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**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
John J. Foarde, Jr. (1950 – 1979)
Interviewed by Stanley A. Pimentel
(Addendum to interview of February 7, 2008)
On June 3, 2009**

Edited for spelling, repetitions, etc. by Sandra Robinette on July 7, 2009. Final corrections from Mr. Foarde made by Sandra Robinette on September 23, 2009.

Stanley A. Pimentel: I'll just do an identifier here for the recorder and for posterity's sake.

John J. Foarde, Jr.: Okay. The other history that I did with Brian Hollstein ...

Pimentel: Do you recall when that was John?

Foarde: I've got it right in front of me. I can give you a pretty close idea.

Pimentel: Okay.

Foarde: It was on February 7, 2008.

Pimentel: Okay. And today is June 3 of 2009, and I am Stanley A. Pimentel, and I am speaking with John J. Foarde, Jr. He is in Austin, Texas, while I am in Fairfax County, Virginia.

This interview is for the purpose of adding onto John Foarde's previous interview conducted by Brian Hollstein on February 7, 2008. And John, along these lines, I was calling you back regarding what you recalled after your interview about the Watergate incident. If you would like to add that portion.

Foarde: Yeah. I'll be glad to add what I can remember. I was ...

Pimentel: John, let me, before we start, let me check my recorders here and see if it's working okay.

Foarde: Okay? I'm sure I explained to Brian, that I was a, what they called the Number One Man, which in the States would be an ASAC in that office. And I wasn't directly involved in a lot of these things, although I had to play the role of Supervisor.

Pimentel: At that office. You mean Legat Mexico? Right?

Foarde:

Yes, it was a foreign office. The Bureau's, it was the largest foreign office the Bureau had at the time, and may still be. And, at the time of the Watergate break-in, the burglars, of course, were apprehended. The Agents in Florida found a bank account of one of them, which had a couple of instruments in them which were not familiar to them. They were drawn on a bank in Mexico City and they were, I guess the word is signed, by a man named Ogario. Then I have no idea of the rest of his name. It may have been Manuel and it may have not have been. We were asked to look into it and we found out who he was pretty quickly. He was a quite well-known and respected in Mexico City attorney. And then we were instructed to see what he would tell us.

Perhaps the people who read this don't know it, but in those days the Bureau Agents on foreign assignment were not supposed to be what's called operational. In other words, they were not supposed to go out and do investigations on their own. They were supposed to be working with local agencies to get the work done.

So it was rather unusual. We were told to go talk to him. We did. Two of our best Agents went to talk to him and he wasn't hostile or standoffish or any of that. He said, "Yeah, those are bank drafts." And then he told us how he got them. He got them at the request of a good friend of his who was an attorney in Houston. And this man had sent him some money, I guess, dollars, and Ogario got bank drafts issued in the amounts, I think there were two of them, three of them, to total the amount of cash he'd gotten. I think it was in the several thousand range. It wasn't big money, but it was more than, more than a few bucks.

And he told us his name and the Agents in Houston knew who he was, or found out who he was. He was the chairman, not, I don't know if he was local or state chairman of the Committee to Re-elect the President, at that time.

Pimentel:

Uh-huh.

Foarde:

And so I think that was the tie-in that they were looking to find out how, how this money came from this particular man, to be in the bank account of one of the burglars.

But, anyway, we were able to do it and it caused us no trouble. And, as I said, the, the man who was interviewed by us didn't give us any lip or anything. He just gladly cooperated.

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Pimentel: Looking at the internet, it looks like he was an attorney. And his first name was Manuel, Manuel.

Foarde: Yeah. Okay.

Pimentel: And, at least on a local edition of the paper and dated 11 May 1973, page 22.

Foarde: Okay. Well, there you've got it. So he was an attorney.

Pimentel: Yes, that's what it says in the, the paper, newspaper, I forget what the, what's the name of the newspaper here. It just, oh, *La Vanguardia Española*.

Foarde: You're talking about a, a Spanish language newspaper?

Pimentel: Yeah. A Spanish language newspaper. Yeah.

Foarde: Good. I didn't know whether that interview had ever been reported in a Spanish language newspaper.

Pimentel: Well, it was dateline Washington. So I presume it was carried here and that it was probably a, oh, I can't tell if it was an AP or a UP article. But it looks like it was ...

Foarde: Okay.

Pimentel: ... taken from a Washington, DC [paper]. And so then, you recall that, do you recall which of the burglars had contact or he, or Ogario, who Ogario was doing this for?

Foarde: No.

Pimentel: Okay.

Foarde: In fact, I don't think Ogario was dealing with the burglars. He was just dealing with the guy in Houston.

Pimentel: Oh, okay. Okay.

Foarde: His brother attorney and probably quite prominent since he was the Chairman of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, at that time.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: So I'd be surprised if Ogario had any direct contact with the burglars.

Pimentel: Oh, okay. Okay.

Foarde: And he certainly never admitted anything to us, or it was not even a topic of discussion, as a matter of fact.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: We just wanted to know the circumstances that, surrounding this, this set of bank instruments.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm. And the other case that you and I had discussed before, that I recall specifically, that you and some of the other Agents there at Mexico were working was 'the Falcon and the Snowman'. An espionage case involving Daulton Lee and I don't recall Boyce's ...

Foarde: I think it was Christopher Boyce.

Pimentel: Yeah, I think so too. Yeah. I think it was. Yeah.

Foarde: Well, I don't remember how much I spoke to, to Brian about that, if at all. But we got a call at the embassy. It was, I think it was early in January. I had only been the head man a few weeks then. And this Daulton Lee had come down there from the States, and he had been arrested throwing something over the fence at the Soviet Embassy.

And, as it happened, there was a young woman from our embassy over there on an official visit at the time and she saw what happened and she saw this man being arrested, who was an American. So when she got back to the embassy, she told her bosses who were in the Consular Section and the word got around pretty quickly to that agency that we normally don't mention very loudly.

