommon. This occurs every day of the week. So for them being attacked is nothing but having someone come to their rescue is wow, this the greatest thing that ever happened, you know. You know, this guy is great. It's embarrassing. It really is. It's embarrassing. It's nice but it's embarrassing! You know, thank you, thank you, thank you. And I shook more hands that day and I don't know what the, you know ••• and I was invited to more parties after. The only thing wrong I had to drive back here.

KRISTI: Let me just try to capture some of what you said. You didn't really think of the potential cost for you when you acted. Is that what you said before?

MR. CROWLEY: No, it didn't even occur to me. I didn't think I

could get hurt. Put it that way.

KRISTI: You did? You did think you could get hurt?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I didn't think I could. I knew what I was going to do. I was going to go and tackle the guy, get the gun and Dave was going to come up with the handcuffs and handcuff him and that would have been it.

KRISTI: So you did not think you were in any danger to do it.

MR. CROWLEY: No, because at that time with all these 200 people around, we didn't know who was who. We didn't know if he was by himself, was with someone else or with a group of kids. I did not know. It wasn't until after on the ground when I had him down, I knew when I started getting kicked and punched, I said well, he's not alone. He's got friends here.

KRISTI: If you knew then about what you know now about the dangers, would you do it over again?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. Oh, yes. Yes. I think I would have kept my eye closer to the crowd.

KRISTI: I see. Even though you knew you couid get hurt, you'd still do it.

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yeah. Definitely. Because I just don't

To me, I just cannot stand around and watch this happen. KRISTI: It just didn't ever occur to you not to act.

MR. CROWLEY: It never did. No. I just cannot stand to watch this happen. I think I would have felt very guilty if I did not act.

KRISTI: But you never had anything like this happen before when you did not act.

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MR. CROWLEY: No.

KRISTI: You never had anything like this before.

MR. CROWLEY: No. I'm one of these guys, you know, that if you see someone on the side of the road with their car broke down, I'm one of the guys that pull over.

KRISTI: You'll pull over and help.

MR. CROWLEY: You know how you're on the highway and your car breaks down and 3,000 cars are passing you by, well, Sliver Butt pulls over.

KRISTI: Did you think in any way that you wouldn't have been able to live with yourself if you hadn't gone in and helped officer Poole?

MR. CROWLEY: I would have felt very guilty because first of all I consider Dave Poole a friend because I have known him for several years from just working at Mt. Tom. The only time I've ever seen the guy was at Mt. Tom and it was cold out in the wintertime and we used to get coffees, not only with Dave Poole but also other police officers, get coffees and go into the office and sit there and drink coffee because I had the windows. You could still look out over into the crowd. I don't think I

could of •.. I would have felt really guilty not coming to his aid. I really would have.

KRISTI: Did it occur to you at the time that you or a loved one like your brother Jimmy could possibly be in a similar situation?

MR. CROWLEY: At the time, no. Not at the time but afterwards. In fact, I still have that fear now when he goes out on a call.

KRISTI: Do you?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. Yeah. Because to me, I mean, I call him my baby brother because he's the baby of the family but he's got to be at least 7'1".

KRISTI: He what?

MR. CROWLEY: He's 7'1" tall. KRISTI: Seven feet tall?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. KRISTI: Oh, okay.

MR. CROWLEY: So after I introduce him, I say this is my baby brother and people just look at him like, you know. But still to

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me he is the baby of the family, the youngest of the family. Yeah, I thought about him in dealing with this situation but I figured he could handle it.

KRISTI: Yeah. You think about it now but you didn't think about it then.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

KRISTI: You mentioned before your parents divorced. Was that

the only kind of critical moment or emotional period in your life before when you yourself desperately needed help from somebody else?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes. That was him. Yeah.

KRISTI: And your grandmother was there for you. MR. CROWLEY: Grandmother, right.

KRISTI: Do you think you were essentially on your own other than

your grandmother?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, definitely, especially after we moved away from my grandmother. We used to live near her but then after my mother got married, there was not much contact with my grandmother except for telephone calls.

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KRISTI: So even though your grandmother was there, you basically say that you were on your own during that period.

MR. CROWLEY: Jimmy and I were, yes. Jimmy and I were definitely on our own. We were resolved at being on our own because we were alright when Jimmy was with me and it was just like we were the only two. We had no friend because were close by. In fact, most

of the people who lived around didn't have any kids. There were

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| only a few kids in | this apartment | complex and it was just Jimmy |
| and I and that was | it. |  |

KRISTI: It sounds as if you were real important in taking care

of Jimmy when he was little, that you spent a lot of time kind of almost a cross between a brother and a child in some ways.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, definitely. Yeah, because there were certain things that happened to Jimmy and I such as being in the

orphanage. When you don't ... It was very hard and I still think about this sometimes. When I used to I was given a paper route to do at a hospital that had joined this orphanage, the catholic orphanage, and I used to get up *in* the morning time

to do my paper route, Jimmy, who was in the next building but his

room overlooked the walkway, would always yell to me out the window. That's when he was still in the crib. No. Yeah, he was like two years old. I have to stop to think of how old he was.

