

James Sheets featuring Jennifer Jones, Parts 1 and 2 – Oral History Transcription

Interviewee(s): James Sheets, Jennifer Jones

Interviewers: Jenifer Baker (Deputy Archivist), Tori Roberts (Archives Technician),

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List of Initials: JB = Jenifer Baker, TR = Tori Roberts, JS = James Sheets, JJ = Jennifer Jones

Transcriber: Ted Hitchens (Records Specialist)

[Begin Part 1 transcript 00:00:02]

JB: So my name is Jenifer Baker. Today is Monday, July 29th, two-thousand nineteen. I am here with Tori Roberts and today we will be interviewing James Sheets. We are going to give him a chance to introduce himself, so if you would like to go ahead and introduce yourself.

JS: Good morning. I'm Jim Sheets and Jenifer is starting like- this like the deposition of a good lawyer.

JB: We have to get all the details in. Uh, we are also joined by his granddaughter Robin and his wife Gail today, so if you hear other voices that might be them chiming in. Uhm, so we're going to go ahead and get started. We will ask some biographical information about you. And then we're here to talk about your time working at the Silver Street jail.

JS: Okay.

JB: So you already said your name. So when and where were you born?

JS: In Lebanon (*Ohio*) in 1942.

JB: Okay. And then, where did you grow up?

JS: In Lebanon.

JB: Do you want to elaborate on your time as a child here in Lebanon?

JS: Uhm, we it was in the forties and fifties and it was an idyllic time, really. We walked to school. There were no dangers, really, no drugs. There were two movie theaters in town. Saturday morning I would get a quarter and go down there and watch movies with kids, so.

JB: What schools did you attend?

JS: The one (*where*) I went to kindergarten was over on Pleasant Street I think and that's now gone, it's been torn down. I also went to the White Building which was also called the Academy Building—

JB: We are going to take a break for just a second.

TIME 00:01:46 END PART 1

[Begin Part 2 transcript]

JB: So we are recording again. We had a new guest join us, Jennifer Jones who practiced law with Jim Sheets. So she is here to help support him in his interview and make sure he is telling the truth in all of this (*group laughter*). Okay so we left off with your kindergarten, where you went to kindergarten...

JS: It was either the Academy Building near the old building on Pleasant Street that is now gone. And then I went right over to the Harper Valley P.T.A. building and that's where I went to high school and graduated from high school.

JB: Okay. What year did you graduate?

JS: Nineteen-sixty.

JB: Okay. And then have you- did you live anywhere else besides just Lebanon?

JS: Well yes, that's sort of a long story. But I'll make it very short. I went to college from Lebanon and after that I started law school and I lived in Lebanon with my parents. And a thing called Vietnam in the draft when I was in law school and we're taking nine hours at night at Chase College of Law located on the third floor of the Y.M.C.A. in downtown Cincinnati. Now this is a posh, posh upscale law school – and that's a joke (*group laughter*). And so then because I didn't want to go in the army, I went into the air force and by the sheerest of accident became a pilot (*JB: Wow*). And when I got out of the air force, I came back and went back to law school, started all over again courtesy of Jennifer's father.

TR: Nice!

JJ: Fred Jones.

JB: Fred Jones ... So did you move back to Warren County? Or did you move back after you were—

JS: Well, when I came back- by that time I was married and my wife was a professor at UC (*University of Cincinnati*) and so we had a house in Lebanon—I mean, Cincinnati. And- and after she died in 1999, I determined that I wasn't going to work anymore and that I didn't want to be anyplace that I had to wear long pants and shoes. So I am now happily in Florida.

JB: Okay. So uhm, leading up to your time at the Silver Street jail, what other jobs did you have prior to that?

JS: In high school I was a lifeguard at the local pool and I think I managed the pool for awhile. My future wife taught – Robin, her name – taught synchronized swimming and was a lifeguard as well.

JB: Where was that pool located? Do you remember?

JS: Monroe Street—?

JJ: Something like that. I was a lifeguard there too.

JS: Right, everybody was—! (*indecipherable*)

JB: Anything else you would like to let us know about your history?

