

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Employee Oral History Collection Project

Interviewee: Ted Shumaker
Topic: **The 1989 SCI Camp Hill Riots**
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Interviewer: DOC Communications Director Susan McNaughton

Interview Transcript

McNaughton: Welcome to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Oral History Project where we record the oral histories of current and former DOC employees. I'm DOC Communications Director Susan McNaughton. This oral history focuses on memories from the October 1989 riot at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill. Our guest today, September 27, 2019, is Ted Shumaker. Thanks for joining us, Ted.

Shumaker: Sure.

McNaughton: Before we begin, could you please provide us with a brief overview of your DOC career?

Shumaker: I was hired by the department under Commissioner [Glen] Jeffes in 1985. I arrived at the department in October that year, and I was hired as the director of planning and research, because there was no such position prior to that. The explanation given to me for the need for a director of planning and research was because the legislature had passed a mandatory five-year minimum firearms law somewhere in the 1985/1986 period. They were fearful that the four new prisons that were being built, which were Frackville, Retreat, Cresson and Smithfield, were not going to be sufficient in size to accommodate all those new arrivals. I was to monitor that.

I got there, and I got pulled in different directions. I ended up writing grants and working on the new inmate records system. That was ongoing when the riot occurred, by the way. What I noticed in the beginning of 1989, as I'm monitoring these numbers, and it was really an intake/release kind of thing. Who was coming in from the street from the courts and also those that are being released or maxing out. In the month of June, it really started... there was a 500 net gain in the population. Then again July... it was very, very large... close to another 500, as I remember.

The new institutions that were built were built to accommodate 500 cells, so they were originally designed to take in 500. Well, if you had a 500 net gain in one month, you just filled a jail. We realized early on that this wasn't good, but I didn't know who to talk to about it. That was one of the real fears.

I took it to Lee Bernard [who was deputy commissioner for administration at the time of the riots], and Lee and I talked about it extensively. I remember talking to Ken [Robinson, the press secretary] too about it. Then I reached out to the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency – Phil Renninger – because they were doing the population projections at that time, and I told him what I was seeing. Other than, “Oh, that’s not good,” what are you going to do? You can’t go to legislature and say, “Hey, we’ve got to change the law again.” That just wasn’t practical.

McNaughton: And we didn’t really have a lot of money to just start building more prisons.

Shumaker: No. There wasn’t. In fact, things were really tight. I explained my one observation... we were down at Graterford for whatever reason that summer, and there were... they had the gym packed with inmates on cots. They just didn’t know what to do with them. But we had three reception centers then – Graterford, Camp Hill and Pittsburgh – but Graterford was just... they were packed. I remember vividly coming back on the Turnpike in the car thinking, “OK, that’s where we’re going to have problems ... Graterford... because you always have problems at Graterford.” That’s where it was going to be.

Then we get to October. Things hadn’t changed at all, and I remember the first sound of the first voice in the bang in the yard. My office faced the yard and faced that section of the yard where that gate was.

McNaughton: OK, let me set you up for that. It is Wednesday, October 25, 1989, around 3 o’clock/ 3 p.m., where were you and what was happening?

Shumaker: I was in my office. I looked out in the yard when I heard the commotion, and my first observation was... because there was a lot... at 3 o’clock there were a lot of inmates in the yard going to the dining hall to work there... there were inmates coming back from recreation. I think also there were inmates coming back from education.

McNaughton: So, it wasn’t uncommon to see a lot of inmates moving?

Shumaker: No.

McNaughton: What was different?

Shumaker: What happened was... I learned later... was there was an encounter between an inmate and an officer at E Gate, and my recollection was that the inmate just sucker punched the officer. It was just... it started. I remember watching... it was three or four white hats [rank of lieutenant or higher] walking into the yard after this inmate, and as I’m watching this... at first there were maybe 10 inmates gathered around and followed the white hats. Then there was 20. Then there was 50. All of a sudden, there were just fists thrown, and that’s how it started. It was just like a flash. Then the yard just broke out. I’m sitting thinking I’m watching a movie. It was just bizarre watching... bodies running around... people going crazy.

The other thing I remember is the inmates immediately had their hoodies on their sweatshirts up, and they were changing clothes with the officers. They were taking officers’ uniforms and putting the officers in browns [which is the color of inmate uniforms, hence being referred to as “browns.”]. It just kept going. It just went on and on.

