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LOH 2007-496.S.1
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Detective Troy Dolniuk

ST: This is Stephanie Tanner recording on June 7 2005 with Detective Troy Dolniuk. The question we were given is to describe and analyze the changes and trends in law enforcement in Hillsboro, Oregon from 1980-2005. How long have you been in Hillsboro?

TD: Well, I've worked in the Washington county sheriffs office and I've worked the Beaverton area and this kinda stuff all my life, but I've worked here since 1993. While not necessarily working exclusively in Hillsboro I've had a taste of the area.

ST: Is there anything that springs to mind with the question?

TD: In recent years, we have (and this is not just Hillsboro, I would say its not specific to Hillsboro) a broad base of Internet based crimes, it has increased dramatically. And that has come on the heels of the increase in the Methamphetamine problem. The crimes like robbery and stuff, violence, has gone down (for financial gain, not crimes like domestic violence, which are also crimes of violence). Things like robbery, things of those nature, those have gone down, mainly due to the, its kinda like there's not a whole lot of reward for the risk you take. I mean, when you commit a robbery, it's a very high level crime, and often times you don't gain a lot of monetary value off it. You may, you know, robbing somebody, get a couple hundred dollars, rob a bank, you may get a couple thousand dollars, but in return you have the FBI and everybody putting out these fliers and stuff like this. So the advent of fraud related crime, you can go to that same bank, hand the teller a piece of paper, which is a forged check, and walk away with 10,000 dollars and even if they identify you, the best you're gonna get is maybe a single detective. You're not gonna get the FBI after you, you're not gonna have mandatory sentencing, which is very high because it's simply (inaudible) its not classified as a robbery, and you can get 3-4 times the amount of money you would if you tried to rob the place with a handgun.

ST: Is that what makes it robbery, is the weapon?

TD: Yeah, a robbery usually has to involve some sort of use of force or implied use of force to overcome the resistance of the person. So when someone hands a letter, saying "I have a bomb", they're implying that they're willing to do something violent or use some sort of force to go through with their crime. But generally there has to be an implication of force, or just showing a knife, or a handgun in your waistband, something like that, is an implication that you're willing to use force. Those kinds of crimes have kind of gone down on the advent that you can do everything either anonymously through fake identification, when you're passing a bad check, and you walk out with 10,000 dollars and the bank doesn't know it til the next day. And you're already got your money, and you're going on doing your thing. That's probably the biggest change and that comes on the heal of the increase in methamphetamine use, which drives a lot of those kind of activities because the people, they need to purchase it. They need to get it and these guys don't hold jobs, most of them. The use of methamphetamine, I won't say excludes the use of other drugs, but it used to be that you'd get a small portion would use this, a small portion would use that, and they would stick with that. It seems to be, kinda, on the whole, that methamphetamine has kinda taken over. Heroin may be used by a small group of people,

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marijuana is still very commonly used, but eventually it will lead to methamphetamine use. And those people who use methamphetamine usually stick with it, because it is highly addictive. The people like, I've been told by these people that we deal with they like the feeling that they get and they don't want to stop, even though it clearly, is physically bad for them. And so, to afford the meth, usually they could be doing car break ins, uh burglaries, things like that. But again, those crimes, there's a lot more risk. You have to walk up to someone's front door or their garage or go out to a place in the public where the car is, break the window, risk being seen. Maybe they look for cash or something. Where now, all you have to do is you have a laptop, go and steal mail, or acquire information on people. Usually you can do it very anonymously, through the mail.

ST: Does that happen a lot, mail theft?

TD: Yeah its very common, they call it mailboxing, and what they do is people go around on one night and just go through and take everything, and they go through it later. At times we're recovered large garbage bags of mail, so we're talking like 10 lbs of just paper mail, a lot of its junk mail, they go through and discard all that. They look for anything that has a identifier, whether its like a medical records, you know when you get something from the doctor, usually those things might have your social security number, or a credit card bill that has your account number. They take the name and the account number, they can just go on the Internet and use that information right there and start using that credit card. They send it to a third party place, the smarter ones, the not so smart ones have the item shipped back to their location. But again, there's a time delay, they're not immediately exposing themselves to being noticed as (inaudible) at that time. Usually the theft of mail takes a while for people to recognize, hey I never got my mail or got my such'n'such bill. So they don't even know that they've been a victim, cause sometimes you don't get mail, so its not unusual. Or it may take til the end of the month when your Visa statement comes in and says whoa. So, the whole theory is these people can do their crime without even being noticed until a certain time later, by that time, they may have moved to a different location. These people are very transient. When they stop using that card, they'll go onto a different card, and often times they count on the time delay to give them enough time where if they did use a credit card at a convenience store or something, the video surveillance has been taped over. A lot of places reuse the tapes. A good place may have one tape for every day of the month, 31 tapes in their catalog, and use one tape every day. So you basically have 30 days to go back and get that. Time is a criminals friend. Evidence deteriorates, certain kinds of evidence deteriorates a lot faster. And so they just find it a lot easier doing their crimes, you know, the easiest kind is on the Internet. The challenge there is how can you say who was actually typing in that information on the computer, who was actually the person did that, that's the challenge.

