

Banyon Allison

Oral History Project

3-24-94

HY 444, Dr. Harvey Jackson

Jacksonville State University

Interviewee: Frank Cobb

"Frank Cobb: An Oral History"

The 1950's and 1960's were a turbulent time to say the least. It was a time that encompassed the civil rights movements of the Black Americans, and the war in Vietnam was being fought bitterly by many young Americans who did not know exactly why they were fighting. During this era, organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP) increased dramatically.¹ This increase illustrates how the civil rights movement in the 50's and 60's exploded. War protests were common and especially intense on college campuses. These protests "were a reminder to Americans that a time comes when citizens can, and indeed, must challenge their governments authority."² These were the times Mr. Frank Cobb lived.

Mr. Cobb is a white, college educated male that has lived most of his life in Alabama, notably in the Anniston, Calhoun County area. I was fortunate enough to be able to be the recipient of his personal insight regarding those turbulent days, as he actually lived during them.

Robert Frank Cobb was born on March 6, 1944. He was the only son of Georgianna Dethridge Cobb and James Calvin Cobb. He was born in Anniston, Alabama. He has

lived in Cherry Point, North Carolina, Anniston, AL, Dearmanville, AL, Auburn, AL, Birmingham, AL, and eventually back to Anniston. Mr. Cobb possesses a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Auburn University, a M.B.A. in Business Administration from Jacksonville State University, and a M.S. in Education from the University of Alabama. He is married to JoAnn James Cobb and has two sons, James Tory Cobb, age 21, and Brent Coleman Cobb who is 18. His current residence is 1025 Apache Pass, Anniston, AL. His phone number is 820-3825. He is currently employed at Fort McClellan, and he is a U.S. Army Reserve Colonel.

Mr. Cobb's living situation was different than most young boys his age. His parents and himself lived with his father's parents.³ This was the living situation throughout his life, until he went to college. It was his grandfather, Mr. Frank Cobb, whom he was named after.

Mr. Cobb's earliest memory includes an incident where his father was stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina during World War II. His father was "in the war like others were. He had been drafted."⁴ Mr. Cobb remembers pulling some friends around in a little, red wagon, called a Radio Flyer⁵. Also, another memory that stands out is one of his father sitting him on the wing of a Corsair, a plane during that era.⁶

Mr. Cobb's financial status during his childhood was one of "middle class." He "never did want."⁷ His father was a car salesman. He lived in a rural or suburban atmosphere most of his young life either in Dearmanville or Anniston. He had all the modern conveniences of the day. The family always drove a different car every few months due to the car dealership. However, his father's favorite was a Coup de Ville cadillac, "just like "Hank Williams drove."⁸ In 1949, the family bought their first television. "It had a huge cabinet, but probably only a 12 inch screen."⁹

Mr. Cobb went to Woodstock Elementary School until the 4th grade. Then he entered Quintard Elementary, at the present site of Gregerson's in Anniston. He then attended Johnston Jr. High School and finally Anniston High. His father drove him from Dearmanville to Anniston High School everyday. Dearmanville was in the Oxford school district, but instead his father dropped him off at Anniston on his way to work. Five dollars a month tuition was charged at the time for being out of district.¹⁰ Mr. Cobb remembers passing the Oxford busses , while the kids jerrred at him and his father as he left home to go to school.¹¹

Mr. Cobb had the honor of having several friends attend elementary school through college with him.

They are Luther Owen and Mike Buck. Mr. Buck's father owned the local Harley Davidson establishment. They were together for 16 years.

Mr. Cobb can recall fondly the memory of his first fight. "Everybody remembers the first big fight they get into."¹² The kid's name was Francis Ward. This kid was one that rolled his sleeves up. This was a sign of toughness at the time.¹³ Mr. Cobb could not remember the exact nature of the fight, but he remembers, "We got into one hell of a fight."¹⁴ Mr. Cobb and Frances never fought again. A victor could never really be determined.

