

**Carlos Ross von Pohle, MD**  
**World War II Veterans History Project**  
**Interviewed: June 3, 2009**  
**By: Jean Reynolds**  
**Transcript by Nicole Lomibao**

*[Note: Forrest Tate observed interview and comments from time to time off camera.]*

Jean Reynolds:

Let's start with your parents. Talk a little about your family background. Tell me your parent's names and where they were from.

Carlos von Pohle:

My father's full name was Charles Lawrence von Pohle and he was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1899. My mother was Laura Maxine Ross and she was born in New York City in 1906. They had gotten acquainted in college. They had gone to college in Washington, DC or in Takoma Park, Maryland and they had gotten acquainted. Dad had grown up in South America. My grandfather was a missionary with the Seventh Day Adventist Church and my dad grew up until he was of college age and came to the States to go to college. He and Mom met there and eventually married.

They lived in Cuba for, he for four years and came back and married mother, and she for three years. They came back and I was born there in Washington or Takoma Park and we lived there another two years. Takoma is T-A-K-O-M-A, not like the Tacoma in Washington State. That's just across the border from Washington, DC, about a mile.

JR: You were born in Takoma Park. What year were you born?

CvP: I was born in 1926.

JR: And do you have siblings?

CvP: I have no siblings. I was a ten-pound baby and my mother said, "That's enough for two babies."

JR: I can understand that. Now where did you grow up at?

CvP: Most of the time, here in Chandler. I was seven when my dad finished medical school and came to Chandler to practice. Until I went away to college, I lived here.

JR: So, your family came about 1933 to Chandler?

CvP: Yes.

JR: What was it that brought them to Chandler?

CvP: He was looking for a job, for one thing. But, Dad had gone up to Flagstaff to visit a doctor friend that was on the Indian reservation in Tuba City and was expressing an interest in a place to practice, if there was one. This friend said, "There is this little town down in the south central part of the state and they're kind of short of doctors there. Why don't you go down and look at that? Go to the pharmacy and talk to the pharmacist there."

So we did that and looked like a Dr. Meason was practicing by himself at that time. He was a little older then. The two of them worked together and practiced together for several years. Subsequently, Dad went out on his own, opened his own practice.

JR: Where was his office at?

CvP: Initially, it was on Commonwealth and then he bought an old mortuary building. It was also on Commonwealth on the East side of the park. The Bashas' store was there for a while and then all that cleared away. Then, he was called into the service during World War II and he sold that office. He built an office right on the corner of Buffalo and whatever the street is that runs along the edge of the park.

JR: That might be Buffalo and Arizona Place?

CvP: That may be. The circle around the park.

JR: He had that practice. Can you tell me some of your memories of him being a doctor?

CvP: Well, yes. I decided at that point, that I too, was interested in being a doctor. He said, "You decide what you want to be and I'll do the best I can to help you." And at that time, this was all ranching companies and cowboy country. I thought, Wouldn't it be neat to have a cattle ranch? I didn't know anything about running a cattle ranch or anything like that. So, I stuck with my idea that was better planned and went away to college and took medicine.

My first operation that I saw was when I was seven years old, over in the old Southside District Hospital. My dad and Dr. Kent, who worked together, he was in Mesa and they had this fellow who had acute appendicitis. Well, I was seven and Dr. Kent had a son who was seven. In those days, the nurse could arrange for you to go in the operating room. So, we got on surgical clothes and we went in the operating room. We stood up on stools so we could see. And saw the whole operation. This fellow happened to be a heavy drinker. In those days, they used ether for anesthesia. Ether is an alcohol also and he was so full of booze that the ether wouldn't put him to sleep. So, they had to give him little drops of

chloroform until he went to sleep. Then they could keep him out. I remember watching that first cut. It was very interesting because the blade was so sharp and nothing happened. Then, all of a sudden, things started opening and the skin separated. It was kind of a funny feeling, but once they got started, it didn't bother me. The little bit of blood that was involved wasn't any big deal. At that point, I knew I could hack it anyway if that's what we went into.

JR: You were saying, in the thirties, people were poor because of the Depression. How did that impact the practice?

CvP: You know, you had food; you had a place to eat and sleep. It was a practice, we didn't have a lot of extra money, but you got along.

JR: And he would treat people who couldn't pay?

CvP: Sure, sure. We had a welfare system that I recall. In the summer time, one summer, he took out three hundred sets of tonsils on kids who the state paid some sort of a fee for in a health project, welfare kiddos.