ST: How do you do that?

TD: A lot of it comes down to establishing and using possession of items, and corroborative evidence, as far as the crime, you know drugs are the first thing. You start talking about those things, or you may arrest somebody else who says well I know this guy does that and use his statements against the other guy. Its very difficult, there's almost no way unless you've got an

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undercover sting operation saying I saw him doing it. You can do it, you know, if you have a static IP address, do reverse on IP addresses, but again that's still very difficult to say %100 sure that this is the only person who could be using that. Now you can take statements, ask, generically, do you let other people use your computer. (The guy says) oh no that's my computer I wouldn't let anybody touch it, you know a lot of these guys would say that, because they don't want anybody else using their computer, to see what's in there. They say no no there's nothing in there, nothing to see, so eventually when you get the search warrant to see the computer, then you can use the statement saying, he says that no one else uses his computer, and there on the computer is the history files showing that he actually is the one. It takes a lot of cooperation regarding your interviews, your ongoing investigation.

SI: So would you say generally that the rise in fraud is tied to the meth problem?

TD: For the average person, yes. When they qualify high tech crime as crimes using computers, and the internet, to manufacture checks, things like that, yes. Now if you're looking at crimes involving hacking into computers, things like that. That's on a whole different level. That's not widely investigated at this level because on those cases there's more federal task forces that have that expertise. There are certain officers in Washington County, Beaverton that may assist in those investigations but they're specifically assigned to this task force. Those type of crimes are more ego driven, by somebody whose ego, one of those "hackers" that do it for the thrill of it. Or they're financial driven for information gleaned from certain websites. In general the high tech crime we see is basic laptop, pc, computers, laser printers, scanners things like that. They'll scan in the initial check, the payroll check from a company one of their friends may have worked for, they scan that in or they create it themselves using the Versacheck program and taking all the information off, and it doesn't necessarily have to be off one check. They can take the name of a business, and the address put it on a check, the bank, say US Bank, take the logo off the website, put it on the check, and routing number and account number from a Wells Fargo check, and you can't look at it and tell it's not a valid check. But none of the information matches up. Wells Fargo doesn't have this routing number, this account number, the routing number and this account number doesn't belong to this person on there, but what it looks like, when presented to the bank, it goes through. They can't tell there because all they do is read and they say is that a valid routing number and account number, so then they send it off to the bank processing, and that's where they start matching up all that stuff. They don't do that at the local branch they do that at the central processing, and that's where it gets kicked back and saying hey, this is a bad check. Then that bank contacts, sometimes they contact the name on the check, and that person doesn't know their name's being used. Or they'll contact whoever the account number is, saying hey, you owe us this much money, and they say that's not my check, this says Wells Fargo, and I'm a US Bank holder, and that's not my name on the check, so I'm not paying. So the bank doesn't know what to do, and it comes back to what evidence do they have of the original transaction with the check. And by the time they've figured out what's going on, there's that time limit again. Did they pass it at the bank, or did they pass it at a store like Winco or something? Did they keep the images from that transaction, where there any fingerprints taken? A lot of times banks will require that, but Winco and stuff may not. So do they still have the original document that the police can seize to get the fingerprints off of or have they shredded it and changed it to a digital image, if they have then your evidence doesn't

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exist anymore. Winco, they were doing it as a customer service a lot, to cash payroll checks and I think they've found out that its...

ST: Does Winco get ripped off a lot?