The other thing I remember was a call from Jeff Beard. Jeff was the superintendent at Cresson, and he called and I talked to him for a while, and he said, "I'm hearing voice traffic from Cresson." They were picking up the officers' radios [transmissions]. And he said, "What the hell is going on down there?" I said, "Superintendent, it looks like a movie. It's not like anything you could be prepared to see. This place is just nuts right now. The inmates are in charge of the yard." And he said, "Is anybody calling for help?" I said, "I don't know that."

McNaughton: You were on a different floor. You were on the second floor, and the commissioner and everybody was on the third floor. Did you ever have an opportunity to go up there at all?

Shumaker: Oh, yeah.

McNaughton: OK. I want to hear about that then too.

Shumaker: I think Kenny Robinson asked me to come up one time to spell you, I believe, because they were taking notes and trying to control... at least get stuff out to the media that night. That was Wednesday night. It was just chaos. It was just absolute chaos.

People started showing up from everywhere. I remember the state police... they had the south field across the street... it looked like a PSP parking lot. There were 1,000 officers/troopers there that night. It was just a madhouse.

Honestly, we weren't very well prepared for it. We just weren't. Not like today, and not like what happened after the riot.

Triage areas were in the wrong place. I mean, they had triage set up out front of the main gate, which is crazy. The media just had a field day. They just showed up and took pictures of whatever they wanted. There was no traffic control point set up. It was a mad house.

So, that went on until... my recollection... about 10/10:30 p.m. Here's what I thought was strange – through the course of the day, the inmates wanted to rock and roll. They wanted to fight. It was clear this was anger. And then at 10:30 it stopped. It just all stopped. It was like somebody flipped a switch and they all ran back in their cells, and everything was fine. The decision made after that just compounded it, but that was... my recollection was it just ended so quickly.

McNaughton: Yeah, at some point they were negotiating with staff, and they must have said, "Go back to your cells. Settle down. You'll meet with the superintendent the next day." When did you go home that night?

Shumaker: About midnight.

McNaughton: Then, when did you come in the next day?

Shumaker: The next day I came in at my normal time?

McNaughton: What did you do?

Shumaker: One of the things I did that was smart... not that I've always done smart things... if you recall, the inmate records system was a batch system back then, where we actually had inmates card punching an old Unisys machine in the basement. I think about that today, and Ron Peters was hired... the IBM analyst... and we started chatting prior to the riot about how inappropriate it was to have inmates punching cards. You could change a sentence length... it was just crazy. It was stupid, but that's how they always did it.

One of the things that I did that was smart was, when the riot started around 3/3:30, I remember hitting "push print" on Camp Hill's inmate population. I remember thinking, "Am I going to need this? Probably."

McNaughton: That was a good thing that you did that.

Shumaker: Yes, it was the only count we had, and that becomes important later when there were missing inmates and [rumors that] people had died.

McNaughton: Rumors of people having died.

Shumaker: I got asked about that... flash forward about two or three years, and we're doing a Capital For The Day. Secretary Owens was no longer the secretary, and Erskind [DeRamus, who was acting commissioner] came to me and said, "Go do this." It was in Altoona. It was Senator Jubelirer's Capital For The Day.

I got out there and I got ambushed by two reporters. One of them I knew. His father was the chief of staff for [Gov.] Casey for a while, I believe, but he asked me, "What did you do with the five inmates?" I said, "Excuse me?" I remember it was such a hot topic there for a while that they had witnessed people being buried, and it was just all nonsense.

He hit me, years later, with this, "What did you do with the five inmates?" There are 300 people in this room, and I'm thinking, "This is a setup, Dude." So, to answer a question, you ask a good question. I said, "Let me ask you a question. Do you think it's possible that Uncle Billy or Bobby or someone's son would go missing and no one would go anywhere and ask where they are after these years? Seriously, can you imagine somebody saying, 'My son hasn't come home from Camp Hill yet.' I mean, it's absurd." There was a chuckle in the room, and it kind of went away.

McNaughton: Even to this day there are some of our own staff members who believe it [that someone died], but I've interviewed several people who said, "I can tell you for a fact... nobody died." So, I was hoping that through this project we could put that myth to an end.