JS: Well for the benefit of the genealogy people, I will tell you that my family arrived on these shores in 1732 from Germany. And they came aboard the ship *The Dragon* out of Rotterdam and came to Philadelphia. And in due course went to Bucks County, Pennsylvania and in due course moved to Shenandoah Valley. There were farmers and Indian fighters, and anybody who was in Shenandoah Valley that early was, in force, an Indian fighter as well as a farmer. They decamped to Warren County after the War of 1812 and where my grandfather John received one-hundred sixty acres of was called a land warrant at the time near Red Lion. And that's where we've been ever since. My sister is still in

town. She- my parents had the baby shop then turned that into the “Fella-Bella”(?) shop for P.R. races and they had that for many years. In fact, they started the baby shop I think in 1943 or ‘44 I suspect after I was a couple years old.

JB: Where was that located?

JS: Several places. Right across the street from the Golden Lamb was the major. They were there for many years.

JB: So we’re going to go ahead and start with the jail specific questions about your time there. Uhm, so what years were you employed at the jail? And I know that you had special circumstances, right?

TIME 00:05:00 MARK

JS: Well, that’s sort of a long story, but I kinda got tired of working at the pool and doing that sort of thing and I got interested in, I don’t know, law enforcement or whatever. The way I made it there, uh I got hired by a guy named Ed Cramner – Jennifer’s uncle, he was a lawyer – to collect- they had a lot of liens. All lawyers’ offices had a lot of uncollectable liens, so he wanted me to go out and find some automobiles and assets of these people that didn’t pay up. So that was fun and I was fairly successful at that.

JB: What year was that?

JS: Oh my goodness... (*group laughter*). Before— I graduated in college in 1964 and I was gone, so before 1964.

JB: I think you told me summer of ‘63 is when you were at the jail, so...

JS: Probably. It was more- more than that. Anyway, I was doing that and how I came to the jail was there was a sheriff named Byron Kennard and they at the time had what was called Special Deputies, you weren’t a real-trained cop and frankly they weren’t very-trained either. But it was a volunteer sort-of-thing. It was kind of fun to ride around in the cruiser with the real deputies. And at the time when I signed on we had three cruisers. One was driven by the sheriff and there was two other ones. One took care of the northern part of the county and the other one took care of the southern part of the county. It was my job to be the jailer and dispatcher to run the radios and- and the jail; if they collect somebody up, I would go and lock the jail and toss them in there and lock them up and I’d go back to being the- the dispatcher. And that was quite a lot of fun. And so in the summertime I would come home and Jennifer’s father, Fred, let me do other things around the- around the law office. I was kind of the – this

was called Young & Jones at the time – I was essentially a gopher. I called myself an investigator which I did, I went around and took pictures and things like that but I was essentially a gopher and that was a lot of fun. So uh, the jail- I should tell you I learned how to play the guitar. Well there was a guy named Archie Quentin Knight. And I'm sorry, Archie, if you're still alive but I don't think you are. He would uh- I'd let him out – he was a guy that would break a window and just wanted to be in jail because he didn't have anyplace else to go. So I let him out and he essentially taught me to play the guitar and I'd lock him back up again.

JB: Well and we previously interviewed Vance Satterthwaite and Miriam Satterthwaite and they said that they had regulars that did the same thing that Archie would do where they would just find some reason to be put back in jail ... and they were, yeah – and they were allowed to go to like the corner store to get supplies for people, yeah—

JS: Well they were called- they were called 'trustees.'

JB: Right, yeah...

JS: And they were just people that didn't have anyplace to go (*JB: Right*) and uh, so that was it. So then came along I think Roy Wallace who was the sheriff for a long time and I did the same, you know, worked the same thing with him. And I did other jobs around town but that was what I did. It got me very interested in the legal system of the law. So I went to- went to ... right after I got out of college in 1960, I went to Ohio Wesleyan in Delaware (*city of Delaware, OH*) and I went right to Chase by night. I don't recall ever taking the L.S.A.T. or any exams. I think Fred called up and told them I'd be down there, and that was the end of that. I did about, I don't know, six months or so and then a lady in town named Marge Kinsworthy was the draft lady in charge of the draft. And she said, "you know you're getting close, you gotta do something." So I just left town and went to work at my uncle's in Atlanta. Well that didn't last, she called me. So I enlisted in the Air Force.

JB: Voluntarily?

