

“The following interview was conducted on behalf of the oral history program of the Century High School. The interviewee is **Julie McCloud**. The interviewer is Lindsay Spencer. The interview took place on Thursday May 19th at 2:00pm”

Lindsay Spencer: How long have you in Hillsboro?”

Julie McCloud: I have lived in Hillsboro probably about 23 years.”

LS: What is it that you do with the police force?”

JM: I work with the Washington County sheriffs office and my assignment is crime prevention and do a lot of community education about teaching the people how to avoid becoming victims of crime and what they can do to improve home security, or that persons safety, right now I'm working on a big project on meth. And work to on domestic violence awareness and traffics”

LS: “How long have you done that for?”

“I've worked for the sheriffs office for almost 4 years, prior to that I also worked for the Hillsboro police department with crime prevention and also... (Unintelligible)

LS: “What do you believe is the biggest problem in Hillsboro?”

“I think probably as far as criminal activity goes I would say methamphetamine is certainly a big problem not just because of the crime that it generates but also the way that it tears apart families, and creating a public health problem in our community, and I also think that a lot of pushers are devoted to young people and are getting involved in violence and youth gangs is also a big problem that we need to address.”

LS: “How long have you been in the police force?”

“I've worked in law enforcement in one way or another for I would say 12 years.”

LS: “Since then have you seen the problems that we have been having changing, like I know meth has become really big right now, how has that changed over the years?”

“I think that probably young people are using drugs at a earlier age then they used to, every year it seems to go to a lower and lower age group, I think that there is a lot more instability in families then there was 10, 20 years ago and that also has a effect on young people getting involved in drugs and crime.”

LS: “How often do you deal with criminals?”

“I in my current assignment do not deal with criminals much at all, although I did interview some for a meth project that we recently completed, one young women in particular, we interviewed back in December in prison that when she getting ready to get out, she had been through treatment and rehab. And was doing really well, but she recently, a few weeks ago committed some more crimes, kind of at the same time that she was working with me, she wasn't committing a crime in my presence, but apparently she was involved in drugs and some things during the time I was working with her.

LS: “Do you think that people who use drugs are more appt to commit crimes?”

“Yes I think that a lot of crime in Washington County is fielded by drugs, whether, its stealing peoples cars or their identity, or their mail or just plain neglecting their children. I don't think that a lot of drug addicts are criminals, they may do criminal acts, I think that certainly if their dealing or making drugs their criminals, but theirs a lot of people that are just stuck in addiction that also get called criminals not every waking up thinking I'm going to become a criminal.

LS: “How do you feel about the law enforcement in Hillsboro?”

“I think that, I can't really speak, I speak about the law enforcement in Hillsboro as a citizen of Hillsboro, I think that their doing a pretty good job, I think that right now there's a

pretty big problem with gang activity, that the police and the school district and the juvenile department are trying to address. I think that the law enforcement in Washington County in General does a very good job with the resources they have and are trying to keep the community safe and also react to the needs of people, they try to gage the expectations of the community and act accordingly. I think that probably people expect too much from the police I think that the citizens in general expect the police to solve a lot of crimes that are more societies problems especially if you look at say, families that are at risk, single parent families the parent is working two jobs and isn't at home in the evening to keep an eye on what the kids are during and they kind of run amuck. Is that a law enforcement problem when those kids commit crimes or make a nuisance of them in the neighborhood or is it a society problem that parents are forced to work so much to be away from their families when they should be nurturing them?

LS: "How do you as a citizen feel, do you feel safe, do you feel that your kids are safe at school?"

"I think that, I feel somewhat jaded perhaps, having worked in law enforcement for a while, knowing that there are a lot of dangerous things out there, and I'm always worried about my kids, but I think generally I do feel confident that they are safe at school and that they would know what to do if some emergency happened. But it's a worry all the time, parents do dread whenever their kids are away from them."

LS: "Do you think it makes you feel safer knowing, as a policewoman, knowing what to do, and that you've been able to educate your kids more?"

"Well I've tried, and I'll tell you we kind of go back and forth cause they always accuse me of being paranoid and I always tell them that I know what's out there and they don't, so we kind of go back and forth with that, but ultimately I try to equip them to be safe and to know what to do when something occurs, but I think they would do okay."

LS: "Do you feel safer now then when you did when you first moved here 23 years ago?"