As Mr. Cobb entered high school, he entered a segregated world. There were the white schools and the black schools. Anniston was the white school, and Cobb and Calhoun County High Schools were the black schools. "White kids went to white schools, and the black kids went to black schools. "I went through a totally segregated grammar and secondary education."¹⁵ While in high school Mr. Cobb became very interested in sports. "I was totally consumed by sports in High School."¹⁶ Mr. Cobb played extensively on the Anniston High School football team. He played running back. Once, while in Jr. High, Oxford coach Gilbert Adams tried to get Mr. Cobb to transfer to Oxford, because he was so good. Mr. Cobb also ran track.

Mr. Cobb remembers how he would wash cars for his father, and his father would let him pick a car to take his date out in. He would usually hang out at Lee's Drive Inn, where at the present day J.C. Garcia's is located. "You could always find a cold beer if you looked hard enough."¹⁷

During his high school years racial tensions began to escalate. Plessy vs. Ferguson was overturned in the landmark case Brown vs. Board of Education. It declared segregation unconstitutional. "What did the Plessy era hold for us? To what kind of life were we committed by it? Discrimination and segregation was our lot."¹⁸ These were the resentments that led up to the civil rights protests of the 50's and 60's. Brown vs. Board of Education was passed in 1954, but many schools were still segregated many years later. Mr. Cobb graduated high school in 1962 and his school was still not desegregated. Why? "It took a long time in the 50's (for desegregation) to take place or evolve."¹⁹ "That's just the way things were in the South."²⁰ Many things were segregated by law. "Jim Crow was the name."²¹ Jim Crow laws included blacks riding in the back of the buses, blacks and whites using separate restrooms, and blacks having to use different water fountains.

During this time period, a group of people known

as the Freedom Riders, were assaulted on Highway 202 near Bynum. They were on their way to Birmingham when they were stopped by a white mob, supposedly the Ku Klux Klan. They began to argue and maybe some "blows past."²² The mob eventually burned the bus. A second bus picked up the passengers and carried them to Birmingham, followed by the mob. Upon arrival, the Freedom Riders were attacked by their uninvited companions, and a large group of segregationists who lay in waiting.²³ The thing that made a lasting impression on Mr. Cobb was the fact that the authorities blamed "the whole deal on a cab driver in Anniston. The whole damn bus burning."²⁴ Incidentally, this cab driver had only one leg and arm. They had been lost in WWII. This case just shows the ineffectiveness or indifference of the federal government to solve injustices in the rural south concerning blacks.

Besides the KKK, there was another group who disliked blacks. However, they were not as popular as the Klan. They were given the name of the John Burch Society.²⁵ This group is mostly forgotten by the masses. They were more conservative than the Klan. They held controlled, organized, and civilized meetings to discuss how to handle the black unrest. They would often ask people to contribute money. Mr. Cobb heard

them speak on several occasions at the court house in Anniston.²⁶

It was about this time in his later high school years that Mr. Cobb's feelings towards the black movements began to formulate. He realized that segregation was eventually going to give way to desegregation. His feelings at first were ones of resentment, which later changed to indifference, and in time the previous two gave way to acceptance.²⁷ "I realized that this was something the South cannot hold onto."²⁸

The Vietnam War did not become popular until around 1965, when Americans were being killed in noticeable numbers. "I don't know if prior to 1965 or 1966 anybody in Anniston really gave a damn."²⁹ After graduation of high school in 1962, Mr. Cobb went to college at Auburn, where he joined the ROTC. There were no protests at Auburn that he could recall. Auburn was "sort of like a pro-Army type University."³⁰ It was in 1965 that the U.S. began bombing North Vietnam and escalated the war.³¹ Many casualties were occurring now with regularity. Auburn was active in supporting the war movement by sponsoring blood drives to help the wounded soldiers. Auburn was very active in these blood drives, because the campus was located close to nearby Fort Benning, GA. The blood could

easily be transported there for medicinal uses.

