

Tape missing

Program for Washington County Museum at Century High School

Interviewee: Daniel Parsons

Interviewer: Matthew Parsons

Interview took place on June 6, 2001 at 6:30 p.m.

In your opinion at what point did students really become aware of the war?
It was in the papers a lot so kids were aware of it all through high school.

Were there any noticeable student's responses to the war like activities?
I don't think much; oh ya there was missing in action wrist bracelets, that was one big thing.

Were teachers teaching about the war as it was going on?
Ya, they were going over it in social studies class in like current events. I remember one teacher we had every Monday we had to bring a clipping from the paper about the war and read to the class.

Did students become rebellious at all over the time?
I don't think at the high school level, college students were quite rebellious at the time but we had other things on our minds I guess.

How much of the change in school life do you think can be attributed to the war?
Just that it was a big current event and people were worried about if it was still going on when we graduated we might end up there. No body was looking forward to that

Do you know anything about the draft law at the beginning of the war?
I'm not sure of the beginning I know there was a lottery system where they used your birthday and they pulled them out and if you came out low on the deal then you were surely to go. My brother-in-law was really for sure going to go so as soon as he got out of high school he enlisted in the air force.

Did you know any young men who openly resisted the draft or fled from it?
No. Nobody I know avoided it, other than Alfred Easter whom purposely gained a bunch of weight so he wouldn't qualify for the physical if that counts.

To what extent did your men enlist voluntarily?
Quite a bit I think. A lot of them right out of high school enlisted so that they could get a better position I know that,

How were returning vets treated when they returned home?
Not very well particularly. Because of the protesting, cause people weren't a big majority of the people thought we shouldn't be over there. It was at a time when people were afraid communism might take over rather than free people that's the reason we were over there, but a lot of people didn't agree that we should be spending our lives over there helping someone who was clear around the world.

So was there like a big red scare at the time?
Ya that was the whole thing was they were afraid that the communist would take over more and more countries and deprive people of their civil rights. There was a reason to be over there, but people at the time weren't looking at it that way.

Is there anything else important you would like to tell me?
Even though there were a lot of people against the war and protested against it, there were an equal amount of people who understood why we went over there and supported the troops, like I said with the bracelets

and the MIA missing in action people, that went on even after the war was over, rumors about people still being over there in prison. So there was a lot more supports, the support just didn't get as much media coverage, I don't think as the negative stuff did, but that's kinda they way things go.

How old were you towards the end of the war?

I think 15 or 16 or so.

So would you have enlisted voluntarily into the draft if you had turned 18 or voluntary into the military?

I think I would have joined so that I would have had a better choice of were I would have ended up rather than being drafted and having no choice.