TD: A lot. We talk to them... they don't report them all because its just such a hassle and they end up taking it, as a financial agency, as a loss as part of doing business. But they... because it is so prolific, such a problem, that they just can't keep up with it. They'd be sitting there on the phone every day saying can you send someone out here to take this report. And sometimes they do that what they'll do is they'll banks do this and this is like regionally accepted. They all kind of hoard maybe a weeks worth of transactions and say they got 20 bad checks in, at the end of the week they say hey could you send someone over to take this and then they end up with giving them 20 checks, which are not all the same people, so the HP officer gets 20 different case numbers and does a report on each one of them. It's very cumbersome. We tell people hey you can't do it this way, either you report it or you don't, but we cant do it this way, its cumbersome. That's the kind of high tech crime that you see on a daily basis. The other is the internet scams, where people use the anonymity of the internet, and say hey, you know make contact with people, and they build a relationship over the internet and then they say hey can you do me a favor. I can't get item A, whatever it is a laptop, computer, or ipod. Something like that. I can't get one, I'd really like to get it, can't get one here because they're all out, or I'm in a different country and they don't make them here, if I send you a money order or a cashier's check, will you buy one for me? And they people will generally say sure I'll do that for you, we've been such good friends, and I've heard these relationships dating back to a year before the person actually asked. Then they send a cashier check via UPS or something, and they find out the item the wanted is actually less than what they sent. They say hey I sent you a check it's for \$5,000 but the item is only \$500. Could you go ahead and cash it, buy the item, and could you buy an extra one for me, and then keep x amount of dollars for yourself, and send back the rest of the money. And people say ok, they go and cash the cashier's check, again, not knowing it's a bad check. And they initially accept it because of what we talked about before. So therefore they may accept it initially, the person deposits it in their account, and if they're unfortunate enough to have gone and purchased the items and actually sent them before the bank finds out that the moneys not good, then that person is out the money that the bank gave them, plus the item, the money they spent. We've had these people, they've been business associates they want to invest, right? They're given this cashier's check, and they deposit that amount. Then they go and start spending those monies, whether they pay bills with it, thinking its legitimate, and all the sudden the bank says woa, that money you cashed is not good, you owe us \$20,000 dollars. (They say) Well I just bough a boat, or I used it on a series of flying lessons. Now they have to come up with and pay the bank \$20,000 its not an easy thing to do. But who's the victim? The bank is gonna get their money back because they're gonna hold the account holder responsible. You're the victim, you were duped, but you're also being held responsible (civilly) because you went out and did the act of cashing the check. So that's why you see a lot of these internet scams which are considered high tech scams, using the internet as a catalyst to make these connections. The only other thing that's similar to that is the use of email, IRC, and those kind of things is with child abuse, in that kids now meet people online who pretend to be a certain age when their actually this age, and by the time they've made these relationships, its kind of like the

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business relationships with the check scams, child abuse (inaudible) develop that relationship over time and become such good friends that eventually if they do plan on meeting or they do come face to face, and the kid doesn't know initially that the person is 27 when he says he's 16, it doesn't matter because they've developed such a friendship that they already like this person. They'll excuse it. Then physical or some other sort can occur. And they call that grooming, which used to be done in person. They used to talk about how the old man used to go to the park or something and watch the kids and offer them candy. Well now that's all done via the internet. And it's done, again, under the anonymity of the internet, and they may take their nephews picture, who's 16, and post it as their profile, say this is who I am, you don't know when you look at yahoo profiles or whatnot, you don't know that that's really who you're talking to. That's the biggest move in high tech crime is these kind of fraud, the use of the internet to form those kind of crimes is the biggest increase we've seen. And I think again, those cross over because a lot of the fraud is drug related, and the theft stuff then becomes fraud related and so they all weave a web and they're kind of one mixed. I think if you talk to any of the agencies in Washington County, that would be the number one issue as far as a growing concern that affects the general public. I know in certain areas of Hillsboro back in the 90s when I worked gangs there was a large problem there, that kind has just tapered off, those same kids that were involved there, I now see them doing the fraud stuff. They've evolved, the street thug has gone onto this other stuff trying to make money, and they use the fraud and the drugs to do that. And it's partially because of the lack of law enforcement to be able to fight those crimes, because there are certain times when you deal with the internet, my local jurisdiction doesn't have the authority to prosecute this person, cause where is the crime actually taking place. Is it taking place here, or is it taking place in Bolivia or Alabama? It's difficult to establish. The DA's office and the state legislatures have not developed a clear, laws directed towards those types of crime, so a lot of it depends on if you have a DA who's willing to get up in front of a judge and thinks he can win it, but most DAs won't do that because they feel it's a waste of time, cause they're just gonna get shot down. That's the biggest concern, as far as those types of cases, is the lack of actually being able to help people. We want to, but in certain instances our hands are tied because we don't have the tools to effectively first investigate them, because how do you prove it, secondly how do you prosecute them, because where did the crime originally occur? And if your suspects in New Jersey, and your victims here, good luck getting help from anybody in New Jersey on your case out here, cause they got enough problems back in New Jersey. Unless their suspects part of an ongoing investigation, they're not gonna jump up and help you. Digital cameras now are such good quality that you can take a picture in here against the wall, then you load it in your computer and fill the background with the same color blue the DMV does with the fill thing, and you got yourself halfway to a decent Oregon identification card. They're getting money that's counterfeited, if people use the right paper, a passable bill can be made in minutes, and use them in places where people aren't paying attention to receiving them, the obvious use is a garage sale, or at the farmers market. Those kind of places basically do cash business. There's people who make 10 dollar bills and go to those places, and at those places there's no way to tell who gave you the fake bill. It's the easiest place for a person to pass bills made on the computer. They may actually give you, may buy something for \$40 and give you two good bills and two bad bills, but we have had people try to, the funniest one I think I've seen is, using the computer to counterfeit bills, and you know usually you go into a store or bank and ask to make change, can you break this hundred into 10s, someone brought 10 counterfeit bills