Shumaker: Seriously, if someone was dead, someone would miss them.

McNaughton: Exactly. They are somebody's child, brother, uncle. Tell me where you are around 6:30 [p.m.] on October 26.

Shumaker: I had just got home. I had just gotten home. If you remember, Spencer [Ted's son] was really little. I think he was two, and I had just gotten home. It was a long day and long night, and you're suffering. You've witnessed something you really didn't wake up that morning

thinking you would witness. It was very, very violent. I remember one officer that was put on his knees in the middle of the yard and was hit in the face with a coal shovel.

McNaughton: Now, which night is this? The first night?

Shumaker: That was the first night. So, I'm sitting at home and the phone rings around 6:30... exactly around 6:30... and Susan [his wife at the time] said, "It's Greg White." I answered the phone, and he said, "You've got to get back in here right away."

I remember driving back in just with my flashers on from down in Dillsburg, and it was a mess. I pulled into that side parking lot, and there was one female state trooper. I ran over to her and she's standing at the fence by herself, and the whole fence line there was lined, shoulder-to-shoulder, with inmates yelling and screaming. I said, "Do you have help coming?" She said, "No. Call. We need help here right away."

I remember that's when I went upstairs to Ken, and said, "Who's been called? What's this look like? Where is everybody?" At that point there were just five or six of us in the building. So, we started making those calls, but it was haphazard.

It was... I do remember that the media got a hold of this at about the same time, and I think it was Rick Wagner [from the local ABC affiliate]... In Ken's office, we're watching the TV, and we could see the little blue lights in the cell blocks... we can see they're [the inmates] watching TV... and I think Wagner said... and I don't want to pin this on him, but I'm pretty sure it was him... said, "Anybody with a weapon, please report to Camp Hill." I'm thinking, "Oh my God."

McNaughton: I bet Ken's head exploded.

Shumaker: I just thought, "This is going to turn into a slaughter." About that time, emergency folks and police started to show up, and they just showed up and showed up. I think in that one video [Ted had given me a video at the time of his interview], you'll see the officers at the fence line. They are shoulder-to-shoulder. There are as many police officers as there are inmates in the yard.

McNaughton: You had mentioned that you went up on the roof of Central Office. Tell me what that was all about. Who were you up there with? What were you doing?

Shumaker: This is the second night, and I think Ken and I talked about it. We had to start getting and collecting evidence for the trials that were going to follow. So, Jerry Kambic... Susan, my wife at the time, worked for Commonwealth Media Services, as did Jerry Kambic. We knew each other. He showed up with a camera, and I said, "How much film do you have? How long can you do this?" He said, "I can get more film. That's not a problem. I just need to get a good spot." And that's when we talked about going up on the roof. We went up on the roof. I spotted for him, and I think we filmed continuously from whichever time he got there, because I remember it got cold that evening. It was chilly standing up there on the roof. I think in some of those [videos] you can hear my voice talking about, "What the hell was that about?"

McNaughton: So, your goal was to really focus in, like if they were parading a hostage around, you were trying to figure out who the inmates were that were doing that?

Shumaker: Yes, that's what we were doing. We captured that. Luckily, we did capture that, and we captured the takeover too.

McNaughton: Was Scott Thornsley up on the roof with you two? Someone else was taking 35mm [pictures]. I think Ken was doing that initially. I'm not sure... the nights are blurring together for me. I'm not sure if that was the first night or the second night. Then eventually, he couldn't stay up there anymore, because he had to manage the media. I think Scott might have been up there too.

Shumaker: He might have been. I just remember we were up there long enough. We were cold and tired. It's the end of October.

McNaughton: Talk to me about what it's like to be up on the dark roof surrounded by smoke with helicopters flying over your head. What was that like?

Shumaker: It was reassuring. Remember, I'm a former Army officer. In seeing that presence... it made my heart feel good. Just that you were not there by yourself, and you could look out in front of you and see... it looked like a combat zone frankly. It's something that you thought you'd never experience, but you had trained for it. You kind of were ready for that, if you had to.

I remember the smoke and the fires and them [the inmates] starting fires, and I think some of these videos show that they took... between the first and second day it gets to be a blur, but they were taking all their laundry and throwing it in the fires. They were throwing cannisters of stuff in the fire. They got into the industrial shop area and all of the flammables that were in there, and they were... I think you can see the metal beams in the buildings actually bent and warped... they were melted from the heat.

