

HISTORY OF THE  
U. S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Interview between:

Samuel Alfend, Retired Director

Denver District

and

Robert G. Porter

Denver, Colorado

June 8, 1978

## INTRODUCTION

This is a transcription of a taped interview, one of a series conducted by Robert G. Porter, who retired from the U. S. Food and Drug Administration in 1977.

The interviews were held with retired F.D.A. employees whose recollections may serve to enrich the written record. It is hoped that these narratives of things past will serve as source material for present and future researchers; that the stories of important accomplishments, interesting events, and distinguished leaders will find a place in training and orientation of new employees, and may be useful to enhance the morale of the organization; and finally, that they will be of value to Dr. James Harvey Young in the writing of the history of the Food and Drug Administration.

The tapes and transcriptions will become a part of the collection of the National Library of Medicine and copies of the transcriptions will be placed in the Library of Emory University.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

TAPE INDEX SHEET

CASSETTE NUMBER(S) 1-2

GENERAL TOPIC OF INTERVIEW: FDA History

DATE: 6/8/78 PLACE: Denver, Colorado LENGTH: 120 Min.

INTERVIEWEE

INTERVIEWER

NAME Sam Alfend NAME Robert G. Porter

ADDRESS [REDACTED] ADDRESS FDA- Denver District

[REDACTED] Denver, Colorado

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FDA SERVICE DATES: FROM 1923 TO 1964

RETIRED: Yes YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

TITLE: Director, Denver District  
(If retired, title of last FDA position)

CASSETT NO.	SIDE NO.	ESTIMATED TIME ON TAPE	Page No.	SUBJECT
1	A	0 14	1 7	Introduction - First Employment by FDA Personal recollections of: William Teet, Jessie Pitts, Durward Bisbee, Lloyd Mitchell, Roy Pruitt, Chester Hubble, Roscoe Dolittle, J. O. Clark, Ora Keener, Austin Lowe
		25	12	Early Drug Analysis More About Austin Lowe & Malcolm Stevens.
1	B	0 5 8 11 15 20	14 16 17 18 20 22	Harvey Wiley Paul V. McNutt Canning Industry in Arkansas Ginger Jake Investigation Elixir of Sulfanilimide Investigation Contamination of Sulfathiazole Tablets with Phenobarbital
		21 28	23 25	Microsanmosene Investigation Analyzing for Spray Residues
2	A	0 9 14	27 30 32	Spray Residue Work (Cont.) Food Poisoning Investigations Personal Recollections of Central District and: Roy Mitchell, J. O. Clark, Roy Pruitt, and Paul Dunbar.
		19	34	Alfend Becomes District Director at Kansas City and talks about: Ted Benjamine, Andrew Allison, Lou Jones, Jim Green, Weems Clevenger, and Tillie Checchi.
2	B	0 8 12 16 24 30	39 42 44 46 50 52	(Cont.) Alfend's Speech Making Techniques Kansas City Flood Incubator Reject Cases Ozone & Chlorine Generator Cases End of Interview

P. - This is an interview with Sam Alfend who retired in 1964 as Director of the Denver District Office. The recording is being made at Sam's home in [REDACTED] on June 8, 1978. Sam, I would like you to tell us a little bit about yourself and then just any little stories or history or interesting people--cover it in just in anyway you would like to. So, I'll turn it over to you.

A. - Well, when you say tell just a little bit about yourself, you're in danger of getting inundated. I'll tell you more about myself than you want to know!

P. - That would be fine.

A. - My connection with the present Food and Drug Administration goes back to 1923 when there was no Food and Drug Administration but enforcement of the old Food and Drug law known as the Pure Food and Drug Law was in the hands of the Bureau of Chemistry which was a bureau in the Department of Agriculture. I was in my senior year at Washington University in St. Louis. I was anticipating having to look for a job. I had previously worked at Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, a very large chemical manufacturer. I had liked my part in the analytical laboratory but I was not enthused about working in the large chemical plant. I didn't care for the dirt, the smells and particularly the vapors and the dangers involved.

One day, I saw on the bulletin board in the Chemistry Building a notice of a Civil Service examination for junior chemists, in fact for various degrees of chemists. There were then junior, assistant, associate and full or senior chemists; and the pay of the junior chemist ranged from \$1,200 to \$1,800, starting at \$1,200 a year plus a bonus of \$240 per year for the cost of living which had been going up--we thought then, by leaps and bounds following World War I. I thought it would do no harm to inquire about it and so I went down to the old Civil Service Commission offices in the old Custom House on 3rd and Olive Street on the steps of which I'm told they use to sell slaves.

P. - Is that right.

A. - It was a solid old building. When they finally tore it down, they had to blast in order to tear it apart. There were huge blocks of granite in it. I went down there and learned when the exam would be given. Apparently, I was the only one who was going to take the examination. It had four options in addition to a general examination in chemistry and physics. The options were analytical chemistry, physical chemistry, organic and advanced inorganic. I don't recall whether they said advanced inorganic, but it was inorganic chemistry. I decided that, inasmuch as my commercial experience had been in analytical chemistry, and I was pretty good in it, got good marks in it, I would take that. So one morning I

came downtown, stopped off at a passport photo shop to get a photo to submit with my Civil Service application, got it, found that it had a black eye on it, couldn't do anything about it, took it to Civil Service and started my examination. So, my original picture, my original Civil Service file, showed a little fellow with a black eye.

P. - Most of us took a few weeks at least to get a black eye!

A. - Well, I'd always been able to get a black eye by getting hit real hard and usually it took an hour or two to swell up.

So, the general part of it the first morning was all right. I took the analytical exam in the afternoon. That was all right. The man from the Civil Service Commission who seemed to be kind of lonesome and wanted somebody to take an exam persuaded me to come back the next day and take one of the other options. He said the more options you qualify in, the better the chance that there will be a job opening for you. I showed up the next morning, I took the examination in organic chemistry and was kind of blank for a while (I hadn't taken the organic chemistry course for about a year), but after a while the names started to get familiar to me and I sat down and started writing and I completed that, and the fellow said, "Well you're downtown now, why don't you stick around this afternoon

and take another one". So I did, and took the inorganic and then, sure enough, I came back the next day and took the physical chem. It turned out that I qualified on all four of them.

P. - That's pretty good.

A. - So, at least I had a chance. Came graduation and I went out looking for a job, and I got a job as a cadet fuel engineer for public utility. It paid \$85.00 a month. I didn't know how long it would be before I wouldn't be a cadet any more and could start earning more money, but I did need more money. Along came an offer from Washington, the Bureau of Chemistry Carbohydrate Laboratory, a job in Washington, \$1,440.00 a year. I figured I couldn't get by and still send money home and I needed to send money home because I had a heavy obligation to the family which had been patient while I was going to school for four years. So I turned it down. A little while later, after I had been working perhaps a month, I got an inquiry from the Bureau of Chemistry's St. Louis station, a job in the Food Laboratory. I went down and saw the Chief of Station, Mr. Smith, and I was not nervous or concerned because my chief concern was whether this was something I ought to take, so I was most interested in finding out about the job, and I asked most of the questions, and it must have made a good impression on Mr. Smith, who was a large, handsome, very affable man. That was Ernest Smith, known

as Ernie, but known to all the employees there as Chief. They never addressed him in any other way. He made inquiries at the school and he misinterpreted something the head of our chemistry department said, to the effect that I had gained final honors, and he took it to mean that I had ranked the whole class and the whole school that year, which wasn't true, but it impressed him favorably, so he offered me the job and I took it at (and this was probably the most important reason for my taking it) about the fourth step in the junior chemist list, which was \$1,620.00, plus \$240.00, or \$155.00 a month. Quite a lot more than the \$85.00 a month, and those days, not bad pay for a young fellow. I came to work and I was the third man in the laboratory. The two men who had left just before I came were: Albert Burns, who left to become Chief of the New Orleans station, and Charlton Lathrop, who left to join the Curtiss Candy Company, and became the chief chemist of the Curtiss Candy Company, a very important job, paying far, far more than any of the government chemist jobs. And the guy had the nerve to come around a few years later and try to persuade me that I was making a mistake by sticking with the government; I was just wasting my time and my life; I ought to get out in industry. Well, I was the kind of fellow, I guess, who didn't care for the job in industry. Anyway, I was trying to find out whether I liked the job, and I stuck around for some 41½ years trying to decide it before finally



deciding I didn't want--

P. - You finally quit!

A. - I finally quit it! We had three chemists, we had three inspectors, we had the station chief, we had three clerks and we had a helper. The helper was the messenger, the store keeper, the sample custodian, the sample grinder, the inspector's aid, the all-around handy man. He also did repairs.