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into a place and said hey, can you give me a hundred for these 10 bills, why would anybody want a hundred dollar bill, which is harder to spend, than 10 10s? Someone actually tried to do that, and they were all 10 counterfeit bills. Fortunately the business caught it. There are those people that will try that avenue, as long as they have cash that they can get changed into any bill, you give me a 20 for two tens, they now have taken bad money and made it into real money. There's no way to track who actually did it, who actually passed that bill, and to show that they had intent to defraud the place, there's no way you can prosecute them. I have had people that have received bills from a store, gone and passed them someplace else, and that second store finds out that its counterfeit. They contact us, we go over and contact this guy, says I just got that as change from Safeway, especially when they have the receipts that show the amount, how do you prove that they were the ones that actually made the bill. That is very difficult. Computers are a wonderful tool, the internet is a wonderful tool, but it also is a playground and toys for those people that have a modicum of computer savvy. They can actually do a lot of damage.

ST: What's your most memorable case? We can talk about the gang stuff too, that would probably be pretty interesting.

TD: When I worked child abuse detective I had a couple that were memorable just because of the type of cases that they were, the victims being very young. So those kind of leave an impression on you as far as memorable. But one of the ones I think I enjoyed the most as far as an investigative standpoint, is when I worked on the interagency gang enforcement team we had a driveby shooting, and fortunately no one was shot, but a gangster didn't get allowed to go into a party, and so he decided to riddle the house with a bunch of bullets from an AK 47. The case has never actually gone to trial because the guy's fled the country. He was not a US citizen. But we were able to prove, with interagency cooperation, with Portland police, and I think we had people from Gaston and associates from Washington County, and Beaverton. This case actually happened outside of the city of Hillsboro, but it was not too far from the Hillsboro school district, out there in the West Union area, out in the suburban areas where they just shot up this house after a party. Through all these different connections we were able to identify who they were. We talked to all the kids that were at the party, and of course no one wanted to say exactly, but we were able to squeeze enough information out of these people that we knew the people involved were part of this one gang. This one gang was mainly out of Portland but they had come out to Summerset West area, out to the edge of Hillsboro, out to Beaverton and Aloha at different times for certain things. Because one or two people they know live out here, and had been contacted, so we had a base of kind of where to start. It ended up we found out that we were able to identify this person, we were lucky enough that the Portland Police, their gang team had done a good enough job, and they happened to be at one of these gun expos at the expo center, a gun show, and they caught these known Asian gangsters at the time coming out of a place where they had purchased some weapons. So they contacted them, and through good police work they were able to ask these guys, hey mind us seeing what you got? And these guys were probably happy to kind of show off to the police because there was nothing they could do about it, they bought them legally. But they took photographs of the weapons, and it ended up that we had a photograph of the weapon that was used before we even had the weapon in our possession. So we eventually served the warrant out in Portland, we went and got the gun. That case, the person was indicted, and before his trial he ended up fleeing the country, so there's still

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active warrants out for his arrest. He jumped bail and all this kind of stuff, his family was out I think 10,000 dollars, but I guess they figured that was a small price to pay for his freedom. If someone did that kind of thing..I don't know if I'd be willing, I'd be hard pressed to give up 10,000 dollars for my brother if he if he was an idiot to go shoot up a house. Have to earn 10,000 dollars, or a second mortgage, you still have to pay that money you know? I wouldn't do that. But that was one of the enjoyable cases that I got to work. The other one that I really remember is as a child abuse detective, I was able to, a foster father had taken advantage of 3 of his foster daughters while his wife was away at work, actually sexually molested them. I was able to get enough information, cause these were young kids sometimes its hard to get information or get them to cooperate. I was able to get enough information, and he's gone, 23 years was the sentence, and that assures that the kids that he was around are grown up and stuff and they won't have to deal with him, hopefully until their 30 years of age. That's one of those things that, its gratifying to see that the judicial system actually, you know its not one of these things were you always here about a guy who goes to jail and gets right back out. Those kind of cases, you do a good solid case, and the (inaudible) usually backs you up and says yeah, this guy is going away for a long time. He didn't murder somebody, but sometimes that may be worse what he did, you know those kids, it sticks with them for however long they have, maybe for the rest of their lives. So that was memorable. He was active in his church and all this kind of stuff.

ST: What do you know about MS 13? Are they in Oregon?