JS: Well ... (*group laughter*) ... There was a good bit of duress because I didn't want to be in the army! And so I took a bunch of tests and I never thought about being a pilot. And this recruiter says "well, you know, tell me..." I said, "you know, I'm gonna be in the air force, I might as well be a pilot." He said "no no, you had to be a college graduate and you had to be an officer and there's all kinds of—" I said "look, I'm a college graduate, I've been to law school just a little bit." Well that changed his attitude right there. So off we went and I took two days of tests at another air force base and I'll be damned if I didn't pass! Surprised me! So uh- and that's how I became a fighter pilot (*indecipherable*)...

JB: Those are the exact steps?

TIME 00:10:00 MARK

JS: Exactly. So I did that for six years, and I came back, and Jennifer's father rehired me and paid me ten-thousand dollars a year which was a princely sum because I was going to law school by then on the G.I. Bill that started all over again. And when I got out of law school – and again, people were quite surprised that I passed the bar exam. So I bought my own building up on Warren Street – 304 East Warren Street – and kinda rehabbed that and commenced to practice law. And my first case was a divorce—

JB: Can we talk about that in the end? So hang on, can you remember that? We're gonna go back to the Silver Street jail first and then (*JS: Oh okay*) — Once we're done asking those questions then we're gonna get into the law practice.

TR: We'll keep you in the flow, we promise.

JB: Yeah.

JS: Okay.

JB: Okay so, uhm, can you tell us about any of the other employees that worked at the jail with you? I know you mentioned a couple of the sheriffs at the time.

JS: There was a guy named Farrell Baker who was a character from South Lebanon. Ed Heiser, those were the two deputies. Now mind you, there were only two automobiles at this time. And uh so and later Roy Wallace. I knew Tom Ariss very well, he was in a state I would patrol at the time. He later became Sheriff.

JB: Okay. What was a typical day like for you?

JS: For me? It wasn't a day, it was night. I worked from midnight until eight in the morning. And when I wasn't doing that, I could voluntarily ride around with the deputies at night or anytime I wanted to. So, I'd check in at night, be sure the radios worked, the guys- two guys were out running around. If the phone ring, I'd say "Warren County sheriff's office" and somebody was saying "my God, they just shot my dog!" and I'd send the- send the appropriate cruiser wherever it went. It really wasn't that exciting a job back then in Warren County. There wasn't a lot of miscreants but there was, you know, some stuff but it was fun to do.

JB: Yeah. What were the conditions like in the jail?

JS: Well these days they would get sued. It's uh – well you know, you've been in there – I'm sure it was all ratty, stinky. And all jails, I don't care where they are, smell alike so it wasn't- wasn't a very pleasant place. We had two stories – we never used the second story unless there was a female and we put her upstairs – and a basement which was really grim; I invite you to go down there. And the guys would come in. If a guy didn't really talk to them when they asked questions, they'd sort of take him down the stairs and once you got to the bottom of the stairs they'd ask him again and they would probably answer the question.

JB: What was the most memorable part of working at the jail?

JS: Well it was just, you know, various instances. I went on a raid one time over on Pennyroyal Hill in Franklin and that was fun because we had the feds with us. Another time they had a suspect cornered in a bar over in- they knew where he was, the feds showed up and I showed up and Christ, they had people in trees and all this and— They wanted the locals to go in and arrest him. But everybody knew the local sheriff and whatever. My job was the stay by the back door and to be sure he didn't run out the back door. So right – by the way, I looked like I was about twelve years old and weighed all of a hundred and ten pounds, so – I go and stand by the back door. And I had a gun but I didn't take it out- I don't need that I don't think and they were gonna catch him inside. So these guys bust in the front door. It's a rough bar and here they're shouting and yelling, pitter-patter pitter-patter, bang! The screen door flies open. The guy runs out, runs right over me, the deputies run out and run right over me. So that was pretty much the end of my police career (*group laughter*). You learn your lessons there.

JB: And I know you said one of the prisoners taught you how to play the guitar, did you have any other interesting interactions with anyone who was in the jail?

JS: In the jail I don't really- but he didn't really interact because they weren't there that- that long usually. There was a couple homicides and- but it was all very interesting.

JB: And then, aside from being run over by a criminal and some deputies, do you have any other funny stories that you recall about the jail?