JR: Did he just practice in the office or did he do home care also?

CvP: Both. There were times in the wintertime. More sick people were around because of colds and pneumonia. I can remember many days when I didn't see him for several days because he'd be up in the morning and out starting for work before I woke up and be back after I was in bed. He made house calls all the way up to Queen Creek to Broadacres. I'm not sure you know how far Broadacres is.

JR: Maybe around Ahwatukee?

CvP: Beyond Ahwatukee. So about fifteen miles from Chandler to Broadacres and about fifteen miles to Queen Creek. Some nights, he'd have to drive the full distance to see somebody. In fact, I'm presently married to an old girlfriend of sixty-some years ago whose dad ran Broadacres. Had almost three thousand acres that he farmed out there.

JR: On the other side of Estrella Mountain?

CvP: No, not on the side. Probably around behind them, though. You follow the curve of the mountain. Out by St. Johns, about five or six miles from St. Johns.

JR: Did he deliver a lot of children?

CvP: He delivered a lot of babies. Some home deliveries.

*[Forrest Tate: He delivered hundreds of hundreds of babies. But his brother delivered thousands.]*

CvP: Yes, he delivered hundreds. My uncle delivered thousands. My uncle was in Tempe and during the war. He wasn't called into the service. So he was busy taking care of things at home. I think he delivered a record of eight thousand five hundred babies in Arizona.

JR: Wow, that's amazing. You really have a medical profession in your blood.

CvP: He bought a little ranch home right on the edge of Tempe at that time and sort of converted it to an obstetrical clinic. So he can have things taken care of out there and he wasn't far from home or the office. They eventually sold it; Lutheran Church or Hospital or organization bought it and they built onto it. And these other Banners and everything else have taken over.

JR: Where was that located at?

CvP: Just before the underpass going out Mill. Just before you get to the underpass, going south, there's a little road that turns off and the building was right there.

*[Forrest Tate: A lot of little guys came into this world.]*

JR: Yes, because of your uncle and father. Tell me what you remember about Dr. Chandler.

CvP: I did know Dr. Chandler. I didn't know him well. We didn't socialize much. He was somebody that had made an important point in this part of the country. When he came out here as a veterinarian in the beginning, for some of these big stock organizations, cattle ranches and so forth, and decided on settling in the Chandler area, building a hotel and going from there.

Probably the most poignant part is that he had pernicious anemia. Pernicious anemia can be treated and it's a problem where we don't absorb the iron in our blood for good, healthy blood flow. He came to Dad; he didn't want to admit that he had pernicious anemia. So he never would take any treatment for it. He may have lived a lot longer than his eighty some years if he did.

JR: I know he passed away in 1950.

CvP: I didn't see a lot of the gentleman, but I knew of him. His wife, Rosa, who was his second or third wife, became a close friend of Mother and Dad's, particularly mother's. In fact, she gave a pair of cuff links of Dr. Chandler's to mom and mom gave them to me. Diamond and gold cuff links with a little diamond in each one of them; it's a very precious thing.

JR: The home that you lived in, tell me where the home was and how it got built.

CvP: When we first came to town, we occupied a home that was right on the corner of Chandler Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, which of course is no longer there. Then in 1936 and 1937, Dad thought of this adobe thing, of course in those days, there was no air conditioning. So, he thought of this adobe idea. He found this Mexican gentleman that lived here, so they planned the house, dug a basement, which was enough dirt and mud. It was caliche type of mud. This little old man made all the adobes. It was a three bedroom, one bath home, in those days. He dug the dirt by hand with a shovel; he had a little frame that made three adobes at one time. *[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]* I don't remember if he had several. Of course, they mix it up with straw and that kind of stuff. It was very interesting. For the plumb line, he laid all the walls with the truest line.

JR: Do you remember his name?

CvP: No, I don't. I don't know if I have anything that would have his name on it.

JR: Do you have any photographs of that old house?

CvP: I have photographs of that house. I'll get those for us.

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

CvP: He, this Mexican fellow, built the walls, set all the walls and foundation. They had made contact with a builder from Mesa. I don't remember his name off-hand, but I may have it some place. He came over and did the carpentry work and rest of the work. This was in 1937. It was the first new home built in Chandler in years. There hadn't been anything built here since many years before.