It was just uncontrolled chaos. It was just nuts.

They were building fires. They were building little fences. They got wood out of the carpentry shop, and they were building a wall in front so we couldn't see them. They were building a wall over by E Gate, so we couldn't get in. It was pretty crazy.

It was reassuring because all of those officers were there.

I remember distinctly that the SERT team from the state police went in to get an officer. The inmates helped an officer to get past the tower right in front of central office. The SERT team came swooping in, picked him up, and I remember, he got about halfway to the main gate, and he jumped off the cot and ran. He had been playing dummy for over eight hours.

McNaughton: Really? So, he was not injured?

Shumaker: No. He just laid there. While all that chaos was going around him, he just... but the inmates thought he was really hurt. And he might have been. He might have initially been, but I remember when I watched him jump off that cot and run, he couldn't get out of there fast enough.

McNaughton: I talked to Jerry [Kambic], and he mentioned the same thing. The state police SERT actually made a huge impression on a lot of people. They looked like ninjas.

Shumaker: Yes, they called them the ninjas.

McNaughton: I had mentioned that [the ninjas] to a couple of people, and they were laughing at me saying, “What do you mean ninjas?”

Shumaker: No. they called them ninjas.

McNaughton: They were stealth. They were all in black, and they swooped in...

Shumaker: Yep, yep, and they had little lights that you couldn't really see, but they were communicating with whistles and stuff. It was pretty cool.

McNaughton: That's neat. See, you had a different vantage point than I did. I was stuck behind a phone answering reporter calls. Tell me about how that night ended.

Shumaker: It didn't end at night.

McNaughton: Ok, when did it end?

Shumaker: I'm guessing around 4:30/5 in the morning, and this is where my memory gets really crazy. Somehow, I get back down in the secretary's office, and I don't know if I was called down there. I don't remember.

I remember there was a group sitting there with Owens, and [PSP's] Col. Walp called and said, “We're ready to come in.” That's all new to me. I didn't know... because I had been up there [on the roof]... I could see a lot of commotion out the back gate. A lot of black shiny things flashing around, but this... I remember Owens saying, “What do you have for ammunition?” And there was silence. Walp said, “Sir, we have 00 buck.” Owens said, “You're not coming in my prison with 00 buck. Birdshot.”

I remember that conversation like I was part of it... maybe it was, but I don't remember exactly, but I can remember Walp... there was no sound. It was like... I'm sure he's thinking, “Where in the hell am I going to get birdshot at this time of night?” There was just no sound. There was a delay. I think they wanted to come in earlier, but there was a delay.

McNaughton: Was this over a speakerphone? You could hear the other end?

Shumaker: Yes.

McNaughton: So, he [Col. Walp] was probably in disbelief on his end, thinking, “How am I going to end this if I can't use what I want to use?”

Shumaker: Yeah. That's my recollection... there was this pause, and Owens was pretty emphatic, because, if you remember the riot in New York was just a couple years before that and that ended in a shoot out where they just shot everybody. I was in college when that happened, but anyway... I remember going back up and saying... I remember I wanted out of that office. There was no reason...

McNaughton: Yeah, why were you there?

Shumaker: I was called down for some reason. I think Rosie [Schell, the commissioner's executive secretary]... somebody called and told me to come down. I did, and that took place, and then I went back up to the roof just in time for the water cannon. I said, "Jerry, You've got to get this."

McNaughton: Explain what the water cannon was. What were you seeing?

Shumaker: I learned later, but recognized pretty early on, that this was a military vehicle of some significance, and I found out they borrowed it from the airport. They brought it up from the airport, and it was to be used for large fires... an aircraft fire, because it pumped out volumes of water in a hurry. It makes a winding sound. You couldn't see, because it's early in the morning. It's just dawn. The sky's not even lit yet.

McNaughton: And it was misty, kind of lightly foggy...

Shumaker: It was smoke from all that fire. Then the copters going around just churned it up.

About that time, you heard this whining sound start, and this water just... it was the back E Gate where they [the inmates] built the boards and the fences, but all of a sudden what came into the picture were all of these shiny helmets. The light was coming off these helmets, and then we heard this pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, and the inmates scattered like rats. They couldn't get in those cell blocks fast enough.