TIME 00:15:00 MARK

JS: I'm seventy-seven, I can go on forever! (*group laughter*) Well no, not really. It just was a- to me it was- it was a fascinating and interesting job because I, you know, led a rather sheltered childhood and didn't know about these things. I will tell you I almost shot a guy once. The old King Powder Company

had a business in there making cheap furniture out of pressed wood and whatever, and they used barrels of some chemical that the teenagers of the time wanted to sniff. One time an alarm drop came, somebody had broken in there. And myself and one other guy – I don't remember who it was – went down there – dark and spooky and everything else – and looking for the guy. And we're walking around with flashlights and- and some kid jumps up like that (*raises arms*) and scared me. I just damn near shot him and I'm, you know, so glad I didn't.

JB: Um, did you ever go into- so the front part of the jail was where the sheriffs had their residence—

JS: Yes, they lived there.

JB: Did you ever go in that part?

JS: No I don't think we ever went in there. Byron Kennard lived there. Roy Wallace lived there. I don't know if Tom (*Ariss*) lived there or not, I don't know.

JB: They've done a lot of renovations and we've just been trying to piece together what the setup was like when it was a residence and then it was a jail because they've since broken down the barriers from the residence to where the jail entrances are. So for us to go through, it looks much different than it would have in the sixties. Um, can you- so if you're looking at the front part of the house- or front part of the residence, was the sheriff's office on the left-hand side?

JS: Yes, right up those little stairs.

JB: Okay. And then it's that ... And then from there you could- there was a separate hallway in the back- do you know? With like a stairwell to go upstairs and downstairs—?

JS: Oh, I don't recall that (*JB: Okay*). I don't recall there was an entrance to the residence to the jail, frankly.

JB: That's what I'm- so from the sheriff's office, would you lead the, uhm, prisoners to the actual jail portion of it- but that was separated from the sheriff's residence.

JS: Yeah it was completely separate— No, they- they had one door in to the jail (*JB: Okay*) and you walked in to the left of the dispatcher and radios and such, and I think they had a couple of interview

rooms other than the one I told you about. But that was- that was it. I mean I could—it's not as big as this room. Well maybe it is, but uhm that was all there was to it- a room in handcuffs and they'd put him right in jail.

JB: Okay. One last random question. There's an old stove in the attic of that building and we're trying to figure out how they got this gigantic iron cooking stove up there...

JS: I have no idea.

JB: We've been- we've been asking everyone if they know because it seems that—

JS: I've never been up in the attic.

JB: Okay.

TR: Well we described it to Miriam Satterthwaite who did live in the residence portion and she says that was not her stove and she doesn't know where it came from.

JS: And she doesn't want it back even if she did.

JB: Right. Yeah. I'm not sure how they're gonna get it down the stairs.

TR: Probably never.

JS: Yeah I knew Dick Satterthwaite and he was the Sheriff before all this time...

JB: Yeah they were one of the last families to live there, so...

JS: Is that right?

JB: Yeah. We were able to interview them which was really interesting. Anything else you would like to add about the jail before we move on?

JS: No I don't think so.

JB: Okay. Um, okay so now we can get back to your time spent practicing law in Warren County.

JS: Okay ... Anyway, I had bought the building before I even passed the bar and some people thought that was a little – uppity. But uh, and I had lawyers when they had passed the bar and started practicing for the first time will send out little announcements “I've opened my law office and such-and-such a place.” I had those printed and the minute I got my bar exam results, I sent those out to everybody in my law school class. And they're still mad about it. It felt good!

JB: You're ready to go.

JS: Yes ma'am! And in- in comes the- my first client for a divorce case. I charged the princely sum of a two-hundred dollar retainer. And then after him I had a dentist appointment, Dr. Testerman's office, who announced I need a crown and announced that will cost me two-hundred dollars and that's a great lesson there for life (*group laughter*). Uh, so I practiced it all by myself. And I had the house that I bought for the office was a fourplex, four old ratty apartments full of ratty furniture and that sort of thing. So I used just one portion of the building as my little law office. And I hired a secretary who could not type – and I couldn't practice the law either so it was- it was fine (*group laughter*).