He was only like two years old, but he used to yell to me through the window, you know, hi and stuff like that. So you see things

like that, even though I was only a chick myself, I felt older because I was the only one he had. Then he celebrated his birthday. Yeah, he was two years old. He celebrated his third birthday in the orphanage and being in an orphanage you just can't go downtown to buy something. Of course, we had no money anyway but one of the nuns there knew that it was Jimmy's

birthday and she went out and she bought him this big, huge fire

truck and she wrapped it and she put this big, huge balloon on it and she gave it to me to give to Jimmy, that it was from me. And I'll never forget the fact that Jimmy and I played for hours with his fire truck. We had a certain time we had to do our homework and stuff like that but I was exempt from this time because I had to grow up with Jimmy and so I grew up there with Jimmy. And Jimmy never forgets about this either. He.knew that it was just him and I and for the longest time.

KRISTI: It sounds as if Jimmy was real important for you, that ...

MR. CROWLEY: Well, yeah. He was a link to a family and we did not have one. Our mother put us away. Our father we did not know where he was because of the court. The other brothers we had no contact with them because we did not know where they were and they had no idea where we were so the only thing we had that resembled a family was Jimmy and myself.

KRISTI: Do you think that the fact that you were kind of the big brother taking care of your little brother during this real difficult period had anything to do with a later development in feeling that you are responsible for taking care of people in the world?

MR. CROWLEY: Definitely. Yeah, definitely. Not so much in the world but just in my own little area. I can't solve every prob• lem in the world but I guess you're, you know, doing it in my little area. And I said Jimmy's ... Jimmy's probably the proud• est person that I received this award. Oh, excited about it and

KRISTI: Yeah, your baby kid brother whose seven feet tall. MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, the baby brother.

KRISTI: Do you see Jimmy often now?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, yes. I see him ••• Well, because I work days, I don't see Jimmy during the weekday but on the weekends we seem to all congregate down at my brother's store and that's when I see him. I see him on Saturdays and Sundays.

KRISTI: Is he married? He has kids? MR. CROWLEY: No, he's not.

KRISTI: Let me ask you just a couple of quick political questions and then I'll let you go. What do you think about wealthy people who have money and don't give any money to charity? Do you think they're discharging their obligations to society?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, because if it wasn't for society, they

wouldn't be making their money. Yeah, see like I don't make that kind of money. I mean I make an average income and yet I still manage to give money to charity.

KRISTI: Do you?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, the school. McDuffy School. In fact, I

don't know if you realize it but along with the Carnegie award, I

received $2,500 in cash. I gave half of that money to Dave

Poole.

KRISTI: Did you? MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

KRISTI: Why did you give the money to Dave Poole? Is he poor? Does need it in some way or ••. ?

MR. CROWLEY: No, I gave him half the award money because he received no recognition. I received, oh my God, all these awards

and pictures in the newspaper and TV interviews and a Carnegie hero award, you know, and he received no recognition whatsoever so I thought that I would give him half the award. He took the injuries ~ike I did so I think he deserved half the award.

KRISTI: You said you give other money away. Is that right? MR. CROWLEY: Pardon me?

KRISTI: You said you give other money to charities and things.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, I gave some to McDuffy School.

KRISTI: What about people who do have a lot of money that do not give away money? Do you they ••• ?

MR. CROWLEY: I think they're selfish.

KRISTI: You think they're selfish. Yeah. Let me just ask you just two more questions and then I'll let you go. Why do you think you were willing to risk your life for somebody when all these other people would not do it? If you had to just kind of tell me one or two things about yourself that would best characterize you in terms of what it was in you that made you do this when other people didn't, what would it be?

MR. CROWLEY: I think because *1* didn't have that much time to think about it. I think the other people that stood around were there from the start and they stopped and they thought well, you know, if I get involved, will I be doing the right thing. Will I get hurt? Could I possibly get shot? I didn't have time to

think about that. If I did have time to think about it, because I knew the cop I'd still get involved. But I think these other people who stood by and said well I could possibly get hurt.

Also too, a lot of the crowd that was around it were kids also

and, you know, the same age as these guys from Spencer, so I

think if.they got involved, they would probably have been like an outcast like You're our age. How dare you get involved with

something like this, you know?

guess like don't get involved.

Kind of like peer pressure I

Even though I'm not that old but

I'm older than they are so it seemed hard for me to get involved but alright for a 17 or 18 year old to get involved. And I think the people had more time to think about what was going on.

KRISTI: Let me just ask you kind of another wild question. Who do you love most in this world? Who do you care most about?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, probably still my father. KRISTI: Your father?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah.

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KRISTI: Yeah. You know, I would have guessed you might have said Jimmy. I was just curious to see which one you'd come up with.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, you know, I ••• No, it would be my father. Jimmy would be the second but my father was such a strong force in our life that you just can't forget him, can't forget what he taught you and what he stood for.

KRISTI: What do you remember most about your dad?

MR. CROWLEY: The most is laugh. When he smiled or laughed, his whole face just laughed with him. His whole face just lit up. Yeah, have to say it was his laugh.