And so we weren't even aware of it in our office until, I think, the next day. I think we got a call from the Bureau that this had happened, and so then we got busy with it. And we were in close contact, and friendly contact with the security police and they gave us, they offered us access to him. During that time, I don't know if you remember the, the Attorney General, I guess it was Ed Levi, was pretty uptight about Bureau Agents on foreign assignments doing anything that involved security work.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde:

He wanted, we wanted to be on our tiptoes anyway. We were finally instructed to go talk to Lee and a couple of our men went and did talk to him. And he identified his cohort, who was Boyce, told us who he was and where he was. And I guess, Boyce, that weekend, was taken into custody in California and the papers got a hold of it and they started their usual drumming of the drums.

The Mexican authorities had not really admitted that they had anybody in custody, and they were uncomfortable, as they always are, about it. And so that same weekend, after we had interviewed him once, they, they threw him into one of their official cars and took him up to the border to deport him. And that was, just kind of took us by surprise but luckily we heard about it before it happened.

So Bob Lyons, who was one of our men, one of the ones that had gone to talk to him at the jail, jumped on a plane and went up to Nuevo Laredo and waited there, and had another chance to talk to him. I think he got him to sign a typed up version of what he had told us before they put him across the border.

And that was about all, except in the trial, which took place, I believe it was later that year, in spring, they brought two or three of us up to California to testify. The fact that Agents on foreign assignments didn't normally testify was apparently not an obstacle in this case. And, that was about all. Lee was convicted and then they tried Boyce separately, as I recall.

The other interesting angle, which I think was no secret, is that Boyce was the nephew of a man who was a Bureau Agent, serving in the El Paso Office. And that was kind of an embarrassing thing for some people. But that's about it. I think, later on, Boyce's people, had to hunt him down for awhile and finally put him back in prison. And I imagine by now, both of them are out.

Pimentel:

Yeah, I'm sure they're probably both out by now since that happened over 20, 25 years ago.

Foarde:

Yes.

Pimentel:

Any other matter that, you'd also mentioned to me in that you were, the Legat Office was involved in the Barbara Mackle case, the kidnapping of Barbara Jane Mackle in the Atlanta and Miami Field Divisions.

Foarde: Yes. Well, we got involved because it was not a secret very long who the culprits were. And the man, I think, was caught pretty quickly and the girl got away.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: And the girl was a young woman from Honduras who had come up, I don't know under what pretext she comes to the States.

Pimentel: She, she was studying at the same, Miami Marine Institute, in the Mia, in the Biscayne Boulevard there, with the main culprit, Gary Krist , K-r-i-s-t.

And Ruth, Ruth Eisemann-Schier ...

Foarde: Yes. Well, anyway, her mother was still living and was in Honduras. We had a man who, as you know, traveled to Central America every month to take care of business in each of the little countries down there. He got the Honduran authorities to start looking for any record of arrest they might have of her. He also, I believe, I'm quite sure he talked to the mother, and the mother was not very thrilled about the kind of business her daughter had become involved in but she was not hostile either.

And, anyway, we had a very good Consular, a good friend in the embassy down there in Honduras, whose name was Denham Stanfield.

Pimentel: The Agent was Jim Miller, right?

Foarde: The Agent would be Miller, yes.

Pimentel: Who is deceased.

Foarde: And I'm trying to think of the name. Anyway, the man at the embassy eventually, quite some time later, I don't know if it was weeks or months, it wasn't right away, the police went through all their records very carefully. And, since they don't keep careful records, that was quite a chore. They finally found a fingerprint card for Ruth Eisemann-Schier. And they took it to our friend in the embassy who was in the Consular's Section. I'm having a senior moment about what his name was, although he was a nice guy and a good friend of all of us. And he called Jimmy in Mexico and sent the card right up to him and Jimmy sent it in.

Foarde: I should mention that before this all happened, the Bureau had put out an IO on her, which had no fingerprints.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Foarde: That was more than ever of a challenge. And then they put out a second one, which did have fingerprints. And that was the straw that, as the saying goes, that broke the camel's back. And she was found in, and I believe it was some kind of a government hospital in Oklahoma.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: And taken into custody. So we felt that we had contributed quite a bit to that resolution.

Pimentel: Sure did. Sure did.

Foarde: I'm trying to remember if there was anything else. Can you remember?

Pimentel: Uhhh, right off hand, I can't remember anything else, John, that occurred in Mexico; although, Mexico, as I indicated in my own interview was, or my own story, that always a lot of things happening in Mexico because of its proximity to the U.S.

Foarde: Oh yes. It was never dull.

Pimentel: Never dull. There is one character, I think, that you and I, well, I think Bob Lyons probably knew him better than we did, but that was Miguel Nazar, N-a-z-a-r, who was the head ...

Foarde: I knew him slightly.

Pimentel: You knew him slightly.

Foarde: Yeah.

Pimentel: Who was the head, he had been the Deputy, I believe, and then rose to the rank of the Director of the DFS, the security service for Mexico.

Foarde: By the way, that's the job he had when, when Daulton Lee was taken into custody and he's the one that had, had him in custody. In fact, he had him locked up ...

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: In a room near his office. He offered us a chance to talk to him and we politely declined because we thought those were our instructions, but within 48 hours we'd been told to go. Then we went and he made him available to us; but then, as many Mexican officials do, he went on his weekend vacation and we couldn't get a hold of him again. When the time came that, the highest officials of the government decided that Lee had to be taken to the border right away because he was, as you might say, a hot potato, as long as they had him.

Pimentel: Correct. Correct.

Foarde: We couldn't do much to stop them.

Pimentel: Yeah.

Foarde: Nor would we want to.

Pimentel: Yep. I think, I think one of the comments we might, between the two of us, might make and I think you, John, would agree that in Mexico the FBI was highly thought of, even though we were under the guise of being the Legal Attachés Office. But our contacts, of course, knew we represented the FBI.

Foarde: Yes.