The boy who was the lab helper at that time quit shortly thereafter to go back to school and many years later he found my name in the phone book in Denver and called me and met with me and told me about what had happened to him. He had graduated from college, he had become a teacher, he was then a high school teacher and coach of athletics getting ready to retire.

The man who succeeded him as helper stayed with the Food and Drug Administration for as long as I did and retired the same year as I did.

P. - Is that right. What was his name?

A. - That was Ben Allen.

He was a skilled man. He went to night school and learned the trade of tailoring so he could earn some extra money. He fixed all the radios. In 1923 there were very few manufactured radios. People would make their own. You may recall the crystal sets?

P. - Yes, I recall them.

A. - And, gradually we got up to the super neterodyne and so on, but when somebody's radio was off, we'd bring it down to the lab and Ben would fix it. He did work at home at night to supplement his income.

Of the inspectors that we had then--the chief inspector was Bill Teet who was the product of a very, very strict upbringing by a family in which the father was a minister. Another inspector was Cyril Sullivan a happy go lucky Irishmen who subsequently became a chief inspector and then the Chief of the Boston District. The third inspector was Jesse Pitts, the old timer. Jesse was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He had entered, at perhaps the age of 18, he had enlisted, he had served in the Phillipines. He was still a country boy, and although he had become a skilled inspector after joining as a laboratory helper, he was still very naive. One of the things we can remember is Jesse coming in looking very angry after an inspection and sputtering "you know that man actually lied to me. He brazenly lied to me. Can you imagine that! It's gettin' so I don't know whom to believe." And, Jesse broke his neck in an auto accident. He was driving and I believe it was a Sunday and his wife was with him and he and a truck collided on a bridge. He broke his neck and his wife was killed.

One of his children, both of his children graduated from college. One of them, I think, became a business major and the daughter, as it happens, was the chum of the daughter of my favorite professor of chemistry.

So I had a little link with him that way.

In the laboratory we had Durward Bisbe, a fine old gentleman with handlebar mustache. He was known as Doc Bisbe. He was a man who could quote the classics and the Bible. He was a well rounded man. He was not just a laboratory gnome. He was a joy to be around. He was promoted to the District Office in Chicago not too long after I came and he was succeeded by Lloyd Mitchell, with whom I worked for many years and with whom and with whose family I had an enduring friendship. Lloyd subsequently got into what he should have been doing all along and that is research on methodology. He was an excellent man on that. Eventually he was transferred to the Food Control Laboratory--or the Food Division Laboratory--in Washington. He was the author of many methods that are now used. He was a pioneer and he was awarded the Harvey Wiley medal one year. I was very happy to be in Washington at that AOAC meeting.

P. - I bet.

A. - And met there his wife and his two children with whom I had played when they were quite small children and who were now grown people and married. So we had subsequently--I remember people who turned out very well and very importantly in the Food and Drug Administration right there in St. Louis.

To mention a few of them--Malcolm Stevens who was

subsequently Associate Commissioner and has since retired came in as a fresh inspector from University of Arkansas. He was preceded by one year by Roy Pruitt who subsequently became chief of the Cincinnati and then the St. Louis Districts.

P. - Do you keep up with Roy?

A. - About once in two years or so. Surprisingly, you know that he has lupus. Surprisingly he has outlasted many of the people. Did you notice that one of the St. Louis oldtimers just died. We got the notice of that. Henry Hradil.

P. - Yes. I didn't know him, but I knew that --

A. - Well, you see I worked with Henry. We had Ken Milstead there in the lab for several years and he became Director of Regulatory Management after he was a district director who made all kinds of records at Cincinnati. We had Sam Fine who has retired as Associate Commissioner. We had Fred Garfield who transferred to another agency after becoming Director of Field Operations. We had Chester Hubble who became Director of Minneapolis and then of Cincinnati and then was the Head of the Regulatory work in Washington.

P. - I saw Chester about two weeks ago. He lives in Biloxie now. Well, I didn't really see him--I had seen him last year. I just called him on the phone to see if he wanted to do a recording like this, and he wasn't very interested.

A. - I could have told you that! But George Daughters was the Chief Inspector in St. Louis some years later and he became the first Director of the Detroit District when it opened up. Charlie Armstrong was a Resident Inspector in Memphis. And, he became Director of Kansas City District and then went on to Washington where he had some big job--I don't recall what it is.

P. - He was Division Director there.

A. - We had in the Central District at the time that I came in we had Dr. Roscoe Dolittle who was a famous man in early Food and Drug enforcement. And was seriously considered for Chief of the Bureau. We had Eddie Goodnow as the Assistant Chief. He was from New England somewhere. He was a very precise, very cultured man. When Dr. Dolittle died suddenly, he was succeeded by J. O. Clark, who as you know, made a name for himself in Food and Drug history. There's always rivalry when you have different districts, when you have different stations; and some people take it more seriously than others. But, you know how it is as a good Presbyterian once told me "oh, we don't boast about it, but in our hearts we know that we are the crem de la creme." Well, we in the Central District knew that we were "it" then. The Western District, they had a lot of distance to travel, but they didn't do much work. The Eastern District they were sort of clogged up and they didn't do much work. If you really wanted the work, its's in

the Central District that we did it. That's the way we believed.

P. - Well you really did believe it too.

A. - Not only did we believe it, but I think we did!

Well, I learned later on that there were good men in other districts too.

Let's see what I remember about the man I worked right next to--Ora Keener, who was from Illinois. He was a farmer. He decided farming was too hard so he went to school and he kept on going until he got a degree. He went to work for the bureau in Washington and came out to St. Louis shortly before I got there. He was a real small town man, and farmer man, a good honest American that we have been reading about for 100 years. We would argue--he was very slow in speech and I would usually finish his sentences for him because I was quick and impetuous and I couldn't wait for him to finish. But, we would argue on everything imaginable. I can still remember "wait a minute" he'd say. "You're generalizing." It was a lot of fun to work with him. He was subsequently transferred to Cincinnati District where he had some famous fights with the Chief Clerk who subsequently went to work in a health foods store. Miss Gladys Wensley, another character. Succeeding Ernie Smith when he died very suddenly following surgery, we had Austin Lowe who came from the Eastern District. He was the Assistant to Bill Wharton in the Eastern District. He was a precise man who could get out an

awful lot of work, very soft in speech, but his nice blue eyes could turn very, very cold if they had to and he could be very stubborn and nobody could run over him. He had this characteristic: he liked, I suppose as an incentive to the people that he was working with, he liked to tell about how wonderful the people that he used to work with were. So he would tell us about how much more they did on something or another in the other district. When we started doing drug work--when we came in--when I came in the service, we did food work only. We did not do sanitation work, we did not do what we call filth work. The only microscopic work we did was in examining chemicals, something like that. We did not examine for insects or mold or anything. No biological work. And, when we started doing the drug work, we had to feel our way and we were not as good. We had in the Central District we had in Chicago a drug laboratory under Chris Glycart and all of the samples we sent there. In New York the samples were sent to --I mean in the Eastern District--were sent to New York; and, you know, San Francisco used to get the Western District samples.