TD: Mara Salvatrucha Trece? MS 13, well I know from their inception that initially they were Salvadorian gangsters, and they started out to rival the 18th street gang down in Southern California. They were actually the Salvadorian freedom fighters, the paramilitary. When all those issues were settled, as far as they're concerned down there where they're disgruntled people and they had nothing else to do, all their way of life was guerilla warfare. Now they got displaced from El Salvador, they came up to Southern California, and not being Hispanic/Mexican as far as decent, cause they were more Indian, actually native El Salvadorian, they didn't fit in with some of those groups. They had problems with the gangs there, and these guys had no legitimate lifestyle, they obviously, you know in El Salvador they're running drugs, guns and that kind of stuff to support their... well they came up here and kinda got into that same mentality up here. They formed MS 13 kind of as a protection from their own self. The rap with them is they got to be known as a violent gang because the original members were "paramilitary" people, they were people that were used to guerilla warfare, and so getting involved in a gunfight to them, not a big deal, because that's what they were doing every day. And a lot of people don't understand that desensitization, that kind of process, and as a criminal, you know the one thing that we have going for a lot of criminals is they're still human beings, they're not, you know...people may threaten and stuff, but it's a big step to actually pull the trigger or actually use a weapon that you threatened to use. Well for these people they've done it since they were kids. So it wasn't that big a deal. So when they made a threat, they then carried through, so then they got this reputation as being pretty ruthless. Generally it wasn't towards the public, it was towards other drug dealers, towards other gang members, it wasn't like they were just going out and preying on anybody going down the street. But it's a group you probably wouldn't want to cross. That attracted the attention of kids growing up in the area as well.

Saying hey, they've made a name for themselves, those kids then involve in gang life, and the reputation of these guys, and so they grew. The members now are not what they were back then in the inception they just don't have that history that lifestyle of violence that those original members did. *But that reputation I think still sticks with them.*

ST: Where are the original members? Are they in jail?

TD: I don't know if they all are, I'm sure a lot of them have ended up there, but I'm not versed as well to know the inception of the gang and know the original gang members, when you're talking about founding members of the Crips gang, the Bloods and stuff like that, I know a lot of those guys have actually been killed, or in prison, and on of them died in prison, things like that, the MA gangs, which is the head of the Surenos street gangs down in California, a lot of those guys are known down there. MS 13, it wasn't like they had one leader. They were already an organized group coming up here because of the military organization, so when they developed, it wasn't just one person that stood out. *But I would imagine most of those people, they were actually older, I mean when you think of gang members you think of 16, 17, 18, 19. A lot of these guys were probably when they started out a little older like in their 20s but had younger brothers or sisters, cousins, associates that came up. So they had a lot of kids doing it as well, but they were organized a little more militaristic than the regular gang, because of their prior guerrilla background. When I worked gangs from 1998 to 2000 or so I had one documentation of a MS 13 member here in the Washington County area. He was a transplant person from California, he said he used to associate with them down there, not so much, there weren't any up here so he couldn't really have anybody to bond with. He still hung out with the "gang wannabe" type, those kids that dress up like gangs and stuff but they don't really belong to a gang but they like to act like it, those are the kind of people he hung out with cause that's what he was comfortable with. Today, MS 13 I would assume there's probably a number of them in the metropolitan area, I doubt, when you look at Hillsboro and their history with like Hillside 12th Street or even 18th Street, and some of those other gangs, Trece Locos, those gangs are much more established here. I mean, I know people in those gangs that have several brothers that are all raised up in it. You know the gang is family and the family is gang. When you associate this family you associate them with this gang. MS 13 doesn't have that kind of history here so I don't think they're as established as some of the older, original gangs here in the Washington County area. *But I'm sure that they are probably here. As a fraud investigator, I run across gangs a little bit, and being a former gang investigator if I see any graffiti I'll read it and I understand what I'm looking at. But I have not seen anything to make me think hey, Mara Salvatrucha Trece is an established presence up here. I don't see anything that leads me to believe that there's a widespread issue with Mara Salvatrucha up here. But that doesn't mean there not there, but just don't try to draw attraction to themselves. Part of the problem is if a small gang does that, those area gangs that are more established, now know that they're out there and trying to make a name for themselves (tape stops) kind of as an example, and when they had that 12 year old girl that was shot out there in front of the arcade between 1st and 2nd on Main Street, she was shot, I think, walking home from dance practice, and she was shot by a small gang who they called themselves Brown Pride Locos which was a new upcoming gang, a small group of guys trying to make a name for themselves, they were shooting at some established Trece Loco gang members that had actually grown up in Hillsboro. So that's when you get those**