*[Forest Tate: It was amazing because we hadn't seen much construction prior to when it was built. (inaudible)]*

CvP: The garage was also built out of adobe. It was a two-car garage. All of the adobe came out of the basement.

JR: Tell me about what you remember about the town of Chandler before the War started, about late thirties to 1941.

CvP: Well, I miss it. That's number one. I have no love for what's here now. It's taken everything away. We used to ride horse back out all through this country. My dad loved horses and we had several horses. It was a very friendly, family town. In 1933, there were only one thousand one hundred people in town. Everybody knew everybody. If you were a kid, you didn't get out of line because if your folks weren't around, somebody in town saw you and they know what you should be doing. If you weren't doing a thing, they'd give you the (once-over).

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

CvP: There were only three lines in town. The doctor had a private line. Some of those personal things to be discussed on the telephone shouldn't be available. So, we had number three.

JR: When your father was practicing right towards the beginning, Dr. Gilbert was still practicing?

CvP: Dr. Gilbert was still practicing and Dr. Meason was still practicing. Dr. Meason kept practicing, I'll have to guess on this, until the late thirties and then he retired. He didn't pass away for quite awhile after he retired. Dr. Gilbert kept practicing, but his, well you can imagine, if you were sick or sore, and you had to climb stairs up a fairly steep stairwell to get to his office, that could be quite difficult. He had an office up over the theatre building, the Rowena Theatre.

JR: You had mentioned that your father also cared for the visitors that were at the San Marcos Hotel?

CvP: Yes. McCullough was one of the families he cared for. The Pullman people who came out every year. The people from the Pullman Train Company brought their own car out and left it on the side tracks. The man who made the automatic starter on automobiles [Charles Kettering]? His family came out also. There were a lot of others. A lot of people from Canada, a lot of the wealthy people. To the best of my understanding, these people paid \$80 to \$90 a day to rent one of the little cottages and then you could divide the cottages into four units if you wanted to. And they'd come out and stay for weeks. Can you imagine \$80 a day in the twenties and thirties?

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

JR: Well that was quite above everyone else's standards.

CvP: Yes, it was entirely different. It was interesting because in the beginning. I don't believe they had a wall in front of the hotel. Then they put one up, put a gateway in there. Everything was very formal. We'd go out and stand on the street and look through the gateway. For the evening, everyone went in evening attire. The men wore tuxedos; the ladies wore evening dresses for supper. The front of the hotel was just jammed with black limousines that belonged to these people.

*[Forest Tate: None of them had privacy. We'd all drive by and look. Rich people. (inaudible)]*

JR: Did your father ever take care of any famous people?

CvP: Well, yes. Charles Kettering was the name I was trying to think of. He took care of the Pullman family. I don't remember specifically of the Hollywood people he may have taken care of. Dr. Meason had basically retired by then and Dr. Gilbert

didn't get involved in that. Dad was sort of on call for anyone that needed doctors. He enjoyed it.

JR: I'm going to start talking a little bit about the war now. Where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

CvP: That was interesting. They had formed a horse group here in town to look for downed pilots in the desert. That morning, a group of them had gone out to West Chandler. They were going to have a barbeque and then split up and go look for anyone that might be out in the desert. Dad was part of that organization but he was at a medical meeting so they let me go along. When we came back to camp at noon, the ladies who had prepared lunch advised us that the news had just come in that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. So that was on Sunday, December 7th, 1941. Here was an activity that we were part of the war effort, preparing for the inevitable on that. There had been a few people who had gone down, trainees that had gone down from Williams Field and Luke and Falcon Field. That was a real challenge. It was a real shock to everyone at that point.

JR: Now did your father join the war effort? Did he join the military first?

CvP: No, when Dad finished medical school in the early thirties, a lot of the young doctors joined the military services as reservist and he maintained the reserve commission. He was actually a few years older than most of the doctors they took in. But because he was already committed to the service, they took him anyway.

Interestingly enough, he went to South America. The story I understand is we needed both tin and quinine. Those items came from the Orient and Axis had control of all of that. So the only place that we could get it that we knew of was South Central America. He was sent down there to be in convoy for the United States down there and to help with the health problems, sanitation and all that. But because he had grown up in South America he spoke the language like a native.

JR: So he more of a facilitator? What year was it that he was called into service?

CvP: He was called in 1942, but he didn't go into active service until early 1943. I know Dr. Allison, the family practitioner here in town, was delivered by my father. He was one of the last babies he delivered before he went into service. He [Dr. Allison] was born in early 1943.