Pimentel: And they were pretty amenable to cooperate fully with us ...

Foarde: That's very true. No doubt about it.

Pimentel: Yes.

Foarde: In fact, Mike Nazar, whom you just mentioned, was actually developed for the Bureau by a man who used to be in the office that you and I served in.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm. Uhm-hmm.

Foarde: And you've probably heard of him too, George Munro.

Pimentel: Yes. George Munro.

Foarde: So we always had good contacts and we always dealt with the ones that we knew because, I hate to say it too loudly but, not all of them could be trusted.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: And, I think, you and I found that out more than once.

Pimentel: More than once. Exactly. There was another thing I had written on my notes, John, where are my notes, that I was going to ask you. Oh, you indicated that Jack Creeden who had also, he had been in what, Monterey?

Foarde: He was in Monterey the last, the last stint that he served in Mexico. I don't know that he was only in Monterey, but I know that he was, he was, they used to kid him, he used to be considered the Mayor of Monterey.

Pimentel: Right. (Laughing)

Foarde: And, in fact, he, they used to kid him about having a siren and red light on his car and all that stuff.

Pimentel: Yes.

Foarde: And he was the only, he is the only person that I know of, and I don't think anyone else knows of anyone who was actually named a Consular, a State Department Consular Officer.

Pimentel: Hmmm!

Foarde: While he was actually a Bureau Agent.

Pimentel: Yes.

Foarde: And I don't think that'll happen again soon, but ...

Pimentel: Probably not.

Foarde: But he was quite a guy. I'm sorry that we didn't get him into this program before he passed away. He passed away here in San Antonio, you know.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Foarde: Not too awfully long ago. I used to take him to meetings down there when I was going. And, nice fella. I liked him very much.

Pimentel: Yes. Anything else you want to add, John?

Foarde: I can't think of anything, Stan. I probably will as soon as I hang up.

Pimentel: Well, if you do, I'll have the tape here for today and tomorrow probably.

Foarde: Yeah. Because I was worried, and I still am, about not having a very good memory about some of these things.

Pimentel: Uhm-hmm.

Foarde: I don't know if we mentioned, or if we should mention, that once we knew that, what's the guy's name, the guy that shot Kennedy?

Pimentel: Oh, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Foarde: Once we knew that he had been in Puerto Vallarta, no, he's the one that shot Martin Luther King.

Pimentel: Oh, I'm sorry. That's, no, no, Martin Luther King was ...

Foarde: No. Lee Harvey Oswald was the one who shot Kennedy ...

Pimentel: Yeah.

Foarde: But the one I'm talking about is the one who shot Martin Luther King. He drove a car that had a Mexican tire on it and ...

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: ... a tourist sticker. And Jean Gray spent hours and hours over at a whore house in Puerto Vallarta, right?

I'm not going to say that I knew that.

Pimentel: (Laughing) Jean ...

Foarde: I know that I sent him over there.

Pimentel: ... Jean Gray admitted to it on my interview of him, a couple of years ago.

Foarde: (Unintel) you got it out of his own mouth.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Foarde: But he, he did a good job, as he always does. I did, I did mention this to Brian that a few days after this Puerto Vallarta thing came up, Deke DeLoach called down to tell Ferris that he felt we should send, send somebody over there.

Pimentel: Uh-huh.

Foarde: And I had already sent Jean over there two or three days earlier.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: So I got, I got a little tickled about that.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Foarde: What, do you know anything about Deke, by the way?

Pimentel: No, I don't. No. I see him occasionally on x-gboys.

Foarde: Yeah.

Pimentel: Puts something down. Not too often, but occasionally he sends something out.

Foarde: Well, you know he was running that outfit that J. Edgar Hoover Foundation ...

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: I just got a piece of mail from them. They don't send much mail out. But there's a different guy in charge of it now and Deke is not mentioned. I just wondered if he's in bad health or something.

Pimentel: I haven't heard that.

Ah, the individual who shot Martin Luther King, James Earl Ray.

Foarde: James Earl Ray is the guy I'm talking about.

Pimentel: Yes. That's right.

Foarde: The guy that was over there, of course, when he was, when he did this, he was using that Eric Stavro Galt alias, you know.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: He got it out of some, some spy book.

Pimentel: Right. Right.

Foarde: And I don't know what alias he was using in Puerto Vallarta. But Jean did a good job, as always.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: Congress sent a bunch of guys down later on to investigate everything that had already been investigated. And they wound up asking for me. I had to go back to Washington to talk to them and they said they didn't know I was still there. (Laughing)

And they were trying to prove that our investigation wasn't, you know, up to snuff, and that we were probably covering up this and that. But they really, they dug up, dug everywhere they could because they wanted to prove that what the Bureau said happened didn't really happen.

Pimentel: Yeah. Well, everybody was, there was so much pressure of it being a conspiracy, they couldn't believe that it was just one guy who did it.

Foarde: No. That's true.

Pimentel: That's always consistently been the story, I think.

Foarde: Here's something you might want to throw in. That we were having look-alikes all the time ...

Pimentel: Yes.

Foarde: ... and one of them, one look-alike belonged to an American tourist corpse that turned up in Acapulco. And George Bonebrake, who was one of the head men in Ident at that time, came down himself on a plane; went down to Acapulco. He peeled the finger skin off of this fella. What's his name, James Earl Ray, had a particular, noticeable pattern on one of his fingers.

Pimentel: Uh-huh.

Foarde: And the minute he did that, he knew it wasn't the guy.

Pimentel: Yes.

Foarde: So that took care of that.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: I don't know if you want to put that in or not.

Pimentel: No, I mean, it's on the recorder here.

Foarde: Well, it's up to you.

Pimentel: Anyway, as you know, that when you get the transcription of this tape that you can add or delete to it.

Foarde: Yeah. Okay.

Pimentel: Okay.

Foarde: Yeah. And when you talk to Brian, I appreciate what he did. He made me look like a hero. Which wasn't (laughing), wasn't really the case.