clashes when those new gangs are trying to make a name for themselves, and that's what happens, you get these innocent victims, that poor girl was shot, fortunately she wasn't wounded fatally, but I'm sure she has to live with that the rest of her life, walking home from dance class and walking down downtown Hillsboro and getting shot because this car is driving by and this guys standing over here, and she's in between them, they open the door and start firing at each other. That's a classic example of a new gang trying to make a name for themselves. Or the type of violence that happens when those type of gangs clash. I haven't seen that, and as a police officer, if something like that were to happen, there would be information out there saying we need to be, in your investigations and whatnot watch for anything like these type of groups cause they're a problem. I haven't heard that. Like I said, it would be something to catch my eye because as a former gang investigator I still like to keep up with some of the stuff that's going on. And I have some of my friends in the Washington County Sheriff's Office that work gangs and stuff so..and I just haven't heard the MS 13 stuff come up yet. I know its become a national story about how they spread, and again, they have, cause pretty much anyplace 18th Street is, now MS 13 is there to rival them. We just haven't seen it that much out here in Washington County. It probably would be a better chance of it happening, maybe in the East counties, in Portland. They've had a rise in gang activity of late, and that would probably be a better place where you might see it.

ST: Do you think that there's gonna be a lot more gang activity this summer?

TD: Summer is always an opportunity for more gang activity, one because kids are out of school. Cause gang members do actually go to school. Whether they attend a lot, they do actually have that structure of school and some parents don't even realize their kids are in gangs. They think their kids are going to school to learn and actually the school is just the impetus then for meeting the people and joining the gang. So in a way the younger kids, that were tied up in school, they maybe not involved in "hardcore" criminal activity, but their the younger kids that are involved. They still go to school but during the summertime, they have a lot more time now to just hang out together. When they hang out together, their at a park or something, or a school, and all the sudden one of them graffitiing the table with a marker, next thing you know you got three guys and that becomes of wait a second we have a gang problem. Well its been there the whole time its just that these guys didn't have the time and they didn't have the ability to hang out in an area because one thing schools in session their not gonna be writing things all over the school, two during the week when their in school they're expected to be home, their parents expect them home. During the summer they just have a lot more time, and what are they gonna do with it, they're gonna do what gangsters do, which is either go harass people, usually people of the opposite gang, their gonna go find something to pass time, even if they don't mean it to be its some sort of annoyance, whether it be going down to Hagg Lake....I had a situation in one of my gang investigations where two different groups went down to Hagg lake just to spend the day. Of course they run into each other, one guy threatens another just because they were rival gang members, gang signs got thrown up, and all the sudden a shooting happened out in the parking lot of Hagg lake. Not an organized gang fight, it was impromptu, but somebody, this person threw up a sign and this person threw up a sign, this person had a knife, so that guy went back to his car and got his gun. It happens that quickly. It's a situation where fortunately no one got hurt, well someone got shot, it was a gang member of the rival gang that got shot, he didn't get

gangs

killed or anything, its happened out on the parking lot in Hagg lake, not a lot of people knew what happened, some people heard the pops and thought it was firecracker, and that's kind of a wide open area, but a car was hit. So there was evidence that it could have impacted a lot more people had someone been walking by. Again, its like that girl who was walking from the dance to home. If that situation, if a family happened to be walking by with their kids in a stroller or something, who know what could have happened. They escalate that quick. Again, in the structure of school and things like that, a lot of those kind of things don't happen. But when they have a lot of free time there's a greater opportunity for that kind of thing to happen because there's usually not as much supervision when they're out tooling around, and it may not be the first time, it may take several times til someone gets up the nerve. Ant thats why, in the summertime, there's just a lot of opportunities and it just takes once for someone to make an impression. But I haven't heard that there's specifically supposed to be a rise in gang activity other than the fact that it does seem to be a new group of younger kids that have been associated with gang activity.

ST: How young?

TD: Oh I remember kids being as young as 10 and stuff being associated. Usually they were younger brothers of an older kid, but I had a kid that was 14 that joined a gang, he was an only child as far as I know, and he took a younger moniker, like if you have an older guy he'd kinda pass on his moniker, say this is for example pato, which means duck in Spanish, or flaco (sp) which means skinny, they would say this is little flaco. Usually that's a younger brother but if they don't have a little brother, the can pass that on to little flaco being like this guys underling, or a buddy of his that's a young kid that an older guy kind of takes under his wing. This 14 year old took on the moniker of this guy that's been in prison and stuff that I know that was probably 20 years old, and I don't know how they met up, other than they were both white and they might have been in the same ethnic heritage, even though they were in a Hispanic gang they were both like Irish or Scottish or Norwegian, so maybe that was the thing. There seems to be a little more of a younger crowd and an increase in some of the middle school to high school kids, where before it was kind of at a lull. When I left the gang team in 2000, we really didn't have as much gang activity at the schools and such and I kind of heard that its picked up a bit it that age group, even not necessarily at the schools but its gotten a little more active. But its like anything else, its kind of cyclical. There was a void, and all it takes is 2 or 3 guys to say hey lets get something going, and if there's no one there to rival them, there's nothing to curb their activities, so they can start tagging all over the place without any consequences. Its only once there gets to be enough (inaudible) that some of the older gangsters start saying hey we need to do something about that., it becomes a problem, and by that time these kids have recruited and they've become brazen enough now they've become a problem. So it's a rise and fall. Or someone, a couple people went to jail or prison, we sent a couple 18th streeters to jail for trying to rob a drug dealer and the drug dealer was a "victim" of a robbery even though it was a drug dealer. These people used a gun to try to rob this guy. Doesn't matter whether it was for money and marijuana, its still a crime. Those people go away for a while, all the sudden things settle down. When they get back out, oh boy. These people are criminals, they're gonna go back to what they know. And things will start up again. So there's a lot of factors and I haven't really looked to see if a lot of people are getting released from jail. A lot of times they will forecast you know if a