Of all the people Mr. Cobb could remember, he could recall no one that joined because they had pro-American sympathy for the Vietnamese. For the most part, they joined for personal reasons, such as financial problems. One of his friends who joined the military while at college was Luther Owen. Luther basically flunked out of school and did not have many other options open to him. "He drank too much beer."³² "The anti-war movement in Alabama was not prevalent."³³

During this time period his financial situation began to change. The divorce of his parents left Mr. Cobb in sort of a financial bind. He was forced to work more at home in a steel mill during the holidays and summer break to finance school. The divorce took place in the 2nd quarter of his freshman year. "I didn't have a dime."³⁴

While in college, Mr. Cobb joined the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Since he was in financial distress somewhat since the divorce of his parents, the fraternity sometimes became a financial burden. He described one incident in which he could not meet the financial requirements of the fraternity. He asked the fraternity to drop his dues. He had to do this in front of all his fraternity brothers. They quickly

waived the dues. Mr. Cobb was well liked. Mr. Cobb was proud to have such friends, but at the same time he felt a sense of shame in the fact that everyone knew he wasn't as rich as they were.³⁵

It was during these days of financial distress that Mr. Cobb entered into a business deal with the local fireworks dealer, Billy Ray Phillips. "I found it be very lucrative."³⁶ He described to me how Billy Ray's shop was on one side of the street, while Mr. Cobb's was on the other. Mr. Cobb pretended to be rival competition, and he appeared to be underbidding Billy Ray. In actuality, he was working for commission for Billy Ray. He sold fireworks in his sparetime , while he was not working at the pipeshops.

The financial difficulties along with the fear of war itself helped shape his attitudes of Vietnam as his college days approached an end. "It scared the hell out of me mainly."³⁷ This is when Mr. Cobb decided he wanted a deferment. Not only for financial reasons for he wanted to get some money in the bank, but also because, "Nobody knew what the hell we were fighting for."³⁸ "The Vietnam serviceman is ambivalent and uncertain about the war he has fought, knows that the cause for which he has fought is controversial and unpopular with many at home, lacks a sense of patriotic accomplishment and neither expects nor receives a

hero's welcome when he returns home."³⁹ As Mr. Cobb put it, "We did not have a plan to systematically eradicate the enemy."⁴⁰ To sum up this point, "Most of them are young guys who didn't want to come here, and they just want to get out in one piece."⁴¹

While Vietnam was escalating, so were protests on college campuses. The student movements were beginning to be known as the new left.⁴² Protests were already common in "other" colleges. However, still most of the traditional, southern, white schools were still relatively free of riots and protests. Most of the students protesting formed their philosophies around the non-violent stand of Martin Luther King Jr.⁴³ However, as the war ravaged on the protests became more and more violent.

As Mr. Cobb grew more and more weary of his post-college days of possible war, he began to correspond through the mail with a friend who was in Vietnam, Mr. Larry Beetle. Mr. Beetle currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee. "With the possible exception of his rifle, nothing was more important to an American in Vietnam than his mail."⁴⁴ These letters really opened his eyes to the possibility of dying in Vietnam. "A lot of the people who went over there didn't come back."⁴⁵ In one letter Mr. Beetle wrote, he recalled a incident that involved a personnel carrier. He told

how they would be blown up by hidden mines in the road. To cure this problem, Mr. Beetle described how the men would stack sandbags in the personnel carrier and ride on top of the vehicle. This way the mine would have to rip through 3 layers to get to the men. These layers being the bottom of the vehicle, the sandbags, and the roof. The men who sat on top were so afraid of the mines that they were willing to risk sniper fire in order to be safe from the unknown mines.⁴⁶ Luckily for Mr. Cobb he was granted his deferment. He really didn't expect to get it. This put the immediate threat of Vietnam off his mind for the time being.