Pimentel: Well, having been my boss for several years, John, you were my hero there. So, you were my number one man but also the Legat when I was the Assistant, one of the Assistants there, covering, ended up covering all of Central America, at one point.

Foarde: Yes. You made a remark that kind of shrivels my tender ... You said that you thought Central America should have belonged to Miami all the time.

Pimentel: Yeah. (Laughing)

Foarde: And I can't agree with you on that.

Pimentel: (Laughing)

Foarde: Of course, I'm a very Ferris-trained man, see. And the Bureau sent Agents into foreign countries under diplomatic cover and ...

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Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: ... everybody, and this was before, what's his name there, the guy that opened all the offices?

Pimentel: Yeah.

Foarde: The Director that opened all the offices ...

Pimentel: Oh, Freeh, Louis Freeh.

Foarde: So, well, that's all different now. We're up in the 60s now and I think we had ten or twelve [overseas offices] when I retired.

Pimentel: Right. And there was only, well, when I took over in the Foreign Liaison Unit, there was only thirteen. And I left when there were sixteen or eighteen, I forget which.

Foarde: Okay.

Pimentel: Because we had expanded in the five years.

Foarde: I went to Washington and saw you while you had that job.

Pimentel: Right.

Foarde: We had lunch together.

Pimentel: That's right. That's right. Yep.

Foarde: Listen. All my best to Ann and everyone else.

Pimentel: Anyway, John, for the record, thank you much for clarifying at least three points, or a couple of points, here.

Foarde: You're quite welcome.

Pimentel: And you'll be getting a copy of the transcription as I indicated and, again, thank you much for your time. And this interview is hereby terminated. And the recorder is off.

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**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
John J. Foarde, Jr. (1950-1979)
Brian R. Hollstein, Interviewer
February 7, 2008**

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Brian R. Hollstein/

(H): Brian Hollstein, here [on the telephone].

John J. Foarde, Jr./

(F): Yes, sir, you're right on time.

H: I'm on. Today is the seventh day of February, 2008. I'm speaking to John J. Foarde, Jr., who is residing in Austin, Texas. John, you were in the Bureau from what dates?

F: I was, my EOD was twelve, four, fifty (12/4/1950) and I left the last day of February of seventy-nine.

H: Uh huh.

F: In other words, it was involuntary, let's put it that way.

H: Uh, huh, okay. This recording is being done for the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI's Oral History Program. I sent you a copyright form in the mail and it should be coming in probably tomorrow or Saturday. Please just sign it and send it back. And what it says is that the Society owns the copyright for this particular interview. It doesn't mean you can't write a book if you want or you want to be interviewed by other people, that's fine, but just this particular one....

F: Oh okay.

H: ... is what we're copyrighting.

F: Very good.

H: Just a little background here on the interviews themselves. We ask please that you not include any classified information while we're talking, you know, as best you can anyway. It will be reviewed by the Bureau for classified information.

F: Yeah.

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H: No names of informants or numbers, you know code names or anything like that, just give them some sort of a name you make up.

F: Okay.

H: And we'll work from that. And finally no sensitive techniques that are still in use possibly by the Bureau. And those are pretty much the ground rules.

Let's start off with asking you a little bit about your background, where you born and brought up and schooling at what have you.

F: Okay. I was born in Waterloo, Iowa. When I was about ten years old my dad was practicing law. He had pneumonia and he had to be absent for quite awhile and, when he came back, his law partner had died. So anyway we wound up moving to Des Moines. He got a job in the state house down there, the State Government. I lived in Des Moines and from that point on right up through grade school and high school. I went to a boy's Catholic High and then went to Drake University which is also in Des Moines. After thirty-three months and twenty days or something of military service, I returned to Drake and finished the law school there. I'm trying to remember what month, year that was; well that had to have been 1950.

So I had been acquainted with Jim Dalton who at that time was the SAC and at that time Des Moines had been a field office. They had moved to Omaha, but anyway I decided I wanted to make application. We had a very fine Agent in Des Moines by the name of Roy Meadows who came out and talked to us in law school and that helped make up my mind. Anyway I took the test, was interviewed by Dalton. This was in the early fall of 1950 and a few weeks later I got a letter of appointment and went into the Bureau and reported on twelve-four-fifty.

And we were, at that time, we were receiving part of our training in downtown, mostly in the Old Post Office building, classrooms over there and then, I don't remember exactly when they took us out to Quantico. I know we are at Quantico over the Christmas holidays. They were running short course at that time. They needed extra agents badly. So I believe my whole course was, the regular course at that time and I think was about twelve weeks, and I think the classes they were putting us through there were eight or ten weeks.

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F: And my first office was Albany. I was up there, January, February, March, April until the middle of the summer that was fifty-one by then. The SAC in Louisville sent out a request he wanted a whole bunch of single agents who had their own cars. I fit that category so I wound up going down to Louisville and then actually I was assigned to the RA in Paducah, Kentucky with about thirty-five or forty other guys and we were doing nothing but one-sixteen's. I'm sure you know what that is.

H: Right, but for the people that don't?

F: Well, the routine applicants for clearance to have something to do with atomic energy.

H: Right.

F: Atomic energy installations or what have you. And they were building a plant outside Paducah. I didn't know until just a few days ago when a very good friend of mine from that era passed away, apparently the land that they built the plant on belonged to Alben Barkley, who was the Vice President at the time and who lived in Paducah. And of course that was just a coincidence.

H: Obviously.

F: When I got there, there were a whole squad of us. We were all pretty green and the senior agent was an old NA man who had been a Paducah policeman and he was pretty gruff but he was fair. He didn't give us very much to do in the criminal work. We had all we could do with the plentiful supply of these one-sixteen cases. They used to say that they opened up a cabinet every Monday morning in Louisville and just called down to see how many we had closed, and they sent us enough to bring us back up to where we were before.

H: Never got ahead. So after Paducah, what happened?