JR: Once he left, was there a doctor here in Chandler?

CvP: Yes, who did come? Dr. Rice came and Dr. Crismon also came. I'm not sure of the dates, here and there. Basically there was a shortage of doctors at that point, everywhere.

JR: Were you enlisted or were you drafted?

CvP: I was drafted. I was in college. I was hoping to be far enough into college so I could get into medical school early, but it didn't work out.

JR: Where were you attending when you were drafted?

CvP: I was attending at Pacific Union College, which was a Seventh Day Adventist parochial college up in Napa Valley where I'm living now.

JR: What year was that?

CvP: I was drafted in 1944.

JR: What was your branch of service?

CvP: Army.

JR: Do you remember the month when you entered?

CvP: Yes, November 1944. I went to Saipan after I finished training, but the war was officially over in August 1946 when I got there.

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

CvP: I was a postman *[laughs]*.

JR: Let's talk a little about that. When you entered service, you were in California at the time. What city?

CvP: I was drafted out of Mesa. My home address was still here. I was just going to college out there. Interestingly enough, my dad was up from South America in Washington on an official project. He was able to get a little time so he could come out here. He asked the officer in charge of the Induction Center if they would allow me to ride over to Los Angeles with them instead of going on the bus so we'd have a little time together. It was interesting for us.

There were a lot of recruits and we got there on a Sunday morning. The Induction Center over there was essentially quiet. Ft. MacArthur. We drove. They told us at the gate where I was supposed to be taken. So we drove in and drove there. At that time, Dad was a full colonel. We went to this area and there were a bunch of fellows that were on duty that day and they were all sitting around in this room on the second floor with their feet up on the desks. He rapped on the door and they opened it. They didn't expect to see a colonel up there Sunday morning. Boy, things sure snapped around. And Gene Kelly was inducted the same time I was. For a few minutes, we were on the same level.

JR: Where did you receive your basic training?

CvP: I received that at Camp Barkeley in Texas.

JR: What was your military specialty?

CvP: I had hoped that I could get into one the medically related training departments, either lab or x-ray. I didn't have any hope of getting medical school out of it. But I didn't get that. I became a clerk first of all. The second part of my training was at Camp Crowder, Missouri. Clerk typist was part of what we did there.

When I got overseas, they put me in the headquarters company in the Western Pacific Base Command, which was on Saipan. First of all that was where all the confidential documents, all the charts came to. And subsequent, that was also the Post Office for the base, so I eventually became a Chief of the Message Center. We received all the correspondence on base, personal mail as well as official mail. I had people that distributed the mail for us.

JR: That sounds like an important job.

CvP: Very important. The Lieutenant wasn't smart enough to watch himself. He found a nurse in the hospital down the road about five miles away. He spent most of his time down there. His wife apparently heard about it and she wrote a letter to the General. She wrote a letter to the General in charge of the command there. We didn't like him very well anyway. We got that letter up the General's office in a good hurry.

JR: When did you deploy overseas?

CvP: September 1945.

Jr: Your Theatre of Operations was the Pacific?

CvP: Yes, Pacific Theatre.

JR: What was your port of embarkation for deployment?

CvP: Seattle.

JR: Do you remember how long it took for you to reach your theatre of operations?

CvP: Roughly three weeks.

JR: Do you remember anything about the trip?

CvP: We ran into a cyclone. I didn't get seasick. A lot of people didn't, but a lot did too. It was kind of fun, too. All the ship did was buck up and down. I got out on deck with a couple of my buddies and feeling fine. We would stand there on deck and watch the bow of the ship come out and the keel come out the water, then the bow would go down. The propellers would come out and that thing would just shake while they're vibrating in cold air. It was interesting that thing going up and down.

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

There were a few of them that wanted to get off and go home when we got to port. They went down into the ship; it had been an American president's line, a luxury ship or passenger ship. So they went down to the recreational area, down in the hold, and these guys went down and just barfed their hearts out, hoping they would hit somebody that was sympathetic to them and would let them go home. That didn't work.

JR: What was the port where you arrived when the trip was over?

CvP: It was on Saipan.

JR: Once you got into port, you're there in Saipan, what was the next step?