At first you saw, coming through the dark, you saw maybe one or two troopers dressed in their riot gear; and then it was five or six; and then it was a dozen. They're running, and the inmates are running, and you see inmates going down. Nobody got hurt seriously, but I guess they used birdshot.

McNaughton: I guess they got it [the birdshot].

Shumaker: I don't know but they might have had people assigned to do the assault and other people to back them up.

That went on for a while, but it got dead silent. It went from crazy to silent again like it did on Wednesday night. It was just dead silent.

The next memory I have is through this haze and mist, and it starts to get lighter and lighter -- and the state police have the picture out in their conference room, I've seen it... of like 200 troopers in full battle gear... helmets and batons... in a straight line through the middle of the yard. One sergeant... he was huge... he had to be 6'6" or 6'8." He's in the center and in charge. He's on a megaphone telling the inmates to crawl to the middle of the yard and give up. Well, that took a while. It took a while until it sunk in that... and I'm sure they [the inmates] are chatting with each other in the blocks saying, "The gig's up. It's over."

McNaughton: And there were other inmates that were waving white from inside their windows. There were some that just didn't want to be involved.

Shumaker: Yes. Some came out holding up and just saying... but the troopers were very clear, "Crawl to the middle of the yard!" They had to be face down. I remember J Block, where the TPVs [technical parole violators] were... that was one of the worst groups and they were going to put up a fight. I remember watching inmates run back and forth and say, "No, this is serious. The gig's up. It's over." Then they started, one by one by one, coming out. That went on... was that Saturday morning?

McNaughton: No. That would have been Friday morning.

Shumaker: Friday morning, and that went on forever and I thought, "Well, the normal work week is over at this point. We're just going to be here for a while."

McNaughton: I think normal ended Tuesday evening.

Shumaker: I remember when they started coming out and they got them all up, I started feeling really tired, because you hadn't slept in gosh knows how long, but there was resolution here or about to be.

My next thought was, "There is going to be paperwork to fill out forever. This is going to require a lot." I had even thought about what this investigation and all was going to look like and I thought, "I've got to save everything on my desk." I remember saving that inmate print out, and I remember saving everything else that was out there, being very careful that we didn't have computers... we just had paper... and saving as much paper as I could about the population. I thought, "I'm going to be testifying in front of somebody about something." I had this feeling.

McNaughton: When you flash forward, did you testify?

Shumaker: Yes. I went with Owens and Bernard to both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. We just sat there and got tongue-lashed for hours. It was stand-up comedy. It was terrible. The House wasn't as bad as the Senate. The Senate... they were bad. They wanted Owens to get his boss down here. They wanted questions answered immediately.

McNaughton: And his boss was... Gov. Casey.

Shumaker: Gov. Casey. They wanted the governor to come down and testify, but I knew that wasn't going to happen. It was immediately pointing fingers. Who's to blame? Who's responsible? There was a whole bunch of that. It was so soon... like days after. There was no way we knew yet. It just wasn't possible, but as time when on...

I think the other memory I have is a funny story too. At that point, I'm up on the third floor more than I'm down on the second floor. Rosie comes in and says, "You're supposed to go over to the federal building [in Harrisburg], and meet with some folks over there in the federal building about assistance." So, Owens says, "We're going to go over," and he grabs his satchel... that leather satchel becomes funny later.

We go over, and we are treated like celebrities... hustled here, hustled there and go back to this room. I remember the room had this glass window that overlooked the capital. It was gorgeous, a beautiful view... and there sat Senator Specter and Senator Heinz at the table.

“Sit down, gentlemen. What can we do to help you?” We huddled a little bit and said, “We’re going to need to get rid of some inmates. We have to find a home for them... we have them out in the yard.” My recollections of some of this... I was too involved in some of this stuff, because I’d seen... we huddled and said, “Could you take a thousand inmates?” Specter said, “We’ll take a thousand if you transport them to Lewisburg.” We agreed, and he said he’d get in touch with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. We kissed and hugged and made up and off we went.