F: Well I'm not sure how far back you go, but that was the same fall that the Civil Service took over most of the routine one-sixteen's, which are atomic energy applicant cases, and so that shrunk the problem quickly.

H: Oh good.

F: Most of us got moved out of there pretty fast. About half a dozen of us were sent up to Chicago. By that time John Malone was there and he had been our SAC in Louisville. So when I got to Chicago I got put on a security squad and that's just about all I did in Chicago for a number of years.

F: I finally wound up handling the quarterly report on the CP-USA in my district and my boss at that time was Carl Freyman. If you haven't heard of him, he's the Agent who gets credit for developing that one really good source that finally wound up going to the Soviet Union several times and so forth and there's been books written about this source, so it's not so secret anymore.

And I was pretty much submerged, you might say, in that work and I finally got kinda up to my nostrils in it, so I asked to go out to one of the resident agencies. That was one of the offices where most of your time was spent commuting. A bunch of us had bought houses out in a place called Hoffman Estates, which was not too far from O'Hare field. O'Hare field was quite a ways out from downtown Chicago.

Anyway I finally was able to get transferred to the agency in Joliet and I was down there about two years, not much more than that. In the meantime I'd been called back to In-Service and I asked to see the Director, which was not uncommon in those days.

H: Sure.

F: And I went there and I did something right because I got transferred back to the Bureau in the summer of, it was the summer of sixty-one. Because I was there almost five years and they put me in the liaison section which everyone told me was impossible because everybody who worked at the Bureau wanted to get into that section and I couldn't possibly come in from a domestic office and get right away. I did and I don't understand that myself. I worked with a real great guy, I don't know if you ever met Graham Day.

H: No, I came in in sixty-seven to seventy-seven so.

F: I was out of the States by then because I got working on foreign liaison. I was helping the people who were moving the paper for the foreign offices. Eventually the man who had been my boss there had gone to Mexico and there was an opening and he wanted me to come down, so I was able to do that. I went to Mexico in April of 1966 and I stayed there. I had no other assignments.

H: Uh-huh, sixty-six to seventy-nine. Okay then you get out in seventy-nine and what have you been doing since then?

F: We had been coming back and forth to the states. We're both from the middle-west originally and going through what they call the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and we decided we kind of liked it there. We had decided we didn't want to go back to cold weather.

F: So we settled in McAllen which is quite close to the border and there was an attorney in the city of the county courthouse which was only about ten miles away. He was a former agent and he had left the Bureau a few years earlier and went into the practice law. He was quite a specialist on immigration and he had been in Mexico a few times. I dropped in and we became acquainted with each other. He was after me to come work with him. So when I got up there I gave him a call and, before I knew it, I was on his staff and I did that for about ten years. And that work kind of dried up after the first bill where they, I forget what they call it, they made it easier for people to get their green cards and the work kind of dried up.

It was a law firm that had about four or five attorneys in it and there was a man there who had specialized in personal injury, and he had been after McDonald. I'm talking about letting me come work with him and so that's what happened. I went with him that was, I believe, in the summer

H: Well, not too important that piece of it anyway. Let's go back a little bit in your career and ask a couple of questions. Now in Chicago you were working security and this was CP work?

F: Well they had what they call the, the Major Organization squad and that included the Communist Party but when I started I was working on the smaller, there were three or four smaller Marxist organizations that had groups functioning there. I started working with them then one of the guys who was assigned to the Party, which was practically a full-time job. He got a chance to go work with his dad who was running a business in Chicago and all of a sudden I was asked to take that one over. I had that, I think, I wrote twelve of the quarterly reports and it was only toward the end of that I decided I'd like to try something else.

H: Well at that time though the CP was hot, as an organization. Afterwards, after it was all over with and the McCarthy era and all the rest of that business people started to say, "Well that wasn't really anything and they weren't a threat." But at the time you were working it what were they, what was it like there? The CP.

F: Well they had a bunch of real bomb throwers there. They weren't all that way but there were people that I certainly would want to know where they were if we actually once got into a fuss with the Soviet Union or any other Marxist country. We had, the man who sat next to me for quite a while, was handling the number one source the one who started making trips to the Soviet Union. In fact, I don't know too much about the final details because I finally got transferred out of there, but that was one of the major accomplishments in those days. This young man who interviewed ...

H: Saddam Hussein?

F: Yeah, that was one of the greatest accomplishments the Bureau had made and, I don't want to pass judgment on them, but I think the fact that this man became a source of our office and wound up under our thumb you might say making these trips to Moscow and everything else was a major accomplishment in those days. And the fella that as I said sat next to me handled him. I occasionally had to fill in very briefly. I wasn't considered a qualified substitute or anything but once in awhile I would have to fill in when the other man couldn't be there.

H: That was making contacts you mean?

F: Yeah, and I once had to make a trip with the guy because they were afraid that if the man who handled him all the time went with him he might be recognized because he had been an agent in Chicago for quite awhile before I got there. And this was just an overnight trip on the plane. Then they wanted him to get, before his trip to Russia, they wanted him to get a passport under a different name. Again they were afraid that if he went into passport facility there in Chicago, why someone might recognize him. There'd be a lot of noise and smoke and press and anything else.

We went together on a plane, on a commercial flight over to Detroit, just before Christmas and then you might say all I did was I held his coat. He went ahead and got ... without trouble. We jumped on the return flight and we were back in Chicago by nine o'clock at night.

H: What kind of a person was he that you recall? Did you talk to him much?

F: I didn't have any prolonged conversations with him. He was a brilliant man. He was one of the sharpest guys that the Party had not only in Chicago but anyplace in the states. He had a brother who was of equal stature in New York in the Party and his brother was also working for us. He was occasionally making trips for the Party to Canada and the Mounties got suspicious. They were trying to get us to admit that he was one of our people. Of course we wouldn't and there was some unpleasantness about. But that was all straightened out. And I'm trying to think

H: And so that's about the time that you were working this stuff in the fifties. These people really were a threat then? A potential threat we'll put it that way.