Black relations at this time remained fairly calm at Auburn. Mr. Cobb describes how several blacks were supposed to have been enrolled at the college, but he actually never saw them.⁴⁷ He described one incident that he heard of about a black student living in the corner room of a dorm. The room had a window on each wall. The walls were perpendicular to each other. Supposedly, a gun shot went through both windows, but it apparently didn't hurt anyone.⁴⁸ It was not meant to hurt anyone, but it apparently scared the young man very badly. "Auburn as far as I was concerned was totally segregated."⁴⁹ "I did not see a black while I was in college at Auburn University."⁵⁰ This segregation was not uncommon to many of the other

traditional, white schools in the southern part of the United States

Mr. Cobb's feelings changed in college concerning the blacks. He mainly attributed that to his teachings in the ROTC at Auburn. As before mentioned, Mr. Cobb resented the blacks for forcing desegregation down the white people's throats. His tone then changed to indifference, and then finally acceptance of the policies on desegregation. Mr. Cobb had come to believe and still believes, "The color of anybody's skin has nothing to do with how they can do a job."⁵¹ It is this feeling that has allowed many white southerners to change their attitudes towards blacks and particular segregation. The way Mr. Cobb sees it is, "You can have good blacks and good whites or you can have sorry blacks or sorry whites."⁵² "It doesn't matter what color somebody was, it was whether they could do the job."⁵³

Concerning the issue of doing a job, black troops more than did their jobs in Vietnam. "They didn't have the money to go to college or get any kind of deferment."⁵⁴ According to Mr. Cobb more black troops were killed in Vietnam than whites per their particular populations. The reasons for this being mainly economic reasons as previously stated. To state it simply the blacks were poorer than the whites. When

many of the blacks returned from Vietnam, they found themselves distraught over the fact that nothing had changed in the United States concerning equal rights. The black troops were fighting to liberalize an oppressed people in Vietnam, and now they wanted some of that same freedom.

One incident of particular concern is one that involves the Selma marches of 1964. This incident illustrates just how bad racial tensions had become. Mr. Cobb was driving to Mobile to see his father. He had to cross highway 80, the road on which the marches were being held from Montgomery to Selma. As he crossed the highway, his car stalled. He thought, "I'll get drawn up in all this horseshit, and I won't have anything to do with it."⁵⁵ He was worried that he might get arrested as a white agitator, or he might be received angrily by the black marchers. Luckily for him, he got his car to start, and he finished driving to Mobile.

As Mr. Cobb's college days closed, He finally got his deferment. He was very thankful. "I thought my butt was going to Vietnam."⁵⁶ He immediately moved to Ensley, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham. He began to work in a steel mill. It was during this time period that Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. That was the spring of 68. "That

was still in the day of the dogs and waterhoses."⁵⁷ He was referring to an incident where Bull Connor, then mayor of Birmingham, turned the waterhoses and dogs on marchers on May 2, 1963. This was an incident where many children marched on Birmingham for the first time. Over 900 people were arrested.⁵⁸

I asked Mr. Cobb what his initial, honest reaction was to the assassination of King. He replied, "He probably rejoiced in an immature way at the time."⁵⁹ "That feeling didn't last over an hour until fear came over their whole group."⁶⁰ That group being a bunch of drinking buddies at the Eagles Lounge in Pratt City. Mr. Cobb happened to be sitting beside a local pawn shop owner. He immediately wanted to know if the owner would sell him a gun. The owner said, "Yea, come on down" in a worried, yet understanding tone.⁶¹ Mr. Cobb purchased a gun the next day.