The other part of that I remember... is Owens coming back and talking to Erskind DeRamus and saying, “Don’t send them our trash.” I don’t know why that sticks in my head, “Don’t send them our trash [by that he meant the HIV positive, the mental health – just send them normal inmates] – don’t send them... and that wasn’t ... it didn’t work out so well. It was ugly later on.

McNaughton: Oh.

Shumaker: Yeah, it got nasty between those two. I must have been upstairs at this point in a semi-permanent basis. Who was the... Owens had an executive assistant... a black woman...?

McNaughton: Iris Crumbly.

Shumaker: Yes, and Iris pretty much threw up her hands and said, “I’m out of here.”

McNaughton: Well, she ended up helping Ken and Sherri [Cadeaux, the deputy press secretary at the time] do media.

Shumaker: Right. But she wanted no parts of that other stuff... the operational stuff.

Let’s go back to the federal building... we’re driving back from the federal building... I’m driving, and we get to the traffic control point at the end of Lisburn Road. There’s a young trooper sitting there, and he said, “I’m sorry, we can’t let anybody in here.” I don’t know why, I just wanted to play with the guy, and I said, “Not even the secretary of corrections?” Owens said, “Don’t screw with him.” So, we got waived in, and about that time, the phone rings, and it’s Rosie.

McNaughton: The phone rings in the car...

Shumaker: Yeah. She says, “You have to go back to the federal building.” So, Owens and Lee got out, and I was told to drive back over... we left something there.

I go back over to the federal building, back up the elevator, back into the office, and there’s this little, kind lady standing there, and she’s pointing to Owens’ leather briefcase sitting on a credenza. She says, “It’s over there.”

So, I went over... there’s a weapon in it. So, I closed it back up, picked it up and thanked the lady and off I went. I took it back up and gave it to him, but it was... there are funny little side stories you remember like, what next? What else could go wrong?

McNaughton: And then they started shipping the inmates out to...

Shumaker: It took a while until we could get that process going, but then Greg White... remember we were up at Waymart at Farview and standing in the parking lot when Owens and the secretary of welfare got into it about which... and that was heated... that was ugly, and we said let's just open it up and get the inmates... let them figure it out. They had those dorm-style arrangements, and that's how that [SCI Waymart at Farview State Hospital] got opened in the dark of the night. Buses started loading up and taking inmates up to Waymart.

McNaughton: Go back to... the records office was inside the institution and was damaged, and you pushed print.

Shumaker: I did.

McNaughton: How did that play a role in helping to determine who was who and who was going where?

Shumaker: That was one of the really big problems... was we didn't know, and now you're taking people out to Waymart... to the feds. You also had inmates that went to local hospitals... a jail isn't a static environment as we all know... people are coming and going all of the time. So, how do you capture that, and that was problematic because of the batch system... the way the computer system... it wasn't online, real time. It was just once a month you run a batch of everybody whose... you remember the big print outs... and try to compare that, but that's what we did. We worked off of those printouts. Whether we could recreate one at that time, but I just remembered that I had that count, because I got questioned a lot about it. "How many, where are they?" and I had it.

McNaughton: So, you mentioned that there were five that were missing. I have talked to people who had it down to one inmate, and it took a while. There was an inmate who was giving up information, and I guess to protect him, they sent him to Cumberland County, but nobody really knew that.

Shumaker: No.

McNaughton: There was like one officer, and he wasn't giving up the information until he was told, "You better give up this information." He finally did, and then count cleared.

Shumaker: Right. Right. It was chaos. If you had to find somebody in that mess, you'd have a hard time doing it.

The other recollection I had... that I got emotional about it... was I can remember having to go out. There was a situation at home, and I had to go back out and come back in... during the day. I was coming back in and that traffic control point that was up at the top of Slate Hill Road, there was a trooper there and he asked to see some ID. I had that big, black, heavy ID that said, "Director of Planning and Research," and I showed him that, and he handed it back to me and said, "Son, you've done a hell of a job here." I'll never forget that. I laughed all the way down the road. I will never forget that. I was just... like it's my fault. This is my gig. Those side stories... you just can't believe some of the stuff that went on.

Remember when Greg White lost his keys in the middle of the road?

McNaughton: Yes. He told me that. They just went flying.

Shumaker: He's trying to get his keys back... there's... you're thinking, "This isn't appropriate to laugh, but I'm laughing like crazy."

McNaughton: He did a running scoop to pick up the keys. Did you see it?