- P. - When I came in here in Denver, we sent our drug samples to San Francisco.
- A. - Well, we learned and I got into the work which was very interesting and I had to learn to take the short cuts,

and I had to learn what is the most likely ingredient here. What are the things I look for. Well, you develop certain procedures, you'll get a solids and you'll get ash and you'll get a few things like that as a basic thing. So you'll know whether you're dealing with practically water or whether you have something like that, you distill it and see if you have organic liquids in there--alcohol and so on. You learn your little short hand tricks. Well, I would get a sample--three samples--of drugs. I'd start working on them and about the afternoon Mr. Lowe would pass through and I would hear "How are you coming on that?" "Well, I think I've got the one down pretty well now." "But, you haven't got the other two yet."

P. - He was always pushing a little.

A. - Always pushing. Well, subsequently he went back to New York as the Chief of the New York station and when I visited one time--no, no--when I visited he had already retired and was living in New Jersey. I talked to him by phone. I visited in the offices there and some of the people told me that in the laboratory my name was a bad name there. They hated me because Austin Lowe used to come out all the time and used to say, "Well, Sam Alfend use to do more in one day than you people are doing in a week!" You see he was always boasting about the ones he had before! But, he was a fine gentleman and when you learned what his special talents were and



what to avoid, you'd get along with him fine. The only one time that I ever really made a complaint to him and I found him completely and utterly unmoving. He had made up his mind and that was it.

After Austin Lowe, Malcolm Stevens came down and he was a boy I had helped to break in. He was an inspector, but I'd had to do with his breaking in and my trouble--and this is sort of telling tales out of school--but, my trouble with him was that he had such a high regard for my abilities and me that he would come direct to me without going through the chief chemist. 30 That's hard on the chief chemist and it's very embarrassing to him.

In 1927 I got to go to the AOAC for the first time as Associate Referee to make a report, and I had there the very exciting opportunity to listen to Harvey Wiley at one of his famous meetings. There would be a dinner one evening and after the dinner at the Cosmos Club, Harvey, who was one of the old members there, would gather his old men around him, the people who had worked with him when he was active as Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, and the younger people and he would talk about old times. He would talk about himself, his early history, his days as a student and a professor at Purdue, about some of the old state men that he worked with, about how he, as he said it, would go into his closet and pray at night when things looked very bad for the Food and Drug law

that he was working so hard to persuade Congress and the President to endorse, about how the women's clubs got interested and sort of swung the tide about the attempts by the whiskey trust--the liquor trust--to defame him, blacken his name, to fix him, to get him fired, about his views of how Theodore Roosevelt first was not interested in the Food and Drug law and then when the women became so excited about it, started inundating Washington with their pleas for it, how he got his weight behind it and how the law finally passed. He told us about the early poison squad, the volunteers who took the various chemicals that were being added to foods and how they crudely evaluated the tests of them. There was every once in a while a little talk about suppressed reports of those times. Actually, they were published, they were not suppressed and their contents were known. But, his report on benzoic acid was unfavorable. Well benzoates are still used. His report on saccharin was unfavorable, and that got him in trouble with the President because the President was a diabetic and was using saccharin. He refused to believe that it was harmful.

I did for a long time remember many of the things that he told us that night. I remembered that night for a long time.

P. - Was he bitter?

A. - He was, always when he had these friends around, he was in a genial mood, but he told about his wife. He married

his secretary when he was about 65 or 66 years old and he had two boys. He told about taking them to the circus and about meeting friends there who said, "Ah, I see you're indulging the boys and taking them here for their pleasure." "No sir. I'm coming here because of my own pleasure!" He told about his student days in Germany. About their drink fests. About how he could drink down everybody at his table and he said he was telling this story one time to some people and a sweet young thing--when he told about how much beer he had drunk--the sweet young thing said, "Well, Dr. Wiley, I don't see how you could hold that much." And he said, "Well, I didn't."

We used to have district meetings once a year. Just before I came in the service, we had probably our first national meeting. The first one I know about in which practically everybody went to Washington for a meeting. I had a picture which I inherited of everybody who went to that meeting in 1923.

P. - Is that right. You know, I think I have a copy of it that someone sent in the course of this project.

A. - We didn't see much of Mr. Campbell. He was a name to us. When the Bureau of Chemistry became the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and sloughed off the Food and Drug work we became a part of the Federal Security Administration. As I recall, the first Administrator was Mr. McNutt, who was then a very potent political force, very well known and there was talk about him being a candidate

for the president. I remember I was very much impressed when he came through St. Louis and I had a chance to meet him. Then we had Watson B. Miller and he was very impressive too. We became eventually--well, we then became the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration. We took on the insecticide work and the insecticide laboratory was moved to St. Louis and that's when I first got to know Leslie Hart who was the Chief Chemist of that.

One other--well we had many exciting happenings it seems like in retrospect, although they happened maybe once a year. A few of the things that I remember particularly is that during the time that I was there--say in the '30's--we started making sanitary inspections and we just about cleaned up the canning industry in Arkansas and southern Missouri. Vincent Balatti did an awful lot of good work in that. We--one of our big problems turned out was in the green bean industry. We found they could grow a lot of green beans in Arkansas, and they canned them--sometimes the farmers themselves would can them and they would process them in open kettles, just boiling them. There would be thermophillic bacteria that wouldn't be killed. They would subsequently cause flat sours. Those that spoiled with other organisms blew--you could tell they were going bad --flat sours you couldn't. So we started taking actions against flat sours and Ora Keener, working along side of me, would taste the things. He got so he could pretty near predict what the titratable

acidity and the pH would be of these things. Well, one day he had been eating some pretty good beans for awhile, tasting and tasting and tasting, and then he got some bad ones. And, those organisms started working inside of him. I don't believe he ever tasted any beans again after that! But, we got the American Can Company on our side. I attended a meeting down in Arkansas of the Ozark Canneries Association at which the Chief Chemist of the Can Company just laid out those people for using these antiquated methods. He says, "you've got to use pressure cooking, otherwise you haven't got a product." Well, those who stayed in the business did go to pressure cooking.

One of the things that remain in my memory--a tragic thing--was what's known as the Ginger Jake incident.

P. - Oh yes. Tell us about that.

A. - This was during prohibition times. There were all sorts of stratagems for getting alcoholic drinks into circulation without having them seized by the prohibition people. One of these was to make an imitation fluid extract of ginger which was an article that was sold in drug stores whether it was a tonic or appetizer or whatever--I don't know what it was used for. But, it was very, very strong stuff with the ginger in there. I believe it was an NF article. Somebody conceived the idea of taking a little bit of this and using alcohol and supplying body

which one would normally get from the fluid extract by putting in orthotricresyl phosphate. I believe it was used in paints at the time. It was a commercial article. It looked about like glycerine. It had about that body. It was odorless and tasteless and it was one of those tragic things. There are three tricresyl phosphates--ortho, meta and para--and the meta and para are physiologically inactive.