What was Mr. Cobb's opinion of Martin Luther King, then and now? "I was not a champion of King."⁶² "All I ever saw was the result of this 'quote' non-violent action."⁶³ Mr. Cobb referring to the violence that always seemed to follow a protest or march for whatever the reasons. "His actions caused violence that was unnecessary whereas integration would take its course anyway"⁶⁴ Martin Luther King best describes his actions and motives by a simple phrase that sums up his

whole philosophy, "We Negroes have replaced self-pity with self-respect....and dignity."⁶⁵

Mr. Cobb's tone changes from one of disagreement to one of disgust when the subject of Malcolm X arises. Malcolm X was a radical, black nationalist who used "what ever means necessary" to acheive black equality." He converted to the nation of Islam while he was in prison for petty crimes. He was a follower of the Muslim leader Elijah Muhammed. He later broke away from the fundamentalist group of Muslims and formed his own following. He was murdered later by black, Muslim fundamentalists, who were angered at his betrayel. Mr. Cobb says, "He was a crazy son of a bitch who wanted to kill all of the whites"⁶⁶ Malcolm X's main thought centered around the distrust of all white men. He used the scenario of the fox and the wolf. He described the white liberal as the fox and the white conservative as the wolf. He believed that all white men had the same motives. That motive being to suppress the black man. They just went about it by different methods. The liberal was sneaky like a fox. The conservative was viscious and straight forward like a wolf.⁶⁷ His views differed significantly from Martin Luther King's views. Martin Luther's views centered around God entirely. They encompassed concepts such as nonviolence, love, justice, human dignity, reconciliation, freedom, and

morality.⁶⁸ He had the same ultimate goal of Malcolm X, black equality, but he just went about obtaining it in a much different way.

As a sidenote, Mr. Cobb expressed his attitudes about women, dating, and marriage during this period when he was in Ensley. "I had the opinion that I was going to be footloose and fancy free."⁶⁹ He dated but nothing serious. He soon realized that after college when you dated someone over a month or so, "They wanted to get married."⁷⁰ However, Mr. Cobb had different thoughts. "I just knew I wasn't going to get married until I got Vietnam behind me."⁷¹ These feelings stemmed from long separations and potential tragedy that often resulted when soldiers went off to Vietnam. After Vietnam, Mr. Cobb married his current wife JoAnn. He dated her during and after college.⁷²

Mr. Cobb and many others still have mixed feelings about the war. Henry Kissinger summed up the feelings of many Americans concerning the Vietnam War in this statement, "Vietnam is still with us. It has created doubts about American judgement, about American creditability and American power, not only at home but throughout the world. It has poisoned our domestic debate. So we paid an exorbitant price for the decisions that were made in good faith and good purpose."⁷³

To change the tone from Vietnam back to black relationships, we discussed his runins with the KKK. Actually, Mr. Cobb knew very little of the Klan. He only saw them on one occasion. They were having a roadblock at Morrison's Crossroads. This place is located on Highway 431 south, between Anniston and Auburn. They were passing out pamphlets that promoted the Ku Klux Klan. This is the only time Mr. Cobb saw them in a white uniform.⁷⁴

Mr. Cobb illustrated his views on black and white relationships by relating to me a personal story he could remember from his youth. He believed that no matter what one's color, all people should be treated decently. He told me an incident of how his father treated a young, black kid who worked for him at his carlot. When they went to eat, the black kid could not go in, but they bought him the same food as they had eaten. They would then take it to the black kid who was waiting outside in the car.⁷⁵ The black kid accepted this arrangement "because he would sacrifice any type of intellectual foul or stand say for the economics of being with someone and knowing they were trying to take care of him."⁷⁶

This concludes my research findings about the times Mr. Cobb and many others lived in. It was a time of racial unrest that paralleled the uneasiness about

Vietnam. Individuals lives are shaped differently by each changing situation, each particular instance, and each major happening. Each incident is viewed by differnt eyes that do not focus quite the same, and therefore, each reaction is somehow different than anybody else's. I believe this report will provide some insight on how Mr. Cobb viewed the world around him and reacted to what he saw.

Notes

¹Nancy Zaroulis and Gerald Sullivan, Who Spoke Up? (New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1985) xi.

²Warren D. St. James, NAACP: Triumphs of a Pressure Group 1909-1980 (New York: Exposition Press, 1958) 226.

³Frank Cobb, interviewed by author, 19 January 1994, Anniston, AL, tape recording, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL.

⁴Cobb, interview.