"That's a good question... I probably would say I do feel safer but its more that I have more confidence in my ability to keep myself safe then depend on the police for that. Because lets face it, if you have 1.5 officers per thousand of the population, or whatever the magic number is, that's not very many cops, and their most likely not going to be there if you are being a victim of crime, being attacked, sop you really have to have a plan in your mind and know what your going to do. And I think that its important to encourage and inspire people to get involved in their community, not necessarily become a cop, but what can I do to help families out?"

LS: "What ethnic group do you believe is involved in crime in Hillsboro today?"

"I think that probably all ethnic groups are involved in crime, I don't think that you can really say that one group or another is more prone to crime. I think that it's just a matter of their personality combined with the environment they grow up in and what they think is their moral code. So I would be hesitant to say that one race or group of people is involved in crime not knowing the statistics to support that, that's just my gut reaction to the question. I think that if we do try to single out a particular race or ethnic group it could be very hurtful to that group and so I would be very hesitant to make those kinds of generalizations"

LS: "What do you believe is the biggest cause of crime in Hillsboro?"

"Well I guess that depends on the type of crime probably the people associated with fraud and theft, like property crimes that don't hurt people, is probably more appealed by drugs, I think probably personal crimes, where are acting out violently against one another its more, there doing that more because of their environment, say their in a home with domestic violence, here is

a huge thing, in my opinion about the causes of violence, the media violence that young people, and everyone in our society is subjected to, that whether its TV, music or video games, video games are a huge contributor to acts of violent aggression, not just saying that's my opinion, that statistics will bear me out there, that if your looking at violent crime, then there environment, family environment, plus what their putting into their mind, whether it be video games or violent music, then that is a big contributor."

LS: "Could you tell me what domestic violence is considered to be?"

"Well a lot of people probably think domestic violence is the classic the husband slapping the wife around. But its all about power and control and the person who's wanting to control the other person in the relationship, whether it be an inmate partner, a parent and a child that person uses violence to control the other person, so anytime that there's verbal abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse directed at someone to manipulate their behavior or make them do what the batterer wants them to do then that would be considered domestic violence. Are we going to arrest somebody because they're yelling at their loved one and gauging their self esteem, no, but if their shoving them around and hitting and putting marks on them and strangling then definitely they would be arrested for the crime of domestic violence."

LS: "When you arrest them, if someone presses charges how long are they usually held?"

"When somebody is arrested for domestic violence, it well lets say a police officer is called to the scene of domestic violence dispute and they determine that someone has been injured, that there is evidence of an injury, then the police officer is mandated by law to arrest the aggressor, if the person has afflicted injuries on someone else to defend themselves, then there not going to get arrested for domestic violence, but if its someone who is aggressively attacking someone else and there are injuries then there going to jail, once they get to jail they're generally going to stay there until they go in front of the judge, whether it's the next day or over the weekend, and then the judge gives conditions on their release pending their court date, their trial if you will, and so they are almost always are going to say you can not have contact with the victim, and if they have money then they can post bail and be out and around, not every time someone is arrested are they going to be charged by the district attorney and go through the court process, because the district attorney has to decide if there is enough evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that they did this. So they may not charge this person, so they may get off basically, now because of a supreme court decision that was made several months ago, the victim has to appear in court if they want to go forward, so even they may call the police, and the perpetrator gets arrested, but if they're not wanting to come to court and testify then the case cant proceed because the supreme court determined that any person being accused of a crime has the right to face their accuser in court, were as before it could just be if the person gave their statement in their excited, upset state, they call it an excited utterance, it just happened, they're crying, their upset, we have a tape of the 911 call, where their crying, and obviously had been victimized, or they tell a police officer they had been, then that was good enough. But now they can't do that, even with photographs and those types of statements. So I would say that a lot of times the victims don't want to participate, sometimes people say they don't want to cooperate with the process, but I think if they don't cooperate they have reason maybe those reasons are for their own safety, that they know if they push forward with this they could be killed, so I like to say they don't like to participate. And then its not so blaming to them, but a lot of times they don't want to participate because they don't think it's a safe thing for them to do, if they don't then, here is a thing that's changed since 1980. There is a lot more resources and support for victims, especially in Washington County, and we have the domestic violence resource center,

we're working closely with the center for victim services, and police agencies, like Hillsboro police that have domestic violence advocates and specialized detectives that work these cases, and so there is a lot more effort made to make things easier for victims to get help and whether they're able to leave their abuser or not is probably not as important as having them have a safety plan, like having them know what to do if they are stuck in a violent confirmation and how to get out of there and be safe. They do also have the option of filing a restraining order against the perpetrator, where just recently in Washington County they totally reinvented that whole process to make it more user friendly, there's a new form that is easier to read and understand, a lot of people worked on that, putting it together, police, judges, district attorneys even defense attorneys who would be defending the batterers had input on how it was put together. And so I think there's a huge effort that's just continued to gain momentum over the last 10, 15 years. That wants to help victims, wants to help families coop and then heal from being in a violent situation."