P. - Is that right.

A. - And the ortho breaks down in the body and releases cresol which is highly toxic. This was sold in large quantities. It was drunk by hobos, by bums, by winos, by alcoholics, by drifters and others. In a short while after it was concocted, doctors started in hospitals started getting cases of people falling down of hobbling, crippled. They weren't able to control their legs. When they recovered, they were left permanently crippled. They called when they traced it to the cause of it, they called the product ginger Jake and they called this Jake leg.

P. - This paralysis.

A. - It's a paralysis. The chemists were messing around quite awhile and missed it because when you subjected the stuff to the regular NF test it met them. However, it wasn't that stuff at all. It had a very mild flavor instead of a very hot flavor, but a chemist in another organization broke the thing, discovered what it was. I had the thrill of getting a sample from an unlabeled container

found in a warehouse in St. Louis which inspectors brought in and finding that its analytical constants were exactly the same which the product which had been analyzed by this chemist and the results published. So that was quite something.

P. - Yes. And this was the chemical itself.

A. - This was--no, this was the product containing the chemical.

Another one which caused a lot of excitement. It involved a lot of our time and efforts was the elixir sulfanilamide. Now you know about the history of it. That when sulfanilamide was the wonder drug--the first of the wonder drugs--it was given in solid form which was not very convenient especially for children and one of our manufacturers in--I think--Tennessee wasn't it? Massengill?

P. - Massengill in Tennessee, I believe.

A. - Bristol, Tennessee. Found that they--it is not very soluble in water--alcohol--particularly water. Trying out various solvents they found that diethylene glycol gave an elegant solution, clear, fine. So they put it out. They put out one or two batches and a lot of it was distributed in the area of the Cincinnati and St. Louis districts and almost immediately there were reports of injury and death. It was traced to that. Again, here is something that they hadn't tested the toxicity--

had they looked up the literature, they would have found that it had been recorded that diethylene glycol was toxic. Well, several large shipments had gone to the St. Louis territory and so we started--we learned that a certain drug store had some. So we started running down the prescriptions. We learned that a certain doctor had written quite a few prescriptions for it. So we got from the doctor a list of these--of his patients. We found that some he hadn't even recorded how much he had prescribed for them. Somebody came in with a cold, - elixin sulfanilamide. It was the thing. So they were giving it to everybody. And, we had to go down and follow patient by patient. In some case we were too late. In one case I was acting as inspector, I found crepe on the door of a house that was one of the places that had received the prescription and nobody answered the door. I went next door and they told me that a certain person in their had died and the family was at the funeral. We had got there too late. In another place we found an older woman who got out of bed to answer the door. She said she was feeling very bad.

P. - Did she have some of this red medicine?

A. - Yes, she had it and she couldn't understand why it didnt make her well and instead she got worse. Then she would wait until the next day and take it again and it got worse. So we persuaded her to let us have it as a sample. That was--I had some years later, I had an



interesting experience. I was giving a talk before some organization and I had a lot of exhibits. I used to take these exhibits to the talks. I'd talk on nostrums quackery and that sort of thing and on other things that we found. One of the things I had was an empty bottle of this Massengill's elixir of sulfanilamide. And, I learned that one of the people there is the local representative for Massengill and so I did my best to sneak it out and put it in my pocket, because I didn't want to hurt him. This had happened a long time ago, and he suspected. He asked me and I told him. And during the talk I mentioned it without mentioning the name of the product or the company, either one.

We had another one that was very exciting for a while because we were trying to save lives and that was an accidental contamination of sulfathiazole tablets. They would come in five and ten grains with phenobarbital and there would be--almost a complete substitution of phenobarbital for the sulfathiazole. The dosage of sulfathiazole is so much greater than that for phenobarbital that you could get a terrific whack, it would really put you down to sleep, and we had to do a lot of scurrying around checking and trying to find every tablet.

P. - You got out of the lab and acted as an inspector during this one too.

A. - Oh yes.

One of them in which I acted as inspector was of special, personal interest to me for two reasons. One is that I got a trip out to the West Coast from St. Louis as an inspector witness. The other is that it involved my family in this way: my oldest brother who had come out of World War I tubercular with one lung. He had a collapsed lung and he asked me one day, "Have you ever heard of Microsanmosene?" I said "Well, what is that?" He said, "It's a TB specific." I said "No, where did you hear of it?" He said "Flora has some." Flora was his girlfriend who was also tubercular. I said, "Where did she get it?" "Oh, she got it by mail" and such and such. I said, "Find out all you can about it. I want to know about it." So he found what he could and he got a label of the stuff and I sent it out to California, to LA and told them what I knew about it and we got a wire back immediately. "Collect samples, get complete story." So I collected samples and sent it out there, and subsequently, we found out that the man who had first concocted this, who was the late husband or divorced husband or something of the woman who was putting this out now had been right in our St. Louis territory and I was able to get a lot of the history of it here acting as the inspector. I was the investigator--the fraud investigator, if you will.

P. - Yes. What was the name of that product?

A. - Microsanmosene.

P. - Can you spell that?

A. - M-i-c-r-o-s-a-n-m-o-s-e-n-e. And, if they hadn't destroyed it, Washington or LA should have something still on it.

P. - But, did you have to prove fraud in a case like that?

A. - This was '35 and that was before the new Act. We had to prove that they knew, something like that. So LA developed its case. It went to prosecution if I remember rightly against this woman. We needed a witness. Flora at that time was too sick to travel out to the West Coast. Her sister, Olive, acted on her behalf. Her sister was there when the sample--when the mail package was received and opened it and knew about it. So she acted as the dealer witness. And, I took Olive out to Los Angeles; we traveled by train in those days. She had a good vacation out of it. Incidentally, we did learn the original composition. It had mercury succinate in it which had not been found because, again, this is an organic mercury compound and it will not give-- it doesn't ionize and doesn't give a mercury reaction-- an atomic reaction ordinarily. If you ash the stuff, the mercury goes off. But, once we knew that, Elder Eaton was the analyst. Do you remember him?

P. - No, I don't think I ever knew him.

A. - He was just as Chris Glycart was the drug analyst in Chicago, Eaton was the drug analyst out in San Francisco. A good chemist too. So knowing that it was there, he had no trouble demonstrating that it was. They wanted

me--since I got the information--they wanted me to make the analysis right out in LA. I said no way, this is Eaton's sample. You let him finish the analysis.

P. - They just were going to save his train fare down to Los Angeles, I suppose!

A. - No, no, after I got out there.

P. - Oh.

A. - So that was--they had an old lawyer who went through the motions of defending her, but she was a gray haired woman and she was fighting with her sons who claimed the formula. They were competing with each other. So I think the judge put her on probation and told her that you mustn't do that any more. But, that really involved me.

There was one other thing. We had a vitamin laboratory in Washington. The Nutrition Division. They decided to let the field do some of the work. So St. Louis was chosen to do vitamin B-1 work--thiamine. So, we had our interesting-things like learning that ordinary St. Louis distilled water wasn't suitable. It killed the thiamine because it had chloramines in it and when you distilled it, it just distilled over with chlorine and you had to triple distill it or something like that. So we had to learn to work that out ourselves. That was interesting.

We started during my time there in the '20's, we first started using--analyzing for spray residues and

we had all that heavy arsenic work, subsequently the lead work.

P. - Yes.

A. - And, this was new to us. This mass production work on that. We had in our lab, we had a hood room and it was a separate small room and it had a hood in it. In the hood there was a lead tube with holes in it where we did our digestions for nitrogen--for protein determinations, and there was a chimney that went all the way up through the roof and it was badly clogged; and when we just had a low flame there, just a little bit would get out, but then when we started chewing up all these samples--apple chops and apple peelings--with fuming nitric acid, and the sulphuric acid in there, and those heavy nitric oxide fumes would come off; I'm surprised that I'm alive today.

