

## **VIDEO RECORDINGS OF NEWS STORIES - TRANSCRIPTS OF**

### **Clampitt V KAUZ-TV6 - TDK - VHS TAPE (Excerpt of Clampitt Stories)**

Newscast #1

Reporter                    A Wichita Falls retirement center with a history of problems, apparently is closing its doors. Residents of Clampitt Retirement Center in downtown Wichita Falls say they have been given 10-days notice to get out. An on-sight manager confirms that, but referred other questions to the center's operator, Larry Tompkins. He couldn't be reached for comment late this afternoon. In the past, residents had complained of maintenance problems with the center, including the lack of air conditioning in the heat of the summer.

Newscast #2

Reporter                    Tonight on News Channel 6, Residents at the Clampitt Retirement Center have just over a week to find a new home. The owner says he had no other choice but to shut down.

Newscast #3

Female Reporter        Thanks John. Residents of the Clampitt Retirement Center in Wichita Falls have nine days to find a new place to live.

Fred Childers            After years of complaints from tenants, the owner is shutting the place down. In July of 1998, we showed you how residents were coping without air conditioning during the sweltering heat. Tonight,

air conditioning is the least of the problem facing the retirees.

Female Reporter Barbara Cagle (SP) told...

Fred Childers Two year's ago, the Clampitt Retirement Center on 10<sup>th</sup> and Lamar, was the center of a controversial News Channel 6 report. We found out the retiree's had no air conditioning.

Female Resident (Inaudible) what's going on.

Fred Childers Today, the owner, Larry Tompkins, says he couldn't afford air conditioning because he was dealing with what he calls "A frivolous lawsuit." According to him, the litigation put the retirement center in debt. Tompkins says a former employee sued the company for \$400,000.00, allegedly claiming mistreatment and pay discrepancies. Because of lost revenue, Tompkins said he recently tried to put the retirement home up for sale. After losing a deal, Tompkins says he had to shut the place down. Residents now have 9 days to find a new home. I went to the center today. One tenant told me he didn't know what he was going to do. Before we could talk, the management forced me to leave. Tompkins refused an on camera interview. But, he did say "It's sad that a company that worked so hard for its residents has to shut down due to judicial misconduct." Tompkins did not allow us to talk with any of the residents.

Fred Childers If any of the residents want to speak with us, they must contact us directly. Tompkins says he is "monitoring the residents, and their well-being is considered a priority." He said of the 15 or so

residents who live in the retirement center, all but 6 of them have a place to go.

Newscast #4

Fred Childers Well, new developments tonight in the Clampitt Retirement Center story. The 15 or so residents have a week to find a new place to live. Last night, we gave you the owners perspective. Tonight, a concerned former employee comes forward with details of what she calls "gross negligence" on the part of Clampitt management.

Fred Childers Incompetence and neglect. That's what a former employee says went on the entire year she worked at Clampitt Retirement Home.

Former Employee People need to know what's going on there. Those people have put up with so much.

(Female Voice -  
Face Hidden)

Fred Childers She remembers the bad conditions elderly people had to deal with.

Former Employee The elevators are always breaking down. There's the heat in the winter's always breaking down. The air conditioners are always going.

(Female Voice -  
Face Hidden)

Fred Childers The owner, Larry Tompkins, said a frivolous lawsuit is what led to the Center's problems, and eventually, the closing. But that's not how this former employee sees it.

Former Employee They were sued because a mentally slow person was forced to work for very little pay.

(Female Voice)

Fred Childers She says Tompkins mismanaged the retirement home.

Former Employee He just doesn't have the... The knowledge or the money to run that  
(Female Voice - kind of a business.  
Face Hidden)

Fred Childers Yesterday, when I arrived at the retirement home, I was discouraged  
from speaking to the residents.

Former Employee The policy is nobody talks to the press.  
(Female Voice -  
Face Hidden)

Fred Childers But that was no surprise to her. She says the residents and the  
employees are also discouraged from talking.

Former Employee They're afraid of losing their jobs. They're afraid of the people who  
(Female Voice - live there being ah... Blamed.  
Face Hidden)

Fred Childers She's glad though, the place is closing down.

Former Employee Because they're going to be better off wherever they go.  
(Female Voice -  
Face Hidden)

Fred Childers Yesterday, when we talked with Larry Tompkins, he assured us out  
of the 15 residents, he knows of only 6 that are unsure of where they  
will say. He says their well-being is considered priority.