LS: "That's what we read a newspaper article from the 1980's and there was a refuge for women and they could only accept 5 women and their children and that they had at least 5 women a day that they would have to send away."

"And its better then that but there's a not a lot more beds then that for the people that need to get away. A lot of people go to family members or try to move out of the area, if we had more shelters we could certainly fill them. And people do complain that we have more shelters for animals then for families in domestic violence situations."

LS: "Who do you think is the average victim, is it usually a woman, and how has that changed?"

"I think that probably static's are somewhere in the 90's, 90% are females being victims, and males being the perpetrators. But more and more, not so much women, women can certainly be the aggressors. But I think more and more law officers are having to judge when we have same sex couples and they can't just have that stereotype in their mind that it's the guys fault, cause if you have two guys, and both of them have injuries you have to try and figure out which one was the aggressor and you have to ask a lot more questions and interview neighbors and try get some kind of history to find out if there are patterns of abuse here and who is the aggressor and who is trying to defend themselves. So that's more of an issue that law enforcement has had to address in the recent years. And when there are male victims of violence there are hardly any services for them, because shelters are for women, and most the therapy that they send batterers to is for men so if you're a female batterer and the judge orders you to go to some kind of batterer intervention treatment that's probably going to be a little harder to find. But I think too that we're becoming more aware that these kind of violent relationships are forming with young people in their dating years even and I have a real concern about teenage girls in relationships that are controlling and manipulative and that it kind of becomes a way of life and those guys, and the static's do bear out too that young boys who witness domestic violence in their own lives are more likely to become violent toward women and their also more likely to accept it that then their male partners. So the kids of these families are just at a real risk of becoming victors or victims themselves so that's a huge thing that we as an society need to address."

LS: "So how have the numbers or static's of the victims changes, is it still mostly women, or has it become more men?"

"Well I don't know if necessarily the static's have changed but I think we're becoming more aware that its an issue and we're becoming more aware that its going but its not being recorded, because its not really culturing acceptable for a guy to say that some woman beat the crap out of him or a lot of people that are in same sex relationships don't really want everyone to

know about their orientation. So they don't report it, but whether static's bear that out or not, I don't know. Its more anecdotally that I know that, from talking with people that work in the domestic violence, social work area so don't really have static's for that."

LS: "People have just become more aware."

"Yes I would say, and who knows if it was happening just as much 20 years ago, but probably was, I think that the way law enforcement has responded to domestic violence has radically changed in 20 yea because its just the classic story in the 80's that a cop will be called to a dispute and he would try to talk to the people and tell them that the next time he comes back, or she comes back, that somebody's going to jail. And there was discretion on the police officers part whether they would arrest anyone or not and if they just thought giving these two people a talking would get them to settle down and cool off and stop fighting then that's great. But since we established in laws that require police officers to make an arrest at the scene of a violent domestic dispute then that's taken that challenge to have to figure it out away, or taken out their discretion away. So they just automatically have to arrest if they have probable cause."

LS: "What is like being a woman in a job that is predominately male?"

"Well I think that its interesting, it can be challenging, because you kind of have this male brotherhood attitude sometime and it's a little bit annoying, sometimes the men don't respect the women or think they can hold up their end of the fight if that's what it comes to. But I think there are a lot of women in law enforcement that have been in law enforcement for some time that kind of pave the way to prove can be good cops. And are they going to do things exactly the way a guy would, probably not. Women are probably going to try and talk and reason with people a little more then being hands on in some kind of conflict with a criminal as long as they can just because of the way they are. Guys are more ready to bring it on physically if they get challenged. But I think that men and women certainly compliment each other that men have strengths and that women have strengths and that if we can agree to pattern up we can be an awesome team. I think that defiantly its better for women in law enforcement then it was 20 years ago. I recently worked with a woman, or I worked with a woman who recently retired from the sheriff's office, who had been a police officer since maybe, the mid 70's and she was not accepted at all at the sheriff's office when she started doing that job. Guys would not back her up on calls, they would not associate with her, socialize with her, and it was very very hard. But she hung in there and she proved that she could do a good job and scrap with the best of them and she earned their respect and I think by doing that she really paved the way for other women who came after her to be accepted as equal partners. In my role now, in crime prevention, I'm more of a support service for the patrol officers, patrol deputies. We do have several women deputies though there that we're working with that are doing an excellent job. So I think it just depends on your personality, not so much on if you female. I think people are realizing that do you have the ability to be tough and make pretty split second decisions sometimes but at the same time being understanding and kind and helpful in the situations that you need to be with that. You have to really be able to change whom you approach people based on what they present to you, if their being violent and you need to take control and they wont comply then you need that violence. But if its some little child that's been victimized in some way you need to be able to get down on one knee and comfort that child and try to help them not scar them. So it's a pretty wide range of skills that a police officer needs to have to be successful. But all the agencies that I know of in Washington County are pretty good at training people to meet those challenges. They put a lot of time and effort into training and giving them equipment and making sure they pick the right people. That might be another area, not in necessary how crime has changed in 20 years but in