⁵Cobb, interview.

⁶Cobb, interview.

⁷Cobb, interview.

⁸Cobb, interview.

⁹Cobb, interview.

¹⁰Cobb, interview.

¹¹Cobb, interview.

¹²Cobb, interview.

¹³Cobb, interview.

¹⁴Cobb, interview.

¹⁵Cobb, interview.

¹⁶Cobb, interview.

¹⁷Cobb, interview.

¹⁸August Meier, Elliott Rudwick, and Francis L. Broderick, eds. Black Protest Thought in the Twentieth Century (New York and London: Macmillan Publishing Company and Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1971) 282.

¹⁹Cobb, interview.

²⁰Cobb, interview.

²¹Cobb, interview.

²²Cobb, interview.

²³Carl M. Brauer, John F. Kennedy and the Second Reconstruction (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977) 98.

²⁴Cobb, interview.

²⁵Cobb, interview.

²⁶Cobb, interview.

²⁷Cobb, interview.

²⁸Cobb, interview.

²⁹Cobb, interview.

³⁰Cobb, interview.

³¹Stanley Karnow, Vietnam: A History (New York: The Viking Press, 1983) 678-679.

³²Cobb, interview.

³³Cobb, interview.

³⁴Cobb, interview.

³⁵Cobb, interview.

³⁶Cobb, interview.

³⁷Cobb, interview.

³⁸Cobb, interview.

³⁹David L. Hartline, Vietnam: What a Soldier Gives (Summerville, Georgia: ESPY Publishing Company, INC. 1984) xii.

⁴⁰Cobb, interview.

⁴¹Bernard Edelman, ed., Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam (New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company, 1985) 203.

⁴²Thomas Powers, Vietnam: The War at Home (Boston, G. K. Hall and Company, 1984) 35.

⁴³Meier, Rudwick, and Broderick, Black Protest,
307.

⁴⁴Edelman, Dear America, 9.

⁴⁵Cobb, interview.

⁴⁶Cobb, interview.

⁴⁷Cobb, interview.

⁴⁸Cobb, interview.

⁴⁹Cobb, interview.

⁵⁰Cobb, interview.

⁵¹Cobb, interview.

⁵²Cobb, interview.

⁵³Cobb, interview.

⁵⁴Cobb, interview.

⁵⁵Cobb, interview.

⁵⁶cobb, interview.

⁵⁷Cobb, interview.

⁵⁸Brauer, JFK, 233.

⁵⁹Cobb, interview.

⁶⁰Cobb, interview.

⁶¹Cobb, interview.

⁶²Cobb, interview.

⁶³Cobb, interview.

⁶⁴Cobb, interview.

⁶⁵Meier, Rudwick, and Broderick, Black Protest,
387.

⁶⁶Cobb, interview.

⁶⁷Peter J. Paris, Black Leaders in Conflict (New

York and Philadelphia: The Pilgrim Press, 1978) 140.

⁶⁸Paris, Black Leaders, 70.

⁶⁹Cobb, interview.

⁷⁰Cobb, interview.

⁷¹Cobb, interview.

⁷²Cobb, interview.

⁷³Powers, Vietnam, 9.

⁷⁴Cobb, interview.

⁷⁵Cobb, interview.

⁷⁶Cobb, interview.

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Oral History Tape Recording Release

I, Robert F. Cobb, hereby give and grant my tape recordings and their contents to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History Jacksonville State University, and authorize her to make them available for scholarly research purposes.

