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Interviewee: Dave Lyle—Detective for Washington Country Sheriff's Office
Interviewer: Stefanie Wagemann

Stefanie Wagemann: The following interview was conducted on behalf of the oral history program at Century High School. The interviewee is Dave Lyle; the interviewer is Stefanie Wagemann. The interview took place at Century High School in Mrs. Duyckinck's room on Thursday May 26 at 4: 35 PM.

SW: What is exactly is your job in the Hillsboro law enforcement?

Dave Lyle: My job title is detective for Washington Country Sheriff's Office. I am assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the joint terrorist task force

SW: How long have you been working in Hillsboro?

DL: As a detective?

SW: Yes

DL: Since May of last year

SW: How long have you been working in the law enforcement area?

DL: Pushing 17 years

SW: What and who are the biggest problems you see in Hillsboro in crime?

DL: Well it's what you see on the news primarily. It is identity theft, fraud, domestic violence, and methamphetamine and alcohol have huge contributing factors to domestic violence, however, fraud and identity theft is predominately isolated who are using the methamphetamine.] C 43

SW: Why do you think crime is such an issue?

DL: Well I believe the media plays a huge role in bringing to the forefront issues that the law enforcement has been doing their best to alert the public about, and the media, in all honesty, the media and the law enforcement haven't always had the best relationship, and there's a lot of communities that still don't. Here in Portland, Washington County, Clackamas county their public information officers do the exceptional job anymore creating a better line of communication and relationship between the needs of the public and the informity of what's going on and the security issues and concerns with the law enforcement that investigating crimes that; it's always been that the investigator will have a case that's going on—a murder or theft or something will have already been discover and it's being publicized but when asked of the law enforcement what they can divulge in that, the law enforcement historically has been real guarded in what information they can give out 'cause obviously they don't want to screw up the case. So the media realized this and they said, "Y'know we need to get more stories, we need to sell more papers, we need to sell more advertisements." It's all about money. So they go and go y'know

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the big stores are in crime and in order to get deeper into what's going on lets build our relationship. SO they see it to, and now because we're working better with them and our public information officer at Washington County Sandy James—who's retiring—had been with channel 6 news for numbers of years so she's knows the media inside and out, and when she came to Washington County she helped build our line of communication and also solve the needs of criminals that needed to be broadcasted and pictures of the bad guys being put on the media so we could capture them so she was able to y'know get that out, then she started telling broadcasters and everybody else—well everybody else was telling the legislators and everybody else what the concerns were (methamphetamines) and I was telling this to people 10 years ago back in 90-94 when I was workin' narcotics. Y'know if it wasn't for meth we wouldn't have so many burglaries, we wouldn't have so much identity theft, forgeries, check fraud, and credit card, you name it. Y'know people ask me what's the main cause—methamphetamines—but it wasn't until recently—I don't know you saw the trends about maybe a year ago—that the governor started getting on the boat and started pushing some of these polices restricting pseudophedrine sales, making it more public, which is about time. So going back to the original question...I think I got off track. What was the original question?

SW: What the causes were of all these crimes.

DL: You see the media kind of focusing on what issues are on. So whatever you see in the media right now...Oh! Child abuse! Rape. How many child abuse predators are out there that one would say are there more now than there ever were? I don't think so, but I think the media is doing a good job getting out there and alerting the public of what's going on. So I mean I don't work in child abuse and I haven't necessarily seen the numbers of reported crimes, reported abuses over the years to see whether or not they've actually increased, but I could check into that for you. However, I believe that trend that one might think is increased isn't more than the media finally getting out there in the community.

SW: Recently we looked at some statistics, and we noticed that in 1994 there were drug offenses around 57 and then in 1995 they shot up to around 200. Is there a reason for that?

DL: Well actually the numbers that you see, most crime reporting is filtered and tabulated by the FBI. The DEA does a lot of the tabulation of drug offenses and things like that to, but it all comes down to the Department of Justice, which oversees all the branches. The numbers being that there's 50 in 94 then they jump up to the 200 range are consistent with the numbers of methamphetamine labs that would have been low in the 90s and high in the 2000, because of the—well when I worked narcotics back in 94-98 we worked very little methamphetamine labs. One, the history of methamphetamine it used to be the bikers made...P2P meth, which was only 50% pure. Then what happened was the dopers found a new recipe—not a new recipe, it's a very old recipe, but it was new to them—Hitler had his chemists come up with a way to make methamphetamines using pseudophedrine, with phosphorous and all the nasty chemicals we see in methamphetamine labs today. Same cook. Same recipe. And that formula makes methamphetamine that is 100% pure methamphetamine; it's not 50% like the old biker meth. So what happened with this trend—and I think it was the middle 90s—it started to become popular. The bikers realized that even though they liked their brand of methamphetamine, it was harder to make. Even though it was 50, it was more difficult—longer process. Whereas that new method,

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that actually filtered up from Mexico up and Southern California they were seeing a lot of these pseudophederine labs, it was easy, quick and all the chemicals were readily available. The byproducts of such were very hazardous to the environment, but it shut down the bikers and their trade. So then the bikers started realizing well lets just sell pseudophedrine to the Mexican par tells, and that's where we'll make money, because we can't make meth that's profitable anymore, so lets just get into the pseudo market because we can buy from Canada 'cause there's no FDA restrictions, we can buy from Mexico—there's no FDA restrictions and with the channels of underground traffic money that we're laundering out of state, we can use those same avenues to bring pseudo up and sell to the Mexican Mafia and let them make it. Now it came to where everybody else saw this, and it's pretty easy to make—heck you could have all the components in your backpack here—but it got so common. And then it was about the 94 area where it started getting numb, then that easy way to makin' meth became so popular around here it took a while for the law enforcement to catch up to these labs. First to educate us on how to investigate, to know what kind of chemicals and things we're dealing with, because if we talk to an informant and they were sayin they're makin' meth and they're talking about chemicals we weren't familiar with but we still knew about the old stuff.

Mr. Lyle's phone rings and he stops there and then the interview ends.