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how law enforcement has changed in 20 years. We're a lot pickier about who we choose to be cops today than we used to because they have to pass pretty rigorous physical logical testing to make sure they're mentally capable to do the job."

LS: "So in the past it was a lot easier to be a cop?"

"Yeah pretty much."

LS: "What has changed in 20 years...training?"

"Yeah I think they train people a lot better than they used to. Part of that is because of liability, there's a real ovation if you're sending cops out to drive fast and have the ability to take away people's freedom and use deadly force that you need to make sure they're trained on how to do that. Have the highest skill level they can have, so there's a lot of training that's been influenced in the last several years that has never been before. And too there are a lot more high tech tools that cops need to learn how to use whether it's an automatic rifle or whether it's a tazer or spike strips or operating a police vehicle at high speed it's just a lot of things that could go wrong so you just need to train and train and train some more so that you can handle any situation. It would really be negligent to send cops out on the street if they weren't trained in all those tools."

IVC

LS: "What exactly are you doing, you said that you teach?"

"Well kind of a wide variety of things really. I teach neighborhood groups how to watch and look out for one another and recognize suspicious activity, how to report it, how to communicate effectively with the police if they have an issue or a problem. I teach them too about home security what they can do to make their home safer and less attractable to burglars and harder to break into. I teach adults and young people alike about personal safety and just tip for when you're out in public, staying safe, staying aware of your surroundings, being prepared ahead of time. There's several programs that we supply on request to groups, we can teach about identify theft, how to avoid becoming a victim of that, some tips on how to protect your identity. We teach a class to parents and school personal on recognizing child molesters to help keep little kids safe and sex predators cause in the past we realized that we tried to teach kids how to protect themselves and that it's not really fair because they're not really sophisticated enough to recognize when a pedophile is grooming them. They just see someone who cares about them and gives them gifts and makes them feel special and they have no idea that this person they're starting to care about and love has any bad motives in mind. So it's up to the parents to recognize those people and their behaviors so they can keep them away from their child, and then report it to the police if they do suspect somebody. Like I said I'm doing a lot of training on meth, making people not just aware of what are the signs of a meth lab in your neighborhood but also what are some signs in your children that might indicate that they're using it. Or what are some preventive things that families and communities can do to keep kids, or prevent them from ever trying, practically meth, and how it all needs to tie together with law enforcement, and prevention education and also treatment and spending money as a government or as a community to get people the treatment they need so they can get off it so they can go back to being a successful person in society. So a variety of stuff."

IVB



LS: "So do you believe the police have become more involved with educating people about that kind of stuff from 20 years ago, making people more aware?"

"Yeah absolutely, and I think that 20 years ago cops were more of the attitude of call us and we'll fix it, we'll take care of it. And that really wasn't because as we realized when community policing became popular that we really needed the community to be involved and be doing what they could be doing and making these habits of locking their doors, and calling to

report suspicious activity and doing the things that I teach people to do and that's their role. And also investing time in making sure kids grow up safe and nurtured and cared for. So I think that over the last 20 years, police have defiantly figured that out. That we need to engage the community more, that we just can't fix everything by arresting people and throwing them in jail. And right now if the economy with the way it is, with the budget situation that leaves in Washington County there's a huge issue with not being able to keep criminals in jail that deserve to be there. So every day they have to decide which person that is brought in by the police is least likely to recommit a crime or be a danger to society that we let out because we have all these other ones being brought in. So it's kind of opening a door for some of these people. So I think in that regard knowing that jails not the answer we have work more collaterally with the schools and business community and social works and the DA office, and everybody that they communicate with and just try to get people to volunteer and care about their community and take some kind of action to make Hillsboro better."