P. - Yeh, it's a wonder.

A. - It's very toxic. It would get out in the lab and I'd cough my head off, and I'd keep working at it, and then we got word from the courts (we were in the old Custom House and they had courts up above us on the third floor); the federal judge says, "You cut that out or I'll lock you up". So then, we got the building engineer to investigate and poke holes through the chimney; we got it cleared so that it would carry it. That was one of the, oh man, did we have it then.

Every fall, starting early in the '30s, we used to send a group of inspectors and a lab down to the northwest corner of Arkansas. Eventually it became regularly at Sulphur Springs--it started at Fayetteville where we had lab space at the chemistry department in the University and at Sulphur Springs, and then we would rent an empty filling station in Sulphur Springs which is very close to the four-corners there. Our inspectors would go out and they would stop trucks, crossing the line and if the trucks wouldn't stop, they would chase them--run them down. We did a lot of things that I shudder at now. Well, once they got the sample to the lab, they come in batches--there were three or four places where the roads lead out of the state, and we would run them and usually I would be by myself. So, I was the best darn dishwasher that there was. I washed all my own dishes, so on. First we ran arsenic and then after that we ran lead every time. I would run them at night until I got all the samples run, and then in the morning, we would either telegraph or phone some cooperating official to hold up that truck, and then we would type up (I would type up) the seizure recommendation. One year I had a helper, and he would do the dishwashing and the typing, but other than that, I did it all myself--sent a direct seizure recommendation to the U.S. Attorney there, and then we sent in the analytical report, inspection report, and everything to St. Louis afterwards--after it was all over. Well, when you couldn't

get a cooperating official, you got whoever you could, and frequently it was the Chief of Police.

P. - Oh, is that right?

A. - Oh, yeh, one time I got the mayor. You just get whoever your could. One time, I think it was the Chief of Policy. And I got a wire from him. It said, "have trucker and apples. What will I do with them?" And I wired back, "release trucker--hold apples." That was one of the funny things that I remember. We had, what I seem to remember, was the first trial on lead arsenate on which we got a good licking, was a seizure of apple chops--some fellow up in Idaho if I remember rightly--but the seizure was in the St. Louis area and the trial was in St. Louis, and I was because of my familiarity in St. Louis and at the University, I was given the job of getting expert witnesses for our side, so I go to one man and he says, "the other side has got me already." Well, that's all right. I go out to the medical school; the head of the Department of Medicine who not long after that went to Cornell and became head of the Department of Medicine there (and died not long ago, he said that he was too busy to do it. He suggested that I go to the pharmacology people. The head of the pharmacology department was Carl Corry. The associate professor was Gertie Corry. Carl and Gertie Corry became co-winners of the Nobel prize. They talked with a heavy German accent. Carl was not even a good lecturer. He was very shy. He's strictly a research man. Gertie did more talking, but she was very shy, and I couldn't

persuade them. They said, "we get up on the stand and they start asking us questions quick, and we'll get confused, and we can't do that." So I couldn't get them. I finally got a young fellow who was really brilliant. He was, I think, either an instructor or assistant professor, but he testified as to what they taught in the medical school about the toxicology of lead and arsenic, while the other side had a private physician. He was head of a group of physicians who were among the most successful financially in that whole part of the country. They had all kinds of patients and everybody automatically first got a \$200 test--you go through the works--they have all the tests first before they do anything, and \$200 in those days was a lot of money--more like a thousand dollars now.

P. - Yeh.

A. - And then, they always gave injections--you came back and got injections. They were big stuff, and this guy had a big name. He got another fellow who was the head of a clinical laboratory. He was an MD, but he was head of a clinical laboratory that did work for the doctors and hospitals. He was a very pompous individual; he except for a mustache, he looked like Mussolini; heavy set, short; I didn't like him because he and his wife and friends sat behind me at the symphony concert and used to talk a lot.

P. - I know what you mean.

A. - He was a great admirer of Mussolini. This was before we got into the war. Well, he gets up on the stand and the U.S. Attorney asks him, "are you a pharmacologist?" He pronounces



grandly, "Every physician is a pharmacologist." And he gets away with it. And so on. Well, we made a big impression at the trial before the court, and at the end of the thing, the judge said, "we have very reputable expert witnesses on both sides, so I can't say that the government has proven its case by a preponderance of the evidence," so he held for the Plaintiff.

P. - On that basis?

A. - Yep. So I took a licking.

P. - You know when I talked to Kenny Monfore in California last winter, he told about some of the early spray residue work. Apparently, some of the early investigation was done here in western Colorado.

A. - Oh, yeh, and threats of lynching. We heard Vincent telling about it.

P. - Monfore was really right in there.

A. - Some of the investigations that were very interesting to me were poisoning investigations. My first plane ride was about 1929, I think. We got reports of two kids, I think, dying--suspected arsenate poisoning--they just didn't know--the kids had died, so I got a plane to Springfield from St. Louis--a little 3 seater; one seat next to the pilot and one two seats in the back. You could open the window if you want to spit out. We get on the plane. I am really very, very nervous. It gets up into the air and the first half hour is real fine; is beautiful; I am looking around and everything. Then we hit a storm, and the pilot goes around it, and it got very rocky, and I start getting sick. What

am I going to do? Shall I leap out of the window, or what? And the fellow next to me saw me looking around wildly, and he pointed over my head. There was a little bucket there. So I got the sick bucket just in time and closed it and put it back there, but when I got off that plane, the landing field in Springfield was just kind of a meadow, and it looked like we weren't going to clear the trees before hitting it, and I didn't care the least bit--if we hit the trees, I get down 30 seconds sooner. That's how sick I was. Well, I had to get a bus a long way to the little town where the people lived, and it took all of that ride before my head cleared enough so that I could stand and walk. So, I get down there and I investigated and I saw how those poor people lived. God, I still don't know what killed the kids, but I think that with all the flies and everything around that the food that they ate could have killed them. I had one where, you know where Stevens College is? Columbia, Missouri?

P. - Oh, yes.

A. - That's where the University of Missouri is too. I didn't know that my niece was subsequently going to go there, but we had a report around Christmas time of an epidemic--girls going home; vacation trains taking them--sick all over the place--some stopping off at hospitals, and so on. I go down there and try to reconstruct what happened there-- there is nobody there any more. The administration, the president is away on vacation, and the other people in the office weren't a

bit anxious to help me--what they were afraid of is that if I would find something there, they could be sued by the parents. Well, I was able to get into some of the sorority rooms and find out, for instance, get the sorority list and check it up against the newspapers of the sick people and found that they were bunched in certain sororities. I found out, for instance, that it was a custom the night before leaving on vacation to have a big bust--a slumber party, you know--and I also got into the commissary and in the refrigerator, I find the remains of some ham, the place where stuff was ground up--they were given sandwiches--I learned what they were given and I took scrapings and on the tables (there were smooth black spots; kind of glossed over as if something had been ironed) and I dug them out of there. They were mouse pellets. When they clean, they just push them into the table. Sent those to Washington and they found the same kind of fecal organisms in there that they found in the machinery. Well, it was a combination--not a very high-grade infection, kind of a low grade infection--all the excitement, the staying up, a few people got sick and the others, seeing them vomit, you know, it was just a combination of all of those things. But that was a very interesting one. In '29, I think, I was offered a job in the food control lab with Heine Lepper, but my family situation was such that I couldn't accept it, so I didn't go. Eventually--we had a peculiar situation in '27 when Mitchell was transferred when Eddie Goodnow died, Mitchell was transferred up as assistant to J. O. Clark

on a kind of temporary basis, so I, as a junior chemist I became the chief chemist.

