

GARY R.

POPE: Gary, how long have you been at SCDC?

GARY: I been at SCDC, um, about 20 years.

POPE: Twenty years, okay. And what is your diagnosis?

GARY: I have mental diagnoses of paranoia schizophrenia.

POPE: And what medications are you on?

GARY: I'm on a lot of medications for this illness, Clozaril, Geodon, Cogentin.
I have some other mental – not mental – illnesses, but issues like arthritis
and some back pain.

POPE: Is that why you are in the wheelchair?

GARY: Yeah.

POPE: Have you ever been on Crisis Intervention?

GARY: Yeah.

POPE: Okay. Can you describe what that was like for me?

GARY: In GPH at least you get a blanket. But the crisis intervention over at Lee County was, you know, don't ask for no blanket, no clothes, no pillow, no ... you're on a concrete slab, it's AC blowing out, you know, all the way and it's the middle of January ... And they think that's going to help you somehow, I guess.

POPE: And did it help you?

GARY: Well, it brought some new meds around and finally I started hearing stuff in my head and I decided I had to knock my front teeth out somehow. Well, the best way to do that would be to fall flat on my face ... so, let's try it out. Gary, stop doing that, stop what you're doing ... that's the cop at the door, you know. Finally, I succeeded, blood everywhere you know ...

POPE: And how were you doing that, trying to knock your teeth out?

GARY: Knocking my teeth out. And uh, well, after that, they cuffed me and they, somehow they got me in the cuffs and they got me in the shower. So.

POPE: And did they send you to Gilliam from there?

GARY: Yeah. That's the GPH.

POPE: Did you see a psychiatrist while you were on crisis at Lee?

GARY: Well when I was there I had the [inaudible] to go from the dorms [inaudible] the operations I guess it was to see ah – see somebody, see a doctor, I guess. And then I got there and I started hearing clapping and cheering around the corner at this door to see if I couldn't, see if somebody was out there picking this keyboard talking of medicine. And I could hear my mom, an old girlfriend and most people cheering, clapping. [Inaudible] Should I go in the corner, no better stay here. I didn't have the guts to jump up and go on out there like I should of. Mom and Dad were out there too. Yeah. And he said a few things and I just started back to the yard and I started acting pretty funny after that.

POPE: Were your parents there just to check on you?

GARY: Well, they were there to take me home I think. Everybody wouldn't be hollering and cheering to see me get better treatment, you know, they want to see me go home.

POPE: Why did they think they would be able to take you home do you know?
Did you ever get to talk to them about that?

GARY: Well, I confronted with it and they said, no, we weren't there. Don't worry about that, we weren't there.

POPE: When you've had episodes like the one you had at Lee can you describe what that feels like when you're hearing voices, or seeing things that aren't there, or being driven to do things that you wouldn't normally do?

GARY: Yeah, there were some things at Gilliam, like I thought I saw a guy disappear decided to stare at the sun for awhile, which hurt one of my eyes. I saw a guy get hit and he fell down and backed up where he like rewind. That was weird.