Shumaker: I saw him down there, and I was thinking, "What the hell is he doing?" We talked about that later. We laughed about that years later.

McNaughton: So, not too long after that then, the administration from the prison is let go. And they bring in...?

Shumaker: First, Erskind was promoted to acting commissioner.

McNaughton: Ok, but I'm talking before that... at Camp Hill. Who did they bring in after they let Freeman and Henry and Smith go?

Shumaker: Oh, I remember that discussion... who can we bring in to do this? I felt better when they said, "Let's bring Jeff Beard down from Cresson."

There was also a corresponding incident up at Huntingdon, if you remember, and there was a lot of that going on. It was handled much differently because why? Because Huntingdon is Huntingdon. It's different there. They said, "Let's bring Ken Kyler down from Huntingdon." Makes sense, because Ken, frankly, was the poster boy for the Green Berets. He was just bad. He was the guy you want to bring down.

McNaughton: He was a mountain of a man.

Shumaker: He was just... oh, God, he was a great guy. They brought those two in, and then we had the treatment side... I don't remember what they did with the treatment side.

McNaughton: John McCullough.

Shumaker: Yes. John McCullough. I still talk to John. You bring your three all-stars in. Jeff had been the superintendent at Cresson, and I remember going out there and talking to him about that. That kind of turned it on its head. From that point forward, it was more of a "let's clean this mess up" and how can we best do that?

Then enter Joe Lehman. I remember that process. I can remember him coming down in my office and said... [here Ted talks about how Lehman was selected for the PA DOC commissioner's job]... "I want you to come upstairs and be my executive assistant." I'm thinking, "I kind of like where I'm at right now." I said, "Can I go home and talk to my wife about it and come back and tell you?" I just had a funny feeling about it. You're in the crossfire up there. If anything goes wrong, it's probably going to be you, along with everybody else. I thought, "I'm down here in planning and research, and it's pretty comfortable" ... and it still exists in this department ... and it paid more than the executive assistant did. I took a pay cut. I remember Dan [Tepsic, the head of Human Resources] telling me, "You aren't supervising anybody. We can't give you that 10

grade [pay scale] that you have as a director.” What they did was manipulate some money. I remember that vividly.

I remember how reluctant I was, because I was really happy in my role. I liked what I was doing. I was definitely in my niche. I had grants. I had statistics. I had research. We were doing really good stuff on the geriatric population and long-term inmates. We had revamped the whole annual [statistical] report. It made more sense... it was an in-take process output, and I really loved that stuff. I still do. Then to be in a situation with a large organization where it’s really needed right now, was a comforting feeling. But, no. Like an idiot, I went upstairs.

He put some pressure on me about coming up, because he created two executive assistants. He had Frank Gillis for internal and Ted Shumaker for external. So, I was to work with the legislature, the Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Parole Board, the Governor’s Office... and Frank was to handle the inmates and the transfers and requests for all that. Frank and I got along really well. We’re both ex-military and we both have a sense of humor. I’d get a call from Rep. Such-and-Such from Philadelphia saying, “I want Billy Bob transferred from Pittsburgh back to Graterford so he’s closer to his mom.” I’d say, “Frank, this is you.”

McNaughton: Crazy times. Since we’re focusing on the riot, is there anything else you recall that you might have missed? It is like watching a movie, isn’t it?

Shumaker: Yes.

McNaughton: And very vivid still. You can... your description of that line of troopers... that’s my favorite “scene.” It sounds like I’m talking about a movie, but that’s my favorite, because at that point, you knew...

Shumaker: ... everything was going to be normal again.

McNaughton: It was like... [sigh of relief].

Shumaker: Yes, the good guys won again. I think that in between that was just chaos. The other thing I remember is how resourceful the inmates were.

McNaughton: How so?

Shumaker: They made stuff out of nothing. Remember the vehicle that was inside the yard and crashed the gate? Then the ATV that they were running around on?

McNaughton: I think they were taking hooch [prison alcohol] around as well. I think they were having a grand old time.

I guess we can wrap this up then. Did you have anything else?

Shumaker: No. We captured a bunch in a short period of time.

McNaughton: Ok. Well thank you for sharing your thoughts and for participating in this project.

Shumaker: You bet. My pleasure.

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