P. - I see.

A. - And then I became an assistant chemist and associate chemist, all the same time. In '32, no it wasn't that way, Eddie Goodnow was the acting District Director, and he called for his friend Roy Mitchell to come up there, and so Mitchell was the assistant to the acting District Director until Goodnow died, and then J. O. Clark came and he put Mitchell in the lab up there to do a little experimental work for him. J. O. was a chemist--he could never forget that he had been chemist and chief chemist in Atlanta, and he liked to get his hand in. I used to be told that every once in awhile he would get a brilliant inspiration and instead of going home, he would grab a bite somewhere, and say, now leave me a lot of glassware apparatus and in the morning, they would come there and they would find a vast amount of glass dirtied up, and nothing else, and J. O. would never say a word about it. Well, so J. O. picked his own team up there, and Mitchell became his arms for doing various things. He was interested in eggs, so he had Mitchell working on methods for analysis of eggs for adulteration of various kinds, particularly whites in eggs and that sort of thing. So he got a lot of authentic data, they needed methods first. Then Mitchell sent out methods and I was the collaborator on some of it, and I didn't get good results. And, J. O. came down one time and he just took the hide off me. He was with

Ben White, and it was very embarrassing for me, but he just took the hide off of me. He says, "just because you didn't get good results, why you put thumbs down on it. Why you won't take anybody else's word for it, will you".

"No sir, I says I won't". Well for a while, J. O. was pretty sore at me, but anyway, when he was through with that particular job, why then he sent Mitchell back to his old job of chief chemist, and I stepped down. And then when Mitchell transferred into Minneapolis and McCarthy came from Cincinnati and Steve came, and that's when I had the embarrassment, because Steve would deal directly with me, and we got a new lab and J. O. wanted me to do the planning and supervision and that sort of thing there. It was new stuff, so that was interesting for a while; and then when McCarthy was transferred, I became chief chemist again, and I was asked if I would go to Kansas City during that time, and I didn't want to go to Kansas City. Finally, one day, Roy Pruitt in the meantime, had succeeded Steve, and Pruitt called me in and then he was on the phone, and then suddenly he motioned me to leave; and then he called me in again afterwards, he said, "Now before you say anything, just listen. He said that was Dr. Dunbar; Bill Hardigan had died in Kansas City; Dr. Dunbar wants you to take Kansas City. Now don't say no, just go home and think it over. I got Dr. Dunbar to agree not to talk to you and not to press you until tomorrow, give you a day to allow me to

talk you into it". Well, it was a real, real hard decision, and I finally decided that my mother's condition was such that she could stay (I talked to my brother and she could stay with my brother's family) and we closed up our apartment; and so I went to Kansas City and in Kansas City I was the new district chief, and we had the smallest district in the country.

P. - What year was that?

A. - In 1949, about February, '49.

P. - Ah, you said Bill Hardigan died; was that--that was ah...

A. - Oh no, no, Harry Garrett. Yeh, Bill Hardigan had died and Harry Garrett had succeeded him.

P. - Yeh, okay. I knew there was something that didn't quite fit there.

A. - I found there, a very close knit group, very close knit--closer than we had had in St. Louis or that I'd seen anywhere else. Ah, loyal to each other; they had been about Hardigan, like the St. Louis clerks had been about Wharton. Actually, Benjamin was running the district.

P. - Is that right? Ted Benjamin.

A. - Ted Benjamin. He was doing a double job. Lou Jones was running the lab and Ted was running the district. Nearly everything that came across Harry's desk, he would mark it, Ben. And Ted was taking care, doing a fine job, but not able to do a good job as chief inspector because he was doing too much of Garrett's job. Garrett had not been well. So, well, here was a new man of completely different

temperament from anything they had ever had before, and really very interesting and very hectic, cause the pace changed completely. Here was a group of hard working people, interested in their work, who had no record to amount to anything. They were low-grade because it was customary for all the grading to go into central district originally, subsequently, I guess to Washington, all of them being listed A-1 with a recommendation for promotion. Well, they didn't pay any attention to it.

P. - Yeh.

A. - They had very few seizures, very few prosecutions, nothing outstanding like that; they didn't do much talking around, no public relations. In the laboratory they loved to get veterinary drug samples; there wasn't much human drug. Why they could dig in, and they had wonderful chemical problems. They didn't come out with anything, but they had lots of fun. The inspectors would work hard, but it wouldn't result in any actions; so, I came from St. Louis where we had been running terrific records on seizures and prosecutions. And, eventually, the follow up and the choice and so on, Ted knew what I wanted and he did it. The laboratory got to know what was essential and so they didn't just have fun analyzing difficult samples, but they looked for the violations that were important--those that would lead to action. And we started getting seizures and prosecutions and injunctions and little Kansas City had something like

fifty prosecutions approved in one year, or sixty-- something like that.

P. - Is that right?

A. - And I didn't have an assistant, which means that Andy and Ted were carrying a heavy load besides myself. I was holding lots and lots of hearings and so were the chief chemist and the chief inspector.

P. - Now that was Andy, uh...

A. - Allison. Lou Jones was not in good health and he was afraid that he was going. And so he wanted to retire; and he wanted to retire and go take a long trip and visit all his relatives. And I said, "you take leave, you've got a lot of leave--you take a long trip and visit all your relatives--and when you've got that out of your system, you come back here and let's see how you feel". And he came back; he hadn't died, he felt a lot better; he didn't want to be chief chemist--he didn't want the responsibility and hard work, but I persuaded him to stay on, and as long as he stayed, he was the finest man I ever worked with. He was a real good influence. He was such a good influence to the younger chemist--to all the chemists. There wasn't anybody who didn't love him. And Andy was one man that I was completely wrong about. I had seen him when he was a chief chemist in Buffalo, for instance. I had seen him at the conferences in Washington. He was always smoking a cigar and he was always



just sitting there, never saying a word, with a cold blue eye and no expression on his face; and I got the impression that here's an efficient man without a heart-- I think he's just a machine. And he had transferred to Kansas City, and I say, what now. He comes in, his wife comes in--you know how we were then--his wife was something like that too. And they are good church going, God fearing people. About the second week, I go into the library and I see a little blond girl sitting on the floor dusting some books. And who is she? She is Andy's younger daughter, and the library needed dusting. Andy said she didn't have anything to do that week, so he brought her down. Oh, we became very good friends; and I learned that they were as warm hearted, gentle, nice people as one could ever find anywhere. I was just so completely wrong in my appraisal--a distant appraisal of him. So, I was very lucky with the people that I had in Kansas City. And we had workers. Damn, they were workers. They would work--this business of overtime--we didn't know what that meant. I had a lot of work to do. I didn't like anything left over until the next day. I didn't have any family, and I didn't tell anybody they had to work late, but those inspectors would go out there and they'd work their heads off. And when they knew what I wanted, they brought it in--and then we started recruiting, and boy did we get a nice bunch of kids. We got one boy who would have been a district director if

he hadn't died prematurely. But he stayed with me less than two years. He was just a big farm boy from Nebraska. He was transferred to, I think Chicago, I think Daughters was in Chicago then, and I heard that he was sick, uh-- blood disease--uh, Daughters told me one time. Of course, he was still doing twice as much work as anybody else. Was it a pleasure to write the promotion recommendation when it came time to write a recommendation for a GS 7, boy, look at the list here--these guys were doing GS 9 work after one year's time. This boy, we had Jim Green-- he'd go down to Oklahoma with a cowboy hat and boots on-- he'd make ten OTC cases in one swing. We had Weems Clevinger; I could tell when Weems had become an inspector. There was an OTC report. He was a green boy. His wife came down and got the job for him. We sent out a notice that he was in the army. So his wife got; his wife came down and she said, "Weems wants the job". And I was much taken with her, but finally he got in for an interview and he was just a kid, but I saw one report (and I used to read everything that came into the district, otherwise I said how do I know what's going on), and every detail was finished. There were no loose ends. Everything was complete. I said, "boy, Weems has got the idea". I knew he was an inspector then. And I've seen it in other men too. I'd see a report and that report was complete. It was a finished product, and I knew here's our man. He's

a journeyman inspector now. And, let's see who else we might have had. Cliff Shane, in New York now. Jim Anderson.