F: Yeah, yeah as I said not every one of them.

H: No, no.

F:: But they were dedicated and they had a number of publications they talked about, the *Daily Worker*, but they had other publications which really got down to the nitty gritty about, you know, using violence and all the things they always claimed they did. They didn't fabricate. And I think you may know that the first set of Smith Act trials was held in Chicago. And that was before I was actually heavily involved although I was there at the time. And this fella, Carl Freyman, was the one that was my supervisor. He was quite deeply involved in that.

But there was never any question in my mind that they deserved our attention and I think you could build a good case from the fact that since they got a lot of attention from us, not only there but everywhere else in the country, why that might have helped contribute to their decline. But that's just my opinion.

H: Was there anything done to contribute to their decline that you recall? On your watch there in Chicago?

F: Well the Bureau had a program I'm sure you've heard it called counter-intelligence. It was kind of a nuisance thing that you tried to figure out things that would make it difficult for them without, I'm not talking about getting them beat up or anything like that.

H: No. No.

F: They will do that, and that's all come out since then. It's one of the things our enemies have used to beat us over the head with and the Church Committee and those other people.

Part of this I'm filling in here a little because a lot of stuff that took place later took place after I was sent to Mexico and I wasn't really close enough to find out exactly what was going on on a daily basis.

H: Yeah sure. Just curious in terms of your own personal experience there. Moving on into the Bureau. You arrived there in 1961, you said?

F: Yes.

H: I'm sorry what was your first assignment there?

F: I was put in the liaison section which was one of the sections within Bill Sullivan's domestic intelligence division. Bill Sullivan was a newly minted Assistant Director at that time. He was the boss. The liaison section was composed of about ten or twelve guys and they were the ones who went to all the other Government agencies and handled our business with those agencies on a daily basis. At least at the headquarters level business.

F: One of the guys went to the White House every day. Somebody else went to the Pentagon so on and so forth.

But I wasn't involved in that at all because part of the liaison section was devoted to foreign offices which they also called liaison offices and that was the part that I was working.

H: Was Papich there?

F: Oh yeah Sam was there.

H: Sam. Was he in a supervisory position?

F: Well, we were all at least fourteens at that time but I don't know if, he may have had a higher grade. He was our guy that went to the Agency every day of course. That was a hot seat. He was always having, he was always, you know, on the Director's, you know what list, you remember.

H: Well that wasn't hard to get on.

F: No, no, I know and I've always thought, a few years ago of course, that I was lucky to be living in the same era when he was there.

H: Yeah

F: He was a great man.

H: Well, we have some interviews with him and we got to them before he passed on

F: Oh did ya?

H: Yes.

F: He was out in New Mexico as I recall.

H: Yes, we sent somebody out and that's still being processed though. It's going to take awhile I think.

F: Yeah he could really tell you what went on.

H: Yes. So this was under Sullivan. What was he like as a boss? You said that was early on his career as a Senior Officer.

F: He had been a sort of a shining light in what they call Central Research. That was the unit within our Division where they did all the writing. They wrote several of those books that came out with the Director's name on them and he was a brilliant man. He was certainly head and shoulders above most of the people I've ever known. He was quite a buddy of this fella that I wound up working for in Mexico who had also worked for awhile in Washington a fella by the name of Nate Ferris who was a veteran in those days. He'd been in the Bureau and been an Agent since 1933 I believe it was.

H: Oh boy.

F: And a great guy. So no, I wouldn't even dream of suggesting that I was a chum or a crony of Sullivan but I had a lot of respect for him. I could see how what happened happened. Even though by that time I had left Washington and I was down in Mexico where the grapevine was rather unproductive. But I know that he was the kind of person he probably just got to the point where, and then he had some ambitions, there was no doubt about that. I think he thought that he ought to have the big chair when it was vacant. I think that some of the people in White House egged him on to thinking that. I can't even remember what administration, what was it at the time. He and Johnny Mohr were always, they had a friendly rivalry and so any time Bill wanted to do something more than he had some ideas to needle him more so he went ahead. They were officially, not officially, unofficially, they were friends but they were really in a combative position. Of course Johnny Mohr had been a big shot at the Bureau a long time before Bill became an Assistant Director.

H: Well certainly ambitions, there were people of ambition there.

F: Oh yeah.

H: And that is bound to create some friction.

F: No doubt about it.

H: Yeah. So how many foreign offices were there, roughly, when you were there?

F: Now you struck a nerve.

H: Oh oh.

F: I just read something on the xgboys network the other day. We just opened our sixtieth [foreign office]. When I left and once the boss died a lot of people at the Bureau I think you may know this, always figured that foreign offices were a gravy train and they were just a bunch of Mr. Hoover's pets and so forth.

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H: Well that's where I wanted to go.

F: Well

H: I wanted to get to a Legat and that was one of the reasons why I left because things weren't happening. I spoke French and Spanish and lived and worked overseas.

F: Oh my gosh. You would have been the guy they wanted today.

H: Yeah.

F: Anyway we really didn't have that much of a cheering section at the Bureau. Anyway, we had had our staff reduced several times in Mexico. We were the only office that had several Agents. I think when I got there we had fifteen or sixteen.

H: So Mexico had fifteen more or less and now Canada I remember was active. How many offices, foreign offices, were there when you were there?

F: I was leading up to that.

H: Oh okay.

F: I think it was nine. When I went down there it was about fifteen or sixteen. The Director, at one point, decided we needed more so we opened up a few more and that was in the early seventies and but the general attitude at the Bureau toward foreign offices was not warm and friendly.

H: No, no.

F: On a man to man basis probably it was but they weren't trying to do anything to make us look good and we did at times. We did look good.

H: Well, we weren't internationalists. You know the internationalists went over to the other side and you know we really weren't a lot of linguists, weren't a lot of people that were particularly interested in that type of work.

F: True.