TIME 00:20:00 MARK

JS: And we- and we got along just fine. And you just do stuff, and pretty soon I get hired by the prosecutor and his name was (*indecipherable*) - well he isn't; the first gut who hired me was Cliff Swan who later died. He didn't hire me as a lawyer, he hired me- let me be an investigator- actually paid me. And pretty soon Terkelson comes along and he actually hired me as an assistant prosecutor. And with that you get the badge. I already had a sheriff's badge, now I got a prosecutor's badge and 'the Turk' was very careful to explain to me “you're not to take that badge out of this- out of your drawer” which was very wise. He knew me well. So I represented the welfare department collecting child support for skips and things like that. And it gives you a little courtroom experience, not much but some. And that was sort of fun- that was before D.N.A. and all this other stuff that just puts a hat right on the- one the father. But then you got to- actually had trials. You got to get down to the- down and dirty when, where, and what which was a lot of fun. We once found out that some young lady got pregnant on the couch of the then-Prosecutor Jim Flannery, and this tickled me to no end. And I had that transcript printed up and sent over to him and we never got along all that well. People say it was nothing but a personality difference – I had one and he didn't. And- and then I did that for awhile and then-Probate Judge Bill Bowers hired me to be a juvenile court magistrate which is kind of an assistant judge to do juvenile court work and I did that for several years. And it was the worst job I ever had, it was just heartbreaking. In fact when I moved to Florida, I have a judge living down the street. He tried to talk

me into going back into the juvenile court business as a guardian or something. I said I wanted no part of that. I don't want to wear shoes, I don't want to wear pants, I don't want to do that at all – period. So uh, I was a small-town lawyer. And pretty soon I had another guy come in to my office and then I expand(ed) the whole bottom floor. And pretty soon I expanded the whole—

JJ: --And I came in.

JS: I was getting to that (*group laughter*). And uh I don't know- I don't remember exactly when Jenny came in; I don't remember dates so well. But yeah, we practiced law.

JB: I'm going to interject and have you (*to Ms. Jones*) actually move over next to him since this is where you entered. So uhm, I introduced Jennifer Jones earlier so we're going to have this feel a little bit different than we've had in the past because she practiced law with Jim. And you gotta scoot a little closer, sorry.

TR: You gotta get real cozy. Perfect! You're both in there.

JB: So ... she's going to help support his uh stories about—

JS: 'Support' is the operative word.

JB: ... And she can- If you would like to also interject and tell some of your own stories, that would be great as well.

JS: Sure, great.

JB: Okay—

JS: Being a small-town lawyer, you didn't ... anything. I mean, you- One day you're starving, one day you're now, you know ... One day you got a lot of money, next day you don't have any money and— So you take all kind(s) of cases. I never liked to do probate work. I really liked trials, and this is where her father taught me. As a law student I would go to trials and sit right beside him. And carry papers and whatever, so the only reason I was able to start off my own law practice right out of law school was that. Because in law school, they don't teach you how to be a lawyer. And it uh- I had a good deal of trouble in law school because I had just come out of the air force and the professors were about the same age

as I was, and I was a captain in the United States Air Force. And when I walk into a room I expect people to stand up, you know. Well I got a big shock because I didn't (*indecipherable*) anymore. So these professors were about my age and uh, I didn't get along with them so well. I thought they were a bunch of idiots. And they've never been to the courthouse, they didn't do what I wanted to do, so I learned all about anti-trust law and utterly irrelevant stuff.

TIME 00:25:00 MARK

JS: And I might tell you the- When I first went to law school we had a carpool. There was no Interstate 71 or 75. And five guys: myself, Fred Hubbell, Jack Marshall, Boris Terkelson who I talked about, and a guy named Bob Olsen – and everybody will know all these people from Lebanon – carpooled down to downtown Cincinnati to Chase by night. And that was fun – on Route 42. So, I got to try a lot of cases over the years and that's what I enjoyed doing.

JB: So what were the majority of the types of cases?

JS: Personal injury, automobile accidents and that sort of thing. And that's what Jennifer's father taught me to do, how to do that.

JB: Okay. And then, you said you ran your own office – how many people worked for you there over the years? Or, about- I guess average?

JS: Oh golly. A dozen maybe, in and out. Mike Butts, he's now deceased. Dave Hearst worked for me; Tom Deale (*spelling?*). And this- I don't know when- Jennifer, when did you come in? I don't remember who was there when you started.