P. - Oh, was he one of that group too?

A. - Southworth--well, I wasn't responsible for Southworth.

He was a finished man when he came to me, but still he worked for me. Tillie Checchi. Now, I had something to do with him. He was my first Food and Drug Officer.

The way I got him was, one year in the Washington conference, we had the subject of case work. How do you expedite cases? How do you make prosecutions? What is the cause of delays. We got up a huge chart, taking every case in the past year, and saying how many days or weeks were spent at each step. And some of it--Washington--didn't look very good. This is just my own cases here. But then, I was on the program on this case thing here, and I got up a chart, which I listed sixteen districts and I didn't give them names--just one to sixteen; and I showed how many management personnel, district director, Food and Drug Officers, chief chemist, chief inspector, just those. How many seizures, how many citations, how many prosecutions approved, how many prosecutions completed, and how many court cases actually went to trial. And when you compare that with the number of management personnel there was one of them that stood out like a sore thumb. It didn't take Rayfield long to catch on, a month

later, I got my management assistant. But it listed how many hearings--and, my God--we had uh, for a director and chief chemist and chief inspector--we had over a hundred hearings--you know, that sort of thing.

P. - Yeh.

A. - Well, Tillie had come from Boston. His boss was Les Hart. Did you know Les?

P. - I didn't ever know Les?

A. - Well, Les was a man who talked in broad generalities and didn't get himself into a corner on a fixed figure if he could avoid it. So, he would talk, in the neighborhood of, approximately, etc. So Tillie became the hearing officer, and he would have in there, approximately so much. I said, "Tillie, do you know how many?" "Yeh". "Well why don't you put it down". Well, after about six of those, he says, "Sam, I've got to change now; Les taught me the other way; don't ever make it specific". So, we had some real good training, and then Tillie went to Washington for a training period in DFO, and then he got transferred there for a two year period and then, eventually he became the assistant to Harvey, and worked harder than he had ever worked out in the field in all his life. He used to go home so exhausted that he would just throw himself down and couldn't even eat. Harvey piled the work on him and he did it. He did it fine, and I think he'd of been a district director or a division director, and maybe he'd have gone all the way up. But you know, he went with his brother.

P. - I only met him once. I played poker with him at Shelby Gray's house once in Chicago. I lost some money.

A. - Tillie had a nice family. I used to play with the kids and his wife was a peach, but she was very unpopular with the women in the neighborhood. She was a good Italian background girl. She used to shine his shoes. She used to press his clothes. She used to do all those things that a good Italian wife does, and the women in her neighborhood were always arguing with her--our husbands are complaining why we don't do what you do. I saw them last year. I was in Washington very briefly. I called them up and went out to dinner. And the little boy that he used to call Hulie, is now assistant to the president, or something like that for promotion, or he's the vice president, maybe, of this big hotel chain that you know where we have conventions outside of Washington, right on the edge of Washington---

P. - Marriott?

A. - Marriott. He was an honors graduate from one of the Ivy colleges. So, Tillie had a heart attack, by the way, and he slowed down some. But he was working very hard then, and I had a real good relationship with him. Uh, I used to give an awful lot of talks. Sometimes, three and four a week. And, if I had to write them, the girls wouldn't have had time to type them, and I would never have had time to dictate them. But I used to do them from some notes. As a matter of fact, usually there would be a

dinner or luncheon beforehand, and while we were eating or somebody was talking--something like that--I would have a large sheet of paper and I'd put down topic heads, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of things that I'm going to talk about. And usually, I would get the feel of it right from the dinner conversation, just what it was that I wanted to talk about, or I had a general topic, of course, but what I wanted to emphasize, or what angle I would take, etc. Theoretically, you are supposed to submit it to Washington for approval, etc., I'd never do it. So once in a while they'd catch me and they'd say, "Well what are you going to say?"

"My usual is, I'm going to base it on such and such a talk that the Commissioner gave". And usually, I got away with it, and in making my report, I would say, "Well, the subject matter was the same as Mr. Harvey's talk of so and so", like that. But one time, it was a very difficult thing that was changing from day to day, and I was to leave the Afdous meeting in Louisville and go to Indianapolis and make a speech before the Indiana Public Health Association. And one of the things that I was asked to talk on, I don't remember what it is now, but it was something that was very touchy; and I said I'm going to give--they wrote and wanted to know what I was going to say--would I submit the paper. I said, "Oh, I'm going to talk on this right here and say what the Commissioner said". They said "That's no longer

apropos. We want you to write it out. So, I slipped a note to Tillie. I said Tillie, what is the present attitude of today. Tillie said, I'll write it for you. He wrote me about four paragraphs, which I inserted, and the rest of it was just nothing, you know. It didn't amount to anything. I also got caught after the Kansas flood. We had an AFDOUS meeting in L. A.; and that was the first time that I went out to my district to attend an AFDOUS meeting, because I was on the program with Evan Wright. We were going to talk on the Kansas flood. And the Commissioner was going to be there, and the Deputy Commissioner was going to be there, and all the big wigs were going to be there. What was I going to do. I was damned if I was going to write out a long paper, but what I did was to dictate the recommendations, "What do we do on the next flood". And that, I thought out very carefully, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, through 10 or 12. And I had those typed up, and that is what I submitted. So Evan showed a lot of pictures and I told a lot of the incidents and then I got down to the brass tacks. But sometimes I had some pretty close ones when they wanted a speech written out. Now, this Kansas flood happened '49, '50, '51,-- I had been in Kansas City two years, so I wasn't too experienced a man, and it looked like we were going to have really something. So, with the water up, you couldn't do anything, and nearly all the bridges were impassable. There was only one or two you could walk across, or get across in Kansas--get out of Kansas