H: Yeah. Hang on just a moment here I'm going to turn this over. We're on Side B.

F: Okay.

- H: Okay, we're on side B now of our first tape. Brian Hollstein, talking to John Foarde, Jr. Today's date is February 7, 2008. So at the time then at first it was roughly nine foreign offices.
- F: There were nine at the time. Then I was put on the retirement list and we had to struggle to keep those that they were, you know, how the economy drives used to go and when an economy drive came along why a lot of the people in the Bureau said, "Well we'll just close some of those foreign offices."
- H: Uh hmm. What did they do exactly? What was the mission of these Legal Attachés and foreign offices?
- F: Well see the function, the legitimate function of the office was that they would conduct liaison on an eyeball to eyeball basis with the major police agencies in the other parts of the world.
- H: Uh hmm.
- F: But that was the original function. And, in our case, you mentioned Canada a minute ago. In Canada, Moss Innes was up there for a long time. All he had to do was go over to the RCMP and tell them what he wanted done and go back and wait for them to do it. But you couldn't do that in Mexico because they didn't have a police agency of that caliber.
- H: Uh hmm.
- F: So you had to pretty much get your work done some other way and that required a different approach. We had good relations with the agencies down there but most of them weren't all that ...
- H: Uh hmm.
- F: I don't want to see that in print anywhere but I understand that Stan has come out in a book or said something of that nature.
- H: Uh hmm.
- F: He was there while I was there and then he went back and he was Legal Attaché later on.
- H: Right, he spent some time down in Montevideo if I remember correctly.
- F: I can't remember exactly where he was.

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H: Oh he was in Central America for awhile. That was working for you, I guess?

F: Well, no. When I became Legal Attaché, which was really the last couple of years, we had a fellow named Jim Miller that traveled Central America. You're right! Stan made some of those trips too and he may have been sent. We opened an office in Panama after awhile and I think that was after I left.

H: Uh hmm.

F: He might have been sent over there; then he went back to the Bureau and he worked up where I worked in the Foreign Liaison Section for awhile and then they sent him back to Mexico to be the Legal Attaché.

H: Yeah. Now there obviously there are other US Government agencies in these countries yet in the Embassy and so the Legal Attaché worked out of the Embassy, did he work for the Ambassador or did he work for the Bureau?

F: Well.

H: Does that sound naïve enough?

F: A diplomatic Legal Attaché would dance awhile before he had to answer that. Of course he was a Bureau Agent at all times and that was one of the things that caused some friction once in awhile. We didn't have too much of it in Mexico but in various parts of the world, some Ambassadors or some Ambassador's right hand man would get up on his high horse and say, well he demanded to know what we were doing, he demanded to see our communications. You see we send our own communications; coded communications back and forth.

H: Right.

F: On State Department circuits; not everything but anything what we would call a teletype in the states

H: Uh hmm.

F: And so they were. It was sort of a dancing act. You had to you know be cordial to them and all this and that.

H: Uh hmm.

F: And we didn't have any serious problems while I was there.

H: Well you had also though other information collection groups including, for example, the military attachés. And our counter parts overseas, the agency.

F: Yeah.

H: Sounds, it was I would imagine a rather tight, tight line to be to be walking.

F: Yeah, it was.

H: You know in terms of police functions as opposed to intelligence functions.

F: Yes, it was. Of course the agency; we had some very good friends in the agency some of whom had been Bureau Agents at one time or another. Not saying they were all good friends but a lot of them were, at least in Mexico. A lot of them went back a long ways like this fella Nate Ferris that I worked for. He was a friend of Winn Scott years back. Nate had come up in the Bureau through the what they called the SIS Program.

H: Right.

F: And I don't even remember exactly how he and Winn met but Winn was a first class person and a very nice man and he never tried to cut our throats.

H: Uh hmm.

F: But he had a couple of people working for him that wouldn't help us very much if they could help it.

H: Uh huh.

F: But generally speaking we had a good relations with him.

H: Good. The, you mentioned the SIS. We have quite a few interviews now

F: Really?

H: Yes, former SIS people. Yeah. Do you have access to the Internet? Or you have your grandson put you on? Go to the Society website and, on the cover page, the home page, on the left hand side there is a little list of things in gray and in there is Oral History and you can click on that and that will take you to the Oral History Program. We have some transcripts put on the Internet there. One is from Wally Estill, you might know that name.

F: I know Wally quite well. He was another good friend of my friend Nate. In fact they had worked together before in Washington as I did with Nate before Nate went to Mexico after being down there in SIS.

H: Uh huh.

F: He always said he didn't think he oughta go back even though he wanted to for fear he'd be recognized but he finally decided enough time had passed. I came back from, I'd been on leave when one of my children was born, came back to have him announce me to that he was he was putting in for Mexico City. Then there was no doubt that he was gonna get it because he had all the savvy for one thing and he had all the seniority.

H: Sure.

F: And then eventually as events unfurled you know they had that deal in Santo Domingo

H: Right

F: And the Director took Mr. Clark Anderson who was another fantastic person.

H: He was my boss when I was in San Juan.

F: Oh was he?

H: Yeah, yeah.

F: Well you knew him better, probably than I knew him.

H: No, not really.

F: Clark [had] to run that. Which was of course supposed to be TDY and then there again he had probably ten to fifteen Agents down there with him on TDY. But anyway I forgot how I got on this subject.

H: We were just talking about SIS and the people that were circulating through Mexico there and we were also talking about relationships with other government agencies when we were working overseas.

F: Well, see, Clark had been down, I think well I know he'd been on SIS. I think Wally Estill had been too and they were down there in some of those little countries conducting police schools and that kind of stuff. Some of them went down there, they were openly identified.

H: Uh hmm.

F: As Bureau Agents but quite a few of them weren't. When we'd go into a country and somebody said FBI, the old police captain [who] had been there for a hundred years, says, "Oh you must know Mr. Anderson." So you had your foot in the door right away.