known gang leader, someone that was always very active on the streets, if he's scheduled to get out, they may say hey there's likely to be a little more activity. I know three brothers that originally started the 18th street gang were in the Portland area that every time they got out of prison, the street gang activity went up, and went back down when the kids were leaderless, so they didn't do as much, they didn't have to prove themselves to these older gang members.

ST: What kind of stuff did they do that they were in and out of jail?

TD: Oh, robbery, assaults, that kind of stuff. And once they get that first conviction, their next robbery or assault or gun possession charge or drug possession charge then lands them in prison rather than just jail because they've built up this criminal history and they're proven to be a danger. Where maybe if it was a young kid, his first crime, he wouldn't go to jail, he'd get probation or he would go to a county jail. But these guys, because they've been doing it so long, they've earned the right to go to prison. So to speak.

ST: When did we start really talking about meth? I didn't hear about it on the news and media until about a year ago.

TD: From a law enforcement perspective, see I grew up in this area and I remember when I grew up and went to highschool in the 80's, you heard about marijuana, a little about cocaine, the concern back then was the rise in heroin. Methamphetamine was just being reported that it was out there. When I first started on in 1993 in the sheriff's office, they still used a very cumbersome method to make methamphetamine. They called it the P2p method, and they used to talk about the cat urine smell from the labs. It had to be done out in the rural areas because your neighbors would smell it and a lot of people report it. That became wide known, and so it wasn't very common. Then, I think it was in the mid 90s, smart chemists that for whatever reason kind of said hey, not that they were necessarily criminal in nature, but for whatever reason they showed how to make the same drug in a different manner, using the pseudoephedrine, and a lot of household chemicals. Lighter fluid, things like that, all these different chemicals, and the process became where you could now do it, now you can carry around everything in a small box, you could do it in a closet instead of a lab. It started really becoming a problem in the mid to late 90's is when the p2p method kind of went out. Because back then the people that did it were really, you're talking your hardcore biker type guys because you dealt with chemicals a lot, you got chemical burns, I mean cooks did not live a long time back then. You shortened your life a long time just because of the toxicity of the chemicals and the reaction and breathing all the stuff. Well now, you can do it in a lot smaller area, if you ventilate, you don't have that problem, so you get people that cook all the time, go to a hotel room and stuff, set up a lab. But I know laws, for example the laws are always reactive, the pseudoephedrine laws that came into place a couple of years ago were only in place because of the problem with everyone using pseudoephedrine to do this, whether it be a sudafed or other pills, using the meth process. Those laws came into affect I think around 2000 or so, maybe a little before that, they were a reaction to what was occurring, so I think middle to late 90s is when the meth action started happening. It replaced all those drugs like cocaine, heroin, lsd, or some of those hard drugs; you know a step up from marijuana. Now meth basically is the hard drug of choice around here. In certain areas of Portland crack cocaine is still the drug of choice

with black gangsters, they call it rock, they still use that, heroin down in areas of NW Portland is still the drug that a lot of the hardcore street kids end up using, but in general throughout the suburban metropolitan area the average person if they get involved in drugs is gonna go..they start with ecstasy, marijuana, things like that, but eventually they funnel and more likely than not they're gonna end up with meth. And that drug is just it's a big problem, because its so easy to make. Its such a big cash cow. As far as these people that cook it, they can make a lot of money, in return, yeah there are cost expenses, but how else are they gonna make that kind of money? And, there's so many people out there that use it. And I've seen people that have promising futures, that had jobs, had kids, and got hooked on it and that's all gone. You know their family, they've taken advantage of their family, their wives, their businesses, things like that have all become secondary to the use of that drug. Its sad. Eventually,,,and I can say this with a straight face, if you have a family member that is a meth user, if you think that person will not victimize you, your brother your sister your dad, to use that drug, you are sadly mistaken, cause I have seen parents that have been burglarized, who put padlocks on their own doors from the kids that live in that house cause they know if they don't they people will go in there, they will steal the checkbook and they're gonna run up the...I mean its sad, that drug is just a menace...the ease of the access to the drug is the big problem, because its very easily made, anybody who can follow a baking recipe can do this. And the obvious attraction is these people can do it in their own home, trailer, the back of a van or something, they don't need to have (inaudible) but they can do it overnight where it used to be a several day process. They can do it overnight, you can go rent a room for \$70 and make your batch and go out and sell in and within a couple days and it pays for itself, its just a cycle. That's why we have hotels around here that are common, you think if you go there that chances are someone's been cooking meth in the room that you're staying at.