City, so I used the telephone an awful lot to learn what the situation was and then I had my plans that when the water went down, as soon as you could get into an area, I was going to have this guy here and that guy there; Evan Wright had agreed to embargo such and such; Jim Roland had agreed to embargo something else; the city had agreed on something else, and so on. So, Allen sitting in Washington waiting for something, calls me up. He says, "I haven't heard anything from you. What is happening?" I said, "get a girl on the phone and I'll tell her what's happening." So I dictated a statement of just what the situation was. The next thing I knew, he said, "well, you're going to need help." I said, "yep, we're going to have a lot of salvage work." So he told Gordon Wood, "you go out to Kansas City." Ted Benjamin was on vacation, and I was damned if I was going to call him back from the west from the vacation. Forrest Aull was acting chief inspector. He was a good man. He sent Gordon Wood out and Gordon called about every other district and told them whom to send to Kansas City for the emergency, so they kept reporting in, and Gordon had overall charge of the inspectors for awhile, and we had Allison out and the City Health Department handling the work with the City in the City, and we had another man in Topeka and we had another man in some other place, and every night about 10 or 11 o'clock, depending on when the inspectors got in, we would have a session, lasting until we had our plans made for the next day. That was really exciting, but



it finally got down to just dirty work of salvaging and supervising the salvaging, and meanwhile our boys hadn't had any vacations; some of them had kids; they had to get some vacation, and we had agreed we were going to get back to work as soon as we could, so some of the boys went back, who wanted to get off so they could take vacation, from other districts--they wrote home to their districts, bitching about all the Kansas City boys going on vacation, and we have to stay out here on another district. So, I got a phone call from Allen, I think, saying what's happening. So I wrote him a letter. I told him the circumstances of each man's leave, and I said as for myself, I left the last two weeks in August, because I was at the point where the district would run better without me. I was just at too high tension and I needed to get away. I was snapping and jumping down people's throats. He sent me back a letter. He said we don't need to keep this here--you don't have to apologize to anybody. That was a big excitement. The incubator reject thing was something that was very interesting to us because of its unusual work. You know the background of it. In hatcheries after so many days if the egg hasn't hatched, it is thrown out because usually it has started to decompose or it's on the way to it, and sometimes just even candling doesn't show it. The temptation to sell that to small bakeries, temptation to buy it from the hatcheries and run it through and then peddle it to foreign hatcheries is great because there is very great profit in it. We had one fellow called Roberts

who had that reputation, and we could see the evidence of it; but we had to catch him in the act. So we set up watches, and then we learned where he was storing some of the stuff and we were waiting for him to come so we could follow him out of the state. We would designate the inspectors for this watch and for that watch, and Ted Benjamin, the chief inspector, and I took one of the watches up to past midnight sometime. We had to keep awake. I tried to get him to play games--I showed him some games. We had word letter games--things that you could do in the car, to try to keep him awake. He wasn't enjoying the games; he was too sleepy to win. But, we did it and everybody took his turn. We finally got the guy in a state court and I testified as to some facts and as an expert witness. This was very interesting to me. The state courts ran considerably more loosely than the federal ones; the rules of evidence and so on. The judge was a black man and there were darn few of those. The state's attorney didn't have any background in that at all. He really wasn't properly trained in eliciting all the background facts, which is what made it. So I got up on the stand and I was qualified as an expert in the field of the freezing of eggs and the use of eggs in bakery products and the commerce in eggs and that sort of thing and in operations of hatcheries. When the attorney is through, he hasn't got all the necessary background in there so I kept some of my answers not

quite to the point, but stretching into other fields to give it. In order to understand what I said, we have to know this ----- . Finally when the judge wanted to know something, the U.S. attorney didn't ask me the questions. I took it on myself. I said if it was permitted I could give the answer to that. The attorney didn't object and the judge didn't object! It was really a remarkable experience. I'd never had anything like that.

We had later in Cincinnati we had a bigger operation than this, and we had set it up so that we had cooperation between the state and the federal inspectors on watching them cross state lines and seeing where they end up. And the guy was very, very smart. He ran some phonies, trucks, through empty.

P. - Who was this? Do you remember the name of that one?

A. - No. I can't remember the name.

P. - Okay.

A. - But there are well documented cases. I mean the write up was very, very elaborate. We had to be pretty sharp to get them. We had one over in Indiana in which we worked closely with Tim--

P. - Tim Sullivan.

A. - Sullivan. Another one--probably the most elaborate one-- down in Tennessee where eggs from Georgia were coming up, and boy did we have a system of follow up there. These inspectors really did a wonderful job of following up on

the trucks. But, the man finally pleaded. He wanted to plead nolo, and I don't remember whether he was allowed to plead nolo. The lawyer that he had--we learned later--had really made the plans for him. He wasn't just a lawyer. He had told him how to do these things. We had some suspicions that somebody else who we weren't allowed to say anything about was also involved. But come the plea time, the attorney, who was a very prominent man down there, got up and belittled the thing, and then the federal attorney--the Assistant U.S. Attorney--asked me to make a statement, which was fine. The judge let me make a statement. I got up there and I said, "Here is what happend, We are prepared to prove that" and then I went to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5--not many of the facts in this case, but the whole damn background. I talked for a half hour there! And this attorney got up expostulated, this is calumny, this is vile, this is infamy." The judge said, "Do you want to change your plea?" He didn't change his Plea! Then here's something that I wouldn't do now, but when we got back from court and I went to Jack Fletcher's, the inspection station office, and a reporter came in there. I gave the reporter the whole damned background of this whole industry.

Well, there were some U.S. attorneys who would never forgive us for that. I have worked with some like that, but I never heard anything about this.

Have I given you enough?

P. - Well, sure unless--you look over your notes and if you have anything else that's--

A. - I think we have probably had a few interesting court cases. Shortly after I came to Kansas City we had an ozone generator case. We had an old man who was selling what was essentially the vacuum tubes such as you make argon light from. You put a couple of them close together and there will be a current jumping across there--a discharge. And it creates ozone there. He was selling machines to people to cure everything imaginable. We made some seizures, he contested them, he got a couple of elderly lawyers. We had a big trial. The Assistant U.S. Attorney, Sam Argis, was not well. He was just having a hard time keeping up the thing, and Joe McGuire came out from the General Counsel's office in Washington. We had expert witnesses--good experts--on the effects of ozone. We had the analysis of the air. How much ozone is in it and so on. Then they started their witnesses. A woman--and the judge kept telling them after the suggestion of Joe McGuire--you cannot testify as to the state of your health. You cannot testify that you had a disease or that you were cured. You can only say how you felt, what you did and how you felt and that's all. One woman said that she had broken her wrist and she just got into bed and put her arm on the machine and wrapped a blanket around it and it healed. The judge said you cannot say if you're--She says, "The heck I can't. Look." And she held out her arm like this and it had been

broken and it had never been set. It was a horrible looking thing. That was one of the highlights that the newspapers played on.

Another one was a woman who had to testify---well she had hemorrhoids. Her husband had made her a hollowed out seat and a chair. She would put the machine down underneath and she would take off her clothes and she would sit on that. She was very much embarrassed to describe that.

Another woman called up the newspapers and told them that tomorrow I'm going to be a surprise witness for the claimant.

P. - What was the case? What was the name of the machine?

Do remember

A. - It may have been just ozone generators.

P. - Was this in Kansas City?

A. - Yes.

P. - Okay.

A. - So everybody was prepared for a surprise. We had time to look up her record and she had gone to regular doctors and been treated and what she'd been treated for and everything. So we knew all about her when she got on the stand.

We had another one--a chlorine generator. Now the use of chlorine goes back in my knowledge to World War II. We use to get the AMA Journal circulating through the Central

District stations and I used to read it, There was an article by a colonel in the medical corps on some experiments with the use of chlorine to treat colds in the Army, in the services. The first article said they got some promising results. The next article said they discontinued it because the chlorine was knocking hell out of the membranes of the soldiers.

Well it had been tried from time to time after that whoever had heard about it at first. Some man was putting it out and he was doing it out either in New Mexico or Arizona--

P. - Well I investigated one. He was a Catholic priest operating--- occurred after I had been transferred out.

A. - That's the one.

P. - That occurred---I did some investigation, but the case occurred after I had been transferred out.

A. - Well the case was in my district and we had the trial there. The man himself got up on the stand and this is an arthritis treatment. He was bent over so far that he was like this.

(This was the end of the tape. Mr. Alfend felt we had enough and we did not begin a new tape)