JJ: Well when I came- well, my dad was going on the bench. And so I came over to- You invited me to come over to your office and I said sure. So I think it was just the two of us there for awhile, just with the secretary and- I don't think there were any other lawyers at that time.

JS: Okay.

JJ: And I was there for a couple years I think.

JB: Can you provide a little background information on yourself for us?

JJ: Well, I went to Lebanon High School, Miami University, and Chase Law School also. But by the time I got to Chase, it had moved across the river (*JS: Right*) into Kentucky and we had an interstate. And so which made it a little easier, although we always went at night.

JB: When did you graduate from Lebanon High School?

JJ: Sixty-seven.

JB: Okay, and then when did you graduate from Miami?

JJ: Seventy-one.

JB: Okay.

JJ: And so, like Jim, we- we both kind of learned how to practice law from watching my dad. So we got book knowledge from law school, but we got practical knowledge from watching my dad in trials and so forth.

JB: And his name was Fred Jones?

JJ: Fred Jones (*JB: Okay*). And he later became a judge on the 12th District Court of Appeals. And so uhm- and we just did everything and, you know, he just- he just said "Jim you handle this" and I handle this and- and so we just learned by doing. But we were successful nonetheless.

JS: Nonetheless (*group laughter*) by the sheerest of accident! And Jennifer is not telling you about the most memorable time in my office. This was an old building on 304 East Warren Street and she had a nice little office, she had fixed it up nicely and she comes in one morning the ceiling had fallen completely down on her desk. I had tenants above and they may have been having a dance or something, I don't know. But she got a little overwrought about that – but we got it cleaned up and off we went.

JB: How long did you stay at that location?

JS: I think I quit ... Well, my wife died in '99 and I think I was pretty much out of there by 2001. And it had to be- it had a couple of- I just essentially gave my practice to the – I didn't sell it or anything – to Tom Deale and Dave Hearst and there was another lawyer in there (but) I don't remember who that was. Just took over the practice, and I had a couple of other businesses which I had to get rid of before I got out of town. And I was- I got out of town something in a hurry because I didn't realize that after my wife died, I would be pursued by widows with casseroles. And I didn't want to die by casseroles, so I left town! (*Group laughter*)

JB: So what are uhm- so we did an exhibit on Foster's Crossing, and included in that exhibit is a picture of a smoking monkey that was a resident of the Monkey Bar...

TIME 00:30:00 MARK

JS: Then it was called The Train Stop and-or before that, The Blue Danube.

JB: So, you were involved in a case involving the monkey so can you tell us a little bit—

JS: Most assuredly! (*Group laughter*)

JB: Can you fill us in on the- on the interesting points of that case?

JS: Okay. Well, keep an eye on your clock. Well one day I'm sitting in the office and but this time you find out when the phone rings, you have no idea what's going to happen that day or any other time. So one morning, the phone rings and it's Kenny Harris. "Jim, this is Kenny. They got my monkey!" I said "Well calm down." He was all excited. "Calm down, Kenny, what's the problem?" "Well they come got Sam!" And 'they' had charged Kenny Harris with cruelty to animals.

JB: And he was the bar owner?

JS: Right, he owned The Train Stop and it was a pretty rough place. It was a biker bar, sort of, and I'd known Kenny for a long time. I don't know how, but you practice law in a little town and pretty soon you knew everybody. And Sam had been seized by – or at the behest of – the Humane Society of the United States, Inc. Which by the way, has nothing whatsoever to do with the United States of America. It's like PETA, sort of these animal ... and I didn't know much about them either. So I said "Kenny, come on up and we'll talk about this and see." Well they seized Sam who was an adult chimpanzee, and that's a large dangerous animal. And they had spirited him off to Columbus to Ohio State veterinarian place because, I suppose, they were gonna try to say that he was badly used. He did smoke and he did drink and he had various other habits which were found disgusting by some. Anyway, the reason for this is