CvP: They assigned you to a unit. We were in the headquarters unit of Western Pacific Base command. In the same building where they kept the confidential info was the message center. I did filing and clerk work in the beginning and then given this other responsibility. That's where I stayed. When we first got there, they moved us over to Tinian, which is about four miles away. They had moved a field hospital from Tinian to Okinawa so they used us as longshoreman and we loaded a ship with the field hospital and sent them on their way. And then went back to Saipan and went into the headquarters company.

JR: Can you describe Saipan?

CvP: Saipan was an island about thirteen miles in length and about four miles in width. There was a small mountain in the middle of it. A lot of tropical growth. We never saw any Japanese, but I'm sure there was Japanese still hiding around. There were caves on the island. We drove around on the island. There was one area that was a cliff about a thousand feet high. During the battle of Saipan, our forces forced the Japanese over the cliff and they just took off. None of them survived that kind of fall. At one point, I was told that they were killing them so fast that they were just piling them up and it was hard to advance with all of these bodies in front of them. Thousands were killed on the island. There was sort of a level area there and then it dropped off. *[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]* That was their philosophy.

JR: Was the headquarters affected during that battle?

CvP: Well, I'm sure it was. I wasn't there at that point. They also had an Air Force base there that they flew B-29's off of. The ones that went to Japan with the atomic bombs flew off of Tinian. Tinian was just as flat as a pool table and it was a smaller island so it was easier to load up and easy to take off of because it had a lot of long runways and off they go.

JR: Tell me a little bit more about your work in the message center.

CvP: Primarily, we handled all the correspondence that came to the island whether it was official military or personal correspondence. We sorted and distributed it from there, just like a post office.

JR: Do you have any memories from that time, anything related to the correspondence, maybe something that came in that caused a big reaction?

CvP: Not really. I got into a little trouble because we were assigned the duty of being in charge of the USO. We had a little place there that the fellows could go. We were supposed to wear regular uniform, long trousers. Most of the time, we wore shorts because it was a warm place. I was on duty one night and I wore shorts instead of full-length trousers. The General came down to look around. I knew he was there but I tried to find myself where he wasn't when I was there. He got in touch with the Captain and told him, "Tell soldier so-and-so to not dress improperly when he's on duty." That was about it.

JR: What did you think of your commanding officers?

CvP: They were good people; I had good people to deal with.

JR: Did any of them stand out in your mind at all?

CvP: Not really.

JR: What do you remember about the other people that you served with?

CvP: They were from all over the country. We had one fellow who was from one of the upper class places around Chicago. He had been pampered his whole life. He worked all right; it just wasn't what he was used to. Point something? He wasn't in the gangster crowd. Maybe it was Detroit?

JR: To get a sense of back in that time period, what were your feelings about the people that the United States was fighting at that time, the Japanese? How did you feel about them?

CvP: I felt very strongly and I think most of us did even to the point that after the war, my family and I, my wife and kids, took a trip to Hawaii. We went to the Arizona monument. I had been on the battleship at one time when it was a harbor. It was at Long Beach. But we were sitting in this auditorium, they were just bench seats. This little Japanese man came in and sat down right beside me. Things really boiled up right inside of me. It was things like Tora Tora they were showing pictures of the actual bombings. It really bothered me. It was a difficult time. I think most people had those same sentiments. They were sneaky. The little sneaks snuck up on us. Of course later on the thought was, did our President do us in too? Was Roosevelt aware of the thing and did he let things happen that shouldn't have? But anyway that was the sentiment.

JR: What are some of your strongest memories of your experiences during the war? It could have been at any stage, maybe before you were drafted because the war was going on at that time so maybe your feelings because you were back home at that time. It could be during your basic training or in Saipan. Anytime when you had a strong memory of something.

CvP: I'll start with basic training. Essentially, I didn't mind it. I didn't mind the basic training. I didn't mind the positions I was given, places I was stationed or the people I dealt with. They were pretty easy to get along with. It didn't bother me. One of the things that disappointed me a little, but it wasn't anybody's fault, was the situation I had hoped. I was stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington for a brief time when I finished basic training and before I shipped out to go to Saipan. I might be able to get into laboratory school or x-ray school. I think there were opportunities, but something didn't work out. It was disappointing in a way, but that's the way it was. I was able to kind of take it in stride. As far as tough situations, I feel that I took it in stride and accepted that that was the way it was going to be.

JR: While you were in military service, was your father still in military service?

CvP: Yes.

JR: So your mother was back in Chandler?