LS: "Do you think that, you know who people are always like, well I lock my doors now and I never used to have to, do you think that it's not so much that there's more criminal activity, but that the people are becoming more aware that it can happen?"

"Well I think it could be both, that there could be more criminal activity and that the people that are getting victimized are telling other people, hey this happened cause I didn't lock my doors up so you might want to lock yours. And you know I have relatives in the mid west to this day still don't lock their doors and maybe they don't need to, but eventually there's a good chance that they might be victimize. Because a lot of criminals aren't that smart their just taking advantage of an opportunity, so they may go around a neighborhood some morning when every bodies off to school and work and just try door knobs, and if theirs one that opens because someone forgot to lock it. Then their going to go in there and grab as much as they can and go to the pawn and get what they can and go buy drugs. I mean that's kind of the classical scenario. So I think that as much as we can encourage people to have habits where they lock stuff up, they put their valuables where you can't see them. They take note of whose in their space when their walking down the street so if someone gets close to them their ready to react or run away. Rather then wait to be mugged."

LS: "We got the Hillsboro Argus from the 1980's and a lot of the crimes committed in there were thefts, how have you seen that changed in the years?"

"I think that thefts are still the highest ton the list of crimes. Whether its people getting their mail stolen, their car, or their stuff form their purse they left on the counter somewhere when they're shopping. I think it's still a lot of theft."

LS: "Is there anything that else that you think we should know about?"

"One other thing is different from 20 years ago. That now we have police officers in schools, we have DARE officers that are teaching little kids to resist drugs and gangs at elementary level and we have resource officers making their presence at schools and as security, I think they are a deterrent to some thing that might go on at school. Although I think there is still a fair amount of crime committed at school that the community doesn't realize and I used to work at Glencoe High School. And if kids would leave their backpacks unattended any length of time, they'd come back and their calculators are gone, their cd players are gone. You know big things like cars being broken into and stereos being stolen and I think there is a lot of crime that still goes on even with the police officer present and I'm not sure how we counter react that. Is it again just a society problem or people just losing their moral code and thinking its okay to steal what people don't have secured? Or is it somebody that's doing it to buy drugs? But defiantly I

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think there's a moral issue there, a lot of people speculate, are people just more evil then they were 20 years ago? And why would that be? You I don't know?"

LS: "How long have police been in schools?"

"I don't think it's been much more then 10 years"

LS: "Do you think it's made a difference?"

"I think it has. I think its helped young people to realize that police are people too and that they care about them. And I think it helps parents feel a little safer at school, whether that's true I don't know. Because in Hillsboro it would be nice to have one cop at every school every day all day but there's not enough to do that. I think in general though police are on scene people feel a little bit safer. I wanted to talk a little bit if its okay about media violence because I recently went to a training run by a guy that's kind of a expert in the field and he was saying that since the advent of TV there's been a steady increase in violent aggression toward other people and that kind of correlates with the number of people that get incarcerated in prison as a result. But at the same time we have the death rate for murders that stay fairly low, and he contributes that to just medical science being able to save people that you know get shot where as 20 years they would have been dead but now they just go to trauma and are ready to go. But it's pretty amazing that since the advent of TV and all the violent images that go into our brains from a young age that it does have an effect. And what it does is it desensitizes us to the act, the aggression or even the act of killing. He has studied this in depth to find out that all human beings have this built in phoebe of killing other human beings, and they studied this for the purpose of training soldiers. Because a lot of soldiers in WW2 were just firing their guns over the heads of the enemy then trying to kill them and so they try to train them to fire instead at targets with bulls eyes at salutes of human beings. And so that helped them focus more on the enemy instead of just firing over their head. And as time has gone on, now they have these really sophisticated virtual reality type training things, where even in fire arm training for cops you have these computer generated scenarios of don't shot or shot. That it's not just flicking away at a target, its actually having to make a decision of having to kill or not kill. That's effective if you want to train people to go to war and kill or have a police officer to use deadly force. But what's happening is the kids that are pretty heaving user of video games where killing is the goal and you get rewarded for killing and doing other horrible stuff that you are desensitizing their brains in the same way that they do to prepare people to go to war. And its just fascinating theory, and it really is more then just a theory, that they've been able to prove that those how those violent images that go in your visual sense how it doesn't go through your cerebrum cortex that processes but straight to your flight or fight primitive brain. But I think that's its pretty amazing and profound that if we think about that and how our society is becoming more violent and that may be why. Its really fascinating and there has been some studies done by these researchers that if we can get kids to turn off the TV for at least 10 days and kind of detoxify from its effects or whatever then their more likely to not be so likely to be so violent at school."