ST: Which hotels?

TD: (Laughs) Im not gonna name names but I would assume that the average person could probably guess at some of them, go around town and look at the clientel that hang out there, I mean why would a 17, 18, 19 year old kid that's parents live down the road be staying at this hotel for a couple days, and paying cash, and he has no job, why is he staying at this hotel. And its not just during prom night or a weekend or something where you have a bunch of friends go and have a party, that kind of stuff. Or why is he going to this hotel, then to this hotel, week later the same persons at this hotel.

ST: Are the rooms contaminate?

TD: Well, unless you have a spill of the chemicals or something, you're not gonna get any noticeable contamination. The process itself, you can come and go and leave without leaving any trace of it, but a lot of times these people aren't really considerate, they're messy, and if they spill something, they're not gonna tell you. So yeah, some of the rooms may have contamination, and the hotels may not know it, cause they may not understand what was spilled there. The tenants aren't gonna know it if the hotel has done a halfway decent job of cleaning it up. Is it harmful or not? I mean none of that stuff is good for you....all I can say in my opinion is there are some hotels that I'd wouldn't go to, I would warn my family and friends if they were

gonna stay there I would say you might want to choose another hotel. I wouldn't know for sure, but just the likelihood ...the likelihood may be greater. No hotels exempt from it. They have people cooking at places you wouldn't think, you know Shilo Inns, Phoenix Inns, not just the *small little hotels that are on the back streets or even some of the cheaper hotels*. People do it in all kinds of places. No one's exempt from it, and no one's got a monopoly on it.

ST: Is it flammable, the stuff they use?

TD: Some of it is flammable, and they do use heat reaction, but its not the volatile heat reaction of the old style one. The old style of cooking actually involved a very volatile reaction with chemicals and if you didn't control it it could become volatile and actually explode. Some of *the chemicals involved in the process now the way they use it, they do use heat a lot of times to dry the powder, and a lot of times use heat as a catalyst*. If you directly expose some of those chemicals that's not intentionally supposed to be done, but something tips over and hits the Bunsen burner that's got the flame going, then you could have a problem, but the reactions *themselves aren't volatile like they used to be*. There is a chemical reaction but its not as violent as it was before and doesn't have to be controlled.. I once saw a training video, where it was actually seized from the drug lab, the old style, these guys like to video themselves, you know, *hey look what I'm doing, and they showed this reaction happening, and it became so volatile they shut off the camera because the kept using the ice to cool, they were using these big glass beakers, and if they didn't cool it down, it would get so hot and the glass would explode and it would become a huge..and they'd lose their product and it would become a hazardous spill and toxin*. The time stamp on the camera when they stopped the camera and when they started back up was about 45 minutes, because when they started the camera back up the guys were talking about *whew that was a close one*. So it took them about 45 minutes of cooling down this reaction to get it under control til where they felt comfortable to start filming again. This guy needed the cameraman's help to keep the chemical...so that kind of reaction is not an issue in this new process, but the chemicals are, we're talking about lighter fluid and things like that, you expose that to a flame you can cause a fire, but the reaction itself is not what causes the fire. *More likely than not back in a the old meth they used chemicals that were toxic and if they didn't ventilate, you'd die like that (snaps fingers) because the inhalation*. They've actually found, they have videos of the police going in after these scenes and the drug labs are going in to process a lab, and they showed the video, and I don't think the people in this room knew what *had happened in this room, and this guy was out like that, then these people start inhaling it and they had died before they knew what hit them, because there was no ventilation*. You're dealing with ammonias and gases and things like that, those can be as lethal as any explosion can be. There have been fires due to labs in Washington County, a lot of it is from a chemical spill exposed to flame, and all the sudden the fumes explode.

ST: Do you usually catch the people when that happens or do they run pretty fast?

TD: I've never worked on the WIN team but I know people that have, and one of my partners on fraud had actually done that, and I do know I have talked to him about a case where an actual cook had a flare up and it burned her severely, and she was prosecuted for manufacturing methamphetamine, but she also was hospitalized for the burns and stuff. Yeah that can

lead....because the fire got called and stuff to the scene it can lead to prosecution to catching the person but usually you have to wait til they get out of the hospital. In a violent fire usually someone's gonna get burned to some extent and their gonna have to seek medical help. In this case the lady got burned quite badly.