CvP: Well, in his situation, some of the places he was stationed, she was allowed to go and be with him. In Colombia, in South America, in particular. In Bolivia, where he was. In fact, he was one of the first doctors to use penicillin in South America. It was just coming out as an experimental product. One of the Bolivian conspirators to the presidency there. Bolivia is a very volatile country, was and still is, I think. Dad said they changed presidents about every year. Anyway, he had a secretary at his office who asked him if he would help this man who had been badly beaten up, cut up and shot up a potential presidential candidate. He wasn't doing very well. Dad said, "I can't go in there. He has a Bolivian doctor. I can't just take over. If you can get an okay from them, I'll do what I can to

help.” They’d heard about penicillin. When he was given the okay to help out, he had them bring down some penicillin from the States. They tried it, didn’t know what the dosage was, how often you gave it, didn’t know what to expect. But he did survive. He saved his life. Dad said one time looked out his office on the second floor in La Paz. Here was one of the potential presidential candidates hanging upside-down from a lamppost. Things can get pretty wild down there.

JR: Where were you on VJ day?

CvP: I must have been around here. I came home August 1946. I was back in the states. Actually, in 1945. Then I went to spring semester at Arizona State University, then the next fall, I went back to college in northern California. So I was around here someplace.

JR: What was the date that you came back to the US when you were done with military service?

CvP: November 1946.

JR: What do you recall about the day that you left the service? Some people have strong memories about that.

CvP: They offered you a promotion. I said, “No, thank you. I’m planning on going to college and I’m not planning on staying in the service at this point.” It was good. It was a break. I’d served my time and there was no reason to stay in at that point. They gave me my travel money up at Camp Beale. It’s now an Air Force facility. *[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]* They gave you \$150 and relief.

JR: What did you do after you returned from the war?

CvP: My folks were still in Colombia. Dad was still in the service. I came back. The house was vacant at that point. I’d been on the islands over there where it had been so hot. I liked the air conditioning. My folks had been in Bogotá, Colombia which was eight thousand five hundred feet. It was cool down there. So my mom and I were going down the hall changing the thermostat from hot to cold. Other than that, an interesting situation happened.

I was walking down the street there in Chandler. A lady came up behind me and said, “Have you seen Jean?” I said, “No, is Jean around here?” Jean was a gal that had gone to Tempe to high school. Her dad had Broadacres. She’d gone to Tempe to high school because the Tempe school system got closer to Broadacres than Chandler School System busses. Anyway, I said, “No” and she said, “She’s over in Tempe. She lives there.” She had worked during most of the war at a Navy air base out west of Phoenix. Did you know there was one out there?

JR: West of Phoenix?

CvP: Out by Litchfield? I didn't know. You can't see it from the highway. But anyway, she had worked out there right out of high school. Anyway, I said, "No, I haven't seen Jean." I went over to see Jean and Jean and I hit it off right away. We dated for a couple years. Then, I went away to college. She kept on working. And sixty years later, we married. She had married my cousin in the meantime; I had married someone from college. Then he died and my second wife died three years ago. I didn't like that single life at all. So we decided to try it again after sixty-something years. We got married two years ago in October. We got married in her house.

JR: That's a wonderful story.

CvP: It is a wonderful story. She's a great gal.

JR: Where were you going to college at?

CvP: I was going to college up at Pacific Union College in Angwin.

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

JR: You came back to Chandler around 1946. Did you notice that Chandler had been somewhat changed by the war?

CvP: Chandler had changed and started changing. Of course, when William's Field was initiated. I think that Dad had something to do with that. He and a few other city people went back to Washington to suggest that the plan out there was a good place to put in a training base. That was in the early forties. Then, to have people build the base out there, the physical plan, they had to start building little homes here in Chandler. It had grown some in population, not much, but some. Then, there were more people. Anyone who had room to rent made it available to personnel on the base, in particular officer personnel. Mom, when she was alone, had people living in the house. When I got back, they were still around but the house was empty then. There were more people in town, but it was still a small enough town, so you knew almost everybody. We used to be able to walk down the street and you knew everybody and everybody knew you. Now, you ever see anyone you've never seen before in town. Big change. From four thousand or so at about the end of the war to two hundred and fifty thousand to three hundred thousand is a big deal. A huge leap. My present wife and I live in Mesa. She had been living in Mesa. We stay there and go up north in the summer time. The talk about five hundred thousand people in Mesa is unbelievable.