KRISTI: Yeah. I think he gave you that sense of kind of love of life?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, yeah.

KRISTI: How would you like to best be remembered? You remember your dad's laugh. How would you like to be remembered by somebody that cares about you?

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, geez, that's a good question. I've never thought of that one. How would I like to be remembered? Well ..•

KRISTI: If I'm trying to tell someone about you, how would me like to characterize you? What do you think would be the most accurate way to characterize you?

MR. CROWLEY: Probably ••• Geez. Oh, my God, there's so many •.. There's not too many things. I would just say my nature, you know, because I consider myself a friendly person. That's the only thing I can think of. It's hard to describe yourself to someone. You know, it's hard to describe yourself to someone but I could describe 1,000 other people but I could never describe myself.

KRISTI: And you wouldn't say you were ••• I mean, you say you were a friendly person basically.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah. Just sometimes making people laugh •.. Geez, that's awful hard. That's a good question. I couldn't come up with one like that.

KRISTI: It's a hard one to answer.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, it is. Now, like my father, when he

smiled ••• Everybody remembered my father for his smile. You know, people'd say boy has he got a nice smile. Boy has he got a nice laugh.

KRISTI: What do you think people say about you after they meet you?

MR. CROWLEY: They usually say I'm a nice guy. KRISTI: A nice guy. Okay. Well •••

MR. CROWLEY: I've heard people come back that say that oh he's a nice guy. Nice guys, I don't know.

KRISTI: Well, I think I have to agree with that Mr. Crowley. You've been a very nice guy ...

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| MR. CROWLEY: | I hope I wasn't | too confusing | with the | ••• about |
| what happened | but it |  |  |  |

KRISTI: No, no. You've been absolutely wonderful. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it, and I will get this typed up. That probably will take about three weeks.

MR. CROWLEY: Oh, there's no hurry.

KRISTI: A friend of mine is typing them in her spare time and I'll send you a copy of it as soon I get to go through and edit out all the dumb things that I've said in it like uh and hum and we'll send you a copy of it and when we get around to writing something up, which probably will not be until this summer, we

will send you a copy of that also. And your address is still 20

Manner Court House, Holy Oak, Massachuse ..• MR. CROWLEY: Manner House Court.

KRISTI: Manner House Court. Sorry. And that's 01040.

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

KRISTI: Listen, thank you very, very much. I really appreciate it.

MR. CROWLEY: I enjoyed it. KRISTI: Okay. Take care. MR. CROWLEY: Bye bye. KRISTI: Bye.

KRISTI: I just want to say a couple quick things in here. His brother is real important to him. He said it's his dad but he keeps talking about his brother a lot and it seems to me that there are some real important differences between him and

Babcock. Babcock saw herself as essentially a loner but this guy sees himself as part of a community because of his parents' divorce. That was a real critical period for him being in the orphanage and his brother was there. And he talks about Poole as being someone that was part of hi.s community at Mt. Tom. He gave money to Poole, gave money to the McDuffy School. He's

definitely got a strong sense of community, which I don't think

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| Babcock had. | I | think Babcock | saw herself | as just | kind of | just |
| her against | the | world. |  |  |  |  |

MICHAEL: Yeah, I think that might to do with Ms. Babcock. I

mean, she's a lot older. I mean, she doesn't get out as much as maybe he would.

KRISTI: Yeah. Still, she

difference there though.

Well, but I still there's a

MICHAEL: Oh, I agree. I agree.

KRISTI: He had a much stronger sense of community. He's a very forgiving person. He got that from his dad. He said

grandmothers are the greatest people in the world. His dad was a minister. Totally nonconscious. That was what I was struck. He

said over and over again "I didn't think about it. The fact that I did it it was probably nonconscious.11 He'd do it over again. When you were out of the room, he said a couple things about

Jim. It's just him and I. Jimmy was a link to my family. I have to take care of people in my own little area. He mentioned that. He told me some stories about when he was in the orphanage that Jimmy would always wave to him from his crib when he went

by. He had a little paper route.

MICHAEL: Yeah, I got the feeling that he felt responsible for

Jimmy because he was the younger one.

KRISTI: Yeah, having a y ... Yeah, that was real strong. He said that had something to do with it. Didn't worry about getting hurt. He thought the praise was nice but embarrassing.

He would have felt guilty but he'd never done anything before. I don't think there was anybody else's self-esteem, respect that he wanted. And you're basically on your own in this world. I guess that's it. You have anything you think is important? You have a lot of things you've jotted •••

MICHAEL: Yeah, I've got a lot of notes. But I thought a lot of things that he said were similar to Ms. Babcock in that they both have a really strong sense of social responsibility and an overriding sense of some form of justice that something had to be done. I mean, to both of them it never really occurred that they couldn't do anything. I mean, they just thought it was natural

that they should help. I mean, it never would occur to them not

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| to help | and if they hadn't helped, | they would have felt bad. | So |
| I think | it's very interesting. |  |  |

KRISTI: Yeah, it is interesting. Okay, that's it.