INTERVIEWEE Robert F. Cobb

INTERVIEWER Banyon Allison

DATE OF INTERVIEW 26 Jan 94

NUMBER OF TAPES 2

DATE OF AGREEMENT 26 Jan 94

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR RF Cobb

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Robert Frank Cobb M/F MALE

Address: 1025 APACHE PASS ANNISTON AL 36206

Phone number(s): (205) 820-3875 (w) 848-5521

Approximate age or date of birth: 6 MAR 1944

Mother's Name: GEORGINA DETHRAGE COBB

Father's Name: JAMES CALVIN COBB

Places lived and when: ANNISTON AL - 1944-1954; DEARMANVILLE AL 1954-1962
AUBURN AL - 1962-1966; BIRMINGHAM AL 1966-1968; ANNISTON AL - 1968-1993

Education: BSIE - Auburn Univ; MBA - Jax State; MS Educ. Univ. of AL

Religion: PRESBYTERIAN

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) KAPPA ALPHA ORDER; SOC. of AMER. MIL ENGINEERS

Present occupation: ENGINEERING MANAGER

Former occupations: INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

Special Skills: NONE

Major Accomplishments: WORKED 24 yrs SAME PLACE -
RAISED - 2 pretty good kids.

National Events in which interviewee has participated: NONE

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: NONE

National born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: N/A

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

Chronology of Alabama

1915-Boll Weevil ravages cotton crops of Alabama

1917-U.S. enters WWI

1918-WWI ends.

1929-Stock market crashes

1930's-Great Depression

1954-Brown vs. Board of Education overturns Plessey vs. Ferguson

1955-56-Bus Boycotts in Montgomery

1957-Civil Rights Act passed weakened black voter registration

1960-Civil Rights Act Passed

1961-Freedom Riders

1963-Use of troops to enforce segregation laws

1964-Civil Rights Act passed

1965-Freedom march from Selma to Montgomery

1965-Malcolm X is assassinated

1968-Martin Luther King is assassinated

Mid 50's to 1975-From advisors to final troop withdrawel in
Vietnam

Frank Cobb Chronology

1944-Born

1944-45-Father stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina

1946-54-Lives in Anniston, AL

1954-62-Lives in Dearmanville, AL

1962-Graduates high school

1962-66-Attends Auburn University

1966-Receives B.S. in Industrial Engineering

1967-68-Lives in Birmingham, Al; works in steel mill

1968-present-Resides in Anniston, AL

1970-Receives his M.B.A. from Jacksonville State University

1983-Receives his M.S. in Education from the University of
Alabama

Prepared Questions

-Preliminary Questions-

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone number
4. Date of Birth
5. Mother and Father's names
6. Places lived
7. Education
8. Religion
9. Place of employments
10. Current family status
11. Past family status

-Childhood-

1. What is your earliest memory?
2. What was your financial status?
3. Did you have modern conveniences? Explain.
4. What elementary schools did you attend?
5. Who were some of your childhood friends? Tell me something you can remember about them.
6. Was your school segregated? Explain.

-High School-

1. What high schools did you attend? What years?
2. Were you active socially? If so, how?
3. Was your school segregated?
4. What were some of your thoughts at the time on the idea of integration?
5. What were your thoughts during this time period concerning Vietnam?
6. Did any of your high school friends join the military after high school? What were some of their possible reasons?
7. Do you recall any specific events concerning racial tensions or Vietnam in high school that stands out in your mind? Explain.
8. What were your immediate plans after high school?

-College-

1. How did you finance college?

2. Where did you go? Why?
3. Were you active socially? If yes, what?
4. How would you describe racial tensions at Auburn?
5. What were the predominant attitudes dealing with integration at Auburn?
6. Were there any black people in your ROTC unit? Were they treated any different?
7. Did you think you were going to Vietnam?
8. Had your feelings changed since high school concerning Vietnam and racial unrest? Explain.

-Other-

1. Where were you when Martin Luther King was assassinated?
2. What was your honest, immediate reaction?
3. Have you ever experienced any incidents concerning the Ku Klux Klan?
4. What were your views of Martin Luther King?
5. What were your views of Malcolm X?
6. Do you believe that obtaining a formal education has influenced your thoughts concerning racial unrest over the years?

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 - F. KKK

- VI. Other
 - A. Watergate
 - B. Value of hard work
 - C. Personal story
 - D. Racial relationships
 - E. L.A. riots