

**James A. Cutler**  
**Narrator**

**Philip Leonard**  
**Hoosick Falls Historical Society**  
**Interviewer**

**Interviewed at the**  
**Louis Miller Museum, Hoosick Falls, NY**

**Interviewer:** Please state your name.

**James Cutler:** James A. Cutler.

**I:** Where do you live?

**JC:** Hoosick Falls, Twelve Dolan Avenue.

**I:** How long have you lived here? Are you native?

**JC:** I was born here, in the old health center.

**I:** Tell us a little about your boyhood, before you went into the service.

**JC:** I used to live up in Norwood, my father went up there and then we moved down, three different times within about two years. Down on First Street, I graduated from high school.

**I:** What year was that?

**JC:** 1951. I joined the [United States] Naval Reserve in 1948. My father had to sign papers because I was only seventeen and a half at the time. I took one [unclear] on a destroyer escort, the USS Ludlow. It was named after a place in Binghamton. We took a shakedown cruise because the ship was going to the Turkish Navy [sources state that the USS Ludlow DD-438 was actually sent to the Hellenic Navy] after we were done with it. Off of Cape [unclear] we hit a tornado, and we took water down into the engine room and everything. We had to pull in the charleston and get a weld fixed.

**I:** A real first experience. [Laughter]

**JC:** We had a depth charge running through. They had set the charges too close and it really shook the ship. [Pause] I signed up for duty in the Navy when the Korean War broke out, but the Navy discharged me because I had a bad knee, and the draft board picked me right up. They discharged me from the Navy one day and the draft board took me the next day. I went to Camp Gordon, Georgia, and took my basic [training] and moved up to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and when I was up there I was doing

callisthenics and my knee locked up on me and I had to have it operated on. From there, they shipped me over to Germany for eighteen months.

**I:** What were you doing in Germany?

**JC:** Message center. I coded and decoded messages for the battallion. I was in the 426<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battallion out of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**I:** How long did you stay in Germany and where in Germany?

**JC:** Eighteen months, right near Frankfurt. Schwäbisch Hall was the name of the town I was in.

**I:** Then after your time was up, they sent you back to the states.

**JC:** I was discharged, and I signed right up for the [United States] National Guard.

**I:** When were you discharged?

**JC:** 1954.

**I:** In 1954, you got out of the [United States] Army, and into the guard. Are you still in the guard?

**JC:** No, I retired. I got out of the guard in 1982.

**I:** So you were in the guard quite a while, if you got out in '82.

**JC:** I was a Platoon Sergeant in the message center, a Maintenance Sergeant. That's about it. I did get hurt up in there in the camp one time, I got hit in the head with a ramming staff when I was cleaning a gun. [gestures to teeth] It knocked my teeth out in the front and everything. They were good tours. We had good times, really.

**I:** They used to go two weeks every year, is that it?

**JC:** Every year.

**I:** When you were in Hoosick Falls, what did you do for a living?

**JC:** I worked at Wood-Flong Corporation. [pause] I got married in 1956. We had five children. I spent ten years in the fire department, and twelve years in the rescue squad. I was a village assessor for two years. I ran for politics, and was a trustee for two years for the village. That was back in the '60s.

**I:** Do your five children live in town, or what?

**JC:** Four of them are here, the fifth one is in Albany. She bought a home down in Albany. She works in a legislator building. Two of them are RNs [Registered Nurses], and Jimmy works in a plastics company down there in the [unclear]. Four daughters and one son.

**I:** Is there anything you'd like to say about the service or about Hoosick Falls before we close down your tape?

**JC:** I've lived there all my life, and it's been good. The village has been good to me, I guess.

**I:** Okay, we thank you very much, and I'll thank you again.