JR: Did your father ever talk about who went with him to Washington to try to get the Air Force base established?

CvP: I don't remember the names now, though. There were a number of them involved. The state was not so populous. The people who were prominent were

acquainted with the common folk as it were. Dad was good friends with both the Goldwaters, personally, and John Rhodes. These people all worked together for a long time before it sort of expanded out of nothing. Carl Hayden, also.

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

JR: Do you feel like your service in World War II affected the rest of your life?

CvP: I think so. I think it gave me the opportunity to mature for one thing. At that point at eighteen years old, you followed along with the way things were going. School was not a big change since I wasn't that far along in college yet or into professional school. I think it was a great opportunity for all of us. But for a lot of people, I didn't think I had any particular problems with my family life. My folks and I got along very well. A lot of young people did have a hard time adjusting to parental guidance, even more so nowadays. I think it was an asset and I think a lot of young men could profit if they had that need to get in and get it done. They could tell you do this or you don't do that, and you did it. There was some discipline and they were some direction and understanding.

*[Forest Tate speaking – inaudible]*

JR: What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?

CvP: From the military time, other people's lives are important and respecting them is important. Your ideas are fine, but your ideas are not the only answer in any situation. I have an example that shocks me to this day.

I had four sons. My oldest son's oldest son has been kind of an independent kind of person. I don't really understand him, even yet, he's almost thirty. One time, we were visiting another son and his wife's home having dinner. Here he is, sitting around with a cap on, which everyone does nowadays. When I grew up, you didn't wear a hat in the house for one thing and for sure, you didn't wear it at the dinner table. I suggested to him that he take off his cap when he sat at the dinner table. He had a tirade of information for me that I couldn't believe. If I ever responded to my grandfather or my father that way, I'd still be looking for a road home. He is finally softened up a little bit, but he still feels that he is his own person. He can do anything he wants to do. Don't be trying to tell him how to live. I think we missed the boat from that point of view. I think serving in the military helped you understand. We didn't have that particular problem because we respected our parents. We may not have been happy with everything we were asked to do, but you didn't respond like that. That still bugs me. I don't like to see it in them and I don't think it's good for them. Sometimes, they're going to wise off like that and someone's going to change the shape of their face. Or nowadays, they just shoot you. They don't get in a fight with you or hit you in the face; they pull out a gun and put a hole in you.

JR: Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share about your experience in the war?

CvP: I can't think of anything else at this point. The service was good. I didn't get any wounds from it, which I'm glad. I'm not happy somebody else got them, but fortunately, I wasn't in some position to get wounded or injured. I do think that it was a helpful thing. Like I said, a lot of young men would profit from being forced into that sort of thing.

JR: Did the GI bill help you at all?

CvP: It helped me quite a bit. For one thing, my dad was in the service also. He didn't make a lot of money during the war like some doctors who were able to stay home. Of course, they worked hard but they also profited financially. I was planning to go back to college. The length of time that I was in and the way that GI bill was set up - they paid for all my college. And that was big help. I didn't have to have my folks help put me through college that way. That was pretty important, more so, these days. Especially the way things are going on right now economically. I became a doctor. I've been a general practitioner.

JR: Where have you practiced at?

CvP: I practiced here. I interned here at the county hospital here in Phoenix when it was down on Durango, down on the riverbanks. Then I worked in the emergency room for a year and half at Maryvale Hospital. But, I was looking for something else, so I went to California and took the California Boards. I practiced in Chula Vista, California for almost fourteen years. Then after that, I was looking for Chandler again, a little town some place and Calistoga, which is in Napa Valley in wine country, which is five thousand people. It's not going to get big. They're not going to pull out grape vines and build houses like they've done here. It's going to stay much the same size it is. It's basically a tourist area as much as it is for the wine industry. They have hot springs. That's where I'm going to stay.

JR: When did you end up going to Calistoga?

CvP: In 1979.

JR: And you've been there since then?

CvP: Yes, since then.

JR: And you came to Chandler for the winters?

CvP: Well, I hadn't until I married my current wife. This is one of our problems of contention. She was born here and doesn't want to leave. And I don't like it here anymore. When you're going to get this many people together, there's going to

be more social problems. And we have more violence here in the valley than they do in the smaller areas. Social problems are more existent. I don't know why we have to put up with that when we have pretty country up there. But she's not ready to give in. She will give in when it gets hot enough.

END OF INTERVIEW