they put the bike trial in, and Foster's used to be a very rough little town. They had- there must have been four or five honkey-tonks down there and one biker group had their own house, a clubhouse down there. It was a pretty rough, rough place and I'll tell you how rough: When I was a little guy, fifteen or sixteen, my buddy Bob McElwee and I were boy scouts and he had his own car at fifteen. And we would go down to Foster's in our boy scout uniform and buy beer in a car that was his, but he didn't have a license. Times have changed. So anyway, Sam was, he- you could hand him a beer, he'd open that. You'd hand him a pack of cigarettes – he'd open the pack of cigarettes, open the paper, knock one out- take it out, you hand him a Bic lighter, he'd light it and smoke the cigarette. He didn't really drink that much beer but he did like grape soda. And he had a very plush pen; he had a couch, he had TV, he had a refrigerator. All in all, you know, the smoking, the drinking and other abuse- I said to someone in the press "*(indecipherable)* ... act like anything other than any other lawyer I know." So anyway, the- it turned into something of a circus at my behest. It was a ridiculous charge. And so I made it fairly ridiculous to them, but it got a lot of press locally and internationally and everything else.

JB: Do you recall what years—?

JS: It was I think '82 maybe ... I don't know. And we went up to Columbus once to ... see my client and I kept pushing- because the press was getting bigger by then, you know- they got wind of it (because) it was an interesting story. We went up there and somebody brought a small chimpanzee named Suzy and she was all dressed up and we said "well that's Sam's girlfriend, do they have any visits?" like in prison though they didn't have that. It just made the Humane Society of the United States look silly, which was my goal. And then as the trial was coming up I- in my squirrely little way where I do all this preparation – again, I owe it to her father (*pointing to JJ*) - I found out that the Humane Society of the United States had not renewed their corporate charter which you have to do like I think every five years and it cost five dollars. And they didn't do it and they were represented by a big law firm in Cincinnati. So I quickly made up new corporate papers for the Humane Society of the United States, Inc. Sent them seventy-five bucks and now I own the Humane Society of the United States, Inc. I was on the board of directors, well we didn't have a president yet.

TIME 00:35:00 MARK

JS: So I convened a board of directors meeting which was me (*group laughter*). All I could say was that I was the President of the Humane Society of the United States and they deserved- and that got quite a hoot. And they deserved all they got over that. And we had a trial, and I brought in a carload of bananas and monkey chow to show that he was well fed and whatever. It was a complete, complete circus – I had a great time which you wouldn't get if you were a Harvard graduate working in some law firm on Wall Street. So you know, that was- that was fun. And- that's unintended consequences I saw because of the publicity, I was suddenly representing people who (were) chicken fighters and (*indecipherable*) wolves. And then the phone rang one morning and it was Mike Tyson's lawyer. And well, he had two white tigers up in northeastern Ohio. And people were agreeing that- and where he had a license and everything and it was, you know, it was completely on the up-and-up on his farm up there. And so I got in that, I represented Mike Tyson doing that. The theory was that the zoning violation- there was a school like a mile away. And the neighbors were concerned that (if) the tigers got

out, they could come to the school. And I argued that white tigers are quite rare. They're not many and there were plenty of kids. So I didn't do so well. That case kinda went away when Mike bit off Holyfield's ear. So you see what kind of fun you can have as a country lawyer.

JB: That's frightening.

JS: And before you ask, I don't know what happened to Sam. I think he went to a— Because they kept pressure on Kenny because of the bike trail and the yuppies didn't like to see this caged large animal. So he went to some retirement home for chimps, I guess.

JB: Yeah. It's a very mysterious ending to that because nobody seems to know where he went.

TR: And now that Kenny is gone, no one will know.

JB: Yeah.

JS: Yeah I don't know, and frankly I never asked because I, you know, go on to other stuff and I didn't- I wasn't a customer of The Train Stop inn much.

JB: Okay. Any other interesting cases you would like to talk about?

JS: Well golly, I just ...

JB: Remember you can feel free to share anything that you were involved with.

JS: No I'm done unless you have a question ...

JB (to TR): Do you have any other questions?

TR: No, I feel like I learned a lot. And I'm very intrigued.

JB: Anything else you would like to add to the oral history interview?

JS: Well, not really. It was an idyllic time, I think, to- in a ideal place for a guy like me who just loves all sorts of things- different people and you can do anything you want to do. It was just- I had a fascinating career.

JB: Yeah. Well then we are going to conclude the interview.

[End Part 2 transcript 00:38:21]