

Interview with Charles Jackson

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Life of Charles Jackson and Western Military Academy</u>
:30	Introduction of Charles Jackson
1:30	Founding of Western Military Academy and family background with school
3:15	Attendance at schools in Alton
5:00	First day as a cadet at Western Military Academy, and how difficult it would be for students, including foreigners (Mostly Mexico)
6:45	Life for foreigners at Western, including athletics (soccer)
8:45	Ranks of the students at Western Military Academy
11:00	ABC and what the letters stand for regarding athletic competition for high schools in St. Louis. Activity period and typical day at the academy.
15:05	Western Military Academy and struggling through the Great Depression and the downfall because of Vietnam.
18:05	Western Military closes its doors and Charles brother Randy was a student at the academy and had to transfer to Alton High School.
20:00	Western Military Academy and the big football game. Cadets stayed at school for Thanksgiving for the game and the entire town got excited about the game.
23:05	Annual trip to East Coast for cadets to see Annapolis and West Point.
25:20	The school had combat veterans who taught military strategy and history to the cadets. Cadets at the academy had weapons on campus and trained with weapons.
27:30	Western Military Academy focused on social skills for cadets so when they graduated they could succeed. All new cadets attended a formal dinner with the superintendent and learned table manners.
31:20	Life outside of the academy, music and athletic opportunities were available, but limited.
33:00	The food at Western was good, and nobody wanted to sit in Siberia, middle of the table.
36:20	Government inspection by a high ranking government official who visited the academy during the year. Students were grilled by the official, but when it was over everyone relaxed.
38:13	Charles enrolled at SIUE and got a teaching degree. He is astounded by the changes by SIUE.

- 38:50 SIUE was once SIUA, Southern Illinois University Alton.
- 40:00 First teaching job at Triad and marries wife Ellen, who is also from Alton. Charles enjoyed the district, coached sports, and saw the school grow up into a big school and the town was wonderful.
- 44:00 Charles kids and their lives. Charles and Ellen have a daughter and three boys.
- 45:45 Legacy of Western Military Academy and preserving the memory of the school. Reunions still take place and the group is getting smaller.
- 00:15 Famous alumni from Western who shaped the world, including Paul Tibbets, Charles O'Hare, and others.

Abstract Developed By: Jesse Macias

Date: July 16, 2017