Newcast #5

Female Reporter Today, at four o'clock, Clampitt Retirement Center in Wichita Falls, closed its doors for good. Clampitt was at the center of controversy for several years because of alleged negligence and mismanagement. The owner, Larry Tompkins, said he finally had to shut the place down after losing a huge lawsuit. Tompkins said that suit cost his company about \$400,000.00. As of today, only one tenant remains in the center. She told us she would be moving out tomorrow.

Newscast #6

Adele Lewis ... Dozen people today, and they say that it's been two weeks of blistering heat. In this Target 6 investigation, most of the folks that live here are well into their 80's, and some, more than 100 years-old.

Male Voice Last night, it was so hot in there that she had to take a beach towel and get up during the night and go ahead and wet it down to put it over her body, it was just so sweltering down there.

Adele Lewis Paul Wheeler (SP) is talking about his mother-in-law (Inaudible) Skinner, who's 87 years-old.

Male Voice Her feet look so bad... I mean... They were just like footballs. They were just swollen so bad.

Adele Lewis (Inaudible) not the only elderly resident at Clampitt suffering.

Female Voice (Inaudible) this is not his room. This is where we've got him cooling off.

Adele Lewis These two women, who didn't want to be identified, are trying to

help their friend, who's 103 years-old. One of them moved into a motel for a couple of days, but couldn't afford to stay away.

Female Voice Because I'm just (Inaudible). If I had enough money, I'd leave this place.

Adele Lewis The Clampitt is five stories high, and only the bottom floor has air conditioning right now. As you walk through the lobby, you see some of the 45 residents here, lying lifeless on benches, trying to stay cool.

Female Voice I think this... (Inaudible)... the truth.

Adele Lewis Barbara Cagle (SP) is the manager. She denies the air conditioning has been out for two weeks.

Barbara Cagle I said that at all the time, we have had one unit running... Okay.

Adele Lewis Okay.

Barbara Cagle Okay. But it takes two to cool it real good.

Adele Lewis Cagle's own parents live at the Clampitt.

Barbara Cagle Yes, my mom and dad live here... (Inaudible).

Adele Lewis And they've been having to deal with this heat as well or...

Barbara Cagle Well, my mom and dad likes it hot.

Adele Lewis And by the way, the manager's office is the coolest part of the building that we could find, and she told us to talk to the owner of the facility, but then refused to tell us his name. Reporting live from 10<sup>th</sup> and Lamar, this is Adele Lewis. Now back to you in the studio.

Male Reporter All right. Thank you for that report Adele. Because the Clampitt is a

retirement complex, it is not regulated like nursing homes. News Channel 6 has been told by several state and local agencies that the Clampitt is basically an apartment complex for the elderly. Only the kitchen and outside environment is regulated by the Health Department.

#### Newscast #7

Female Reporter All right guys. Thanks a lot. Turning now to news making headlines tonight. It was another hot and sticky day at the Clampitt Retirement Home in downtown Wichita Falls.

Male Reporter We've been following this story for several days now. Tonight, News Channel 6's Adele Lewis is live in the news room with today's new developments. Adele...

Adele Lewis (Inaudible) since that story first aired last night at 6, we've been hearing from dozen's of families who's loved ones live at the Clampitt. Today, one of those families decided it is too hot, and they are moving their elderly mother out of the hot high rise.

Female Voice (Inaudible) What's going on.

Adele Lewis Velma Skinner has got her bags packed, and her possessions boxed. She's fed up with the sweltering heat at the Clampitt. But, she say's she's one of the lucky ones who can afford to move.

Female Voice And they're not going to say nothing, because she's got

(Inaudible)... out of here, where are they going? Now that's, that' where I'm... That's what we're up against.

Female Reporter      Manager, Barbara Cagle told Velma and News Channel 6 this afternoon, that the air conditioning was working, and that the building needed time to cool off. But, just half-an-hour later, a chance meeting with an air conditioning man proved the manager wrong.

Male Voice            (Inaudible)... an electrician.

Female Voice         I was really surprised (Inaudible)... Bald-faced lie, I don't know what else you'd call it, because she told me that the air was on several times and I come up and it wouldn't be on. (Inaudible)... What's happening, and what about these people that don't have fans?

Female Reporter     Velma is moving tomorrow. Tonight, she will stay at her daughters house. But, she is already missing the friends she's leaving behind.

Female Voice         I've got my old friends here I play dominoes with (Inaudible)... And he's a hundred... He'll soon be 104. He's a 103 years-old.

Female Reporter     (Inaudible)... We've been checking on the air conditioning all afternoon long. As far as we know, at this point, it is still off. The 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> floors are still hot, and everything is sweltering down there. But the air conditioning company that has been working on the project, at least for the last two days, is on the scene. However, the status of their job is unknown. Now back to you.