H: Yeah, yeah. He was a good guy. I wish we had, well we just started this program too late. I wish we'd had a chance to talk to him.

F: I'm surprised you got that many because another guy that was in that group was Jack Creeden. He was here in Texas after he retired and I got to know him pretty well. He wrote a book by the way. Jim McGuire's got a copy of it if you want to look at it.

H: Yes, I would.

F: About his adventures in Argentina. I think he was not only holding hands but maybe a little more than that with Eva Peron when she was a young person.

H: I would like to get a hold of that book if I could. You know if I can't interview these, a lot of these guys wrote books. They published them themselves very often and but they're just not available and it would help us to fill in some in that era.

F: Well, I sent one to Jimmy McGuire because he was collecting that kind of stuff for awhile.

H: Right.

F: And, if for some reason, you can't get it let me know and I'll get another one for you.

H: Well, if you would, please, because Jim has been working with us on the project. He's been a really nice help. But you know if I can get another book I'm sure he's collecting for his own interests.

F: Well that's true. I'll see. I might have more than one here cause I remember a few years ago when the book came out someone told me that they would like to have one. I went ahead and ordered one. By this time poor Jack had died so it was his daughters who were handling the book sales and I think I probably got two, in which case I would have one to spare.

H: That would be wonderful if you could or if you can look around find their daughters' names and addresses.

F: I think I could do that pretty easily because we handled quite a bit of that through our chapter in San Antonio when I was in that chapter. Jack was in our chapter, in fact I used to pick him up and take him to meetings until he got to the point where he couldn't leave the house any longer.

H: Uh huh.

F: And it was about that same time that the book came out. So I'm sure that we can see to it that we get one to you one way or the other.

H: Wonderful, that would be terrific. When we get off the recording I'll give you an address.

F: Okay, fine.

H: Okay I think that's probably enough warm-up for Mexico. What was Mexico like? Who was your predecessor there when you arrived? Who'd you take over from?

F: Bob Nischwitz, they didn't have the title, didn't use the title of ASAC but he had been the number one man and he had gotten transferred to San Juan.

H: Uh huh.

F: And this was another deal where Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Ferris were sort of keeping each other posted so there was an opening. Ferris was already down there and he let somebody know that he would like to have me come down because I was certainly not the most promising candidate especially from the language aspect although I felt that my five years with the Bureau had helped me understand a lot of things that a lot of guys never know if they never worked there.

H: Uh huh.

F: But I'm trying to remember how we got on that one.

H: Who did you take over from?

F: Oh Bob Nischwitz. By the way, he just died about a year ago; another great guy. He eventually came back to Mexico as Legal Attaché. I worked with him several years there.

H: Uh huh.

F: And a good guy. He may not have been everybody's favorite but he was basically a really fine guy. I never had a mean, cross word with him all the time. I don't know, I'm sure you're familiar with the term rabbi

H: Uh hmm.

F: Back at the Bureau I think somebody (unintel). While working in the Administrative Division and this guy was a, he didn't know me, I'm sure but he apparently was feeding "Nick" stuff about, oh be careful you're backside something might be wrong and all this, and I kind of resented that. But we never had any problems and he finally left. He retired out of there.

H: Umm. What work did you do when you first started down there?

F: I was sort of a supervisor. I was just like a desk supervisor in the domestic office.

H: And how many, how many squads did you have?

F: Well we actually didn't have squads. We had a total of, I think, it was seventeen or eighteen Agents

H: Uh huh.

F: And each of them had their job. Of course, at one time, we had several Agents out in the in the Resident Agencies working out of the consulates. We had as many as three Agents at one time in Monterrey and we had one in Guadalajara and another one in Hermosillo.

H: Uh huh.

F: And so that was a part of the total. So they weren't in the office every day but they were, they were part of the staff.

H: But you were in the Embassy then and in the district? Is that where your offices were located.

F: Yes. In fact, we had beautiful offices.

H: How hard was it there, just in terms of living? Was it hard to find a place to live down there?

F: It wasn't that difficult. The Embassy would help you if you had a real problem but usually a fellow that helped me find the house, which I had to find before I could bring my family down, was a sort of a deputy to the Labor Attaché.

H: Uh huh.

F: A fella by the name of John Doherty who was another prince of a guy and we got to be really good friends. But at that time it was not difficult. It could be now although I understand after I left people who came after me finally got into some pretty fancy quarters and they may have done it by going through the Embassy which is something that we never did.

H: Uh hmm.

F: But it wasn't all that difficult. Of course you had your housing was paid up to a limit. Most of the landlords who were renting to Embassy people, they knew about what you could pay and what you couldn't.

H: Sure.

F: So that didn't turn out to be that big of a pain. Of course, we had our kids going into a little parochial school. They had a little English speaking Catholic parish over, right near the hospital. School buses came by and picked them up and a lot of good stuff. So that worked out.

H: So it really wasn't a hardship post.

F: No. That would be inaccurate.

H: Uh hmm.

F: Now people could call it that especially if they had no flexibility.

H: Yeah.

F: We knew people, wives especially, who hated it because they just didn't want to make any adjustments. They wanted everything the way it used to be in the States.

H: Yeah, what they really wanted to be was home.

F: Yeah.

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H: We had the same thing in Puerto Rico. There were people that you know loved it. We lived there a total of five years in the Army and the Bureau and we really fit in and still some of our closest friends were from Puerto Rico.

F: Was Bob Wilson there at that time?

H: No. Clark Anderson was the SAC and Nick Stames, ASAC, and Joe Brennan. I worked for Joe Brennan. We were in the Ponce RA.

F: Uh huh.

H: That's where I was for two years down there.

F: Somebody else, Doug Bills, was down there for a long time. I think that was before you went there. Then Bills came to Mexico and worked with us for awhile there.

H: Yeah I don't remember that name but I went right straight down to the RA

F: Okay

H: So, you know, I'd show up once a month for a day and that was it and it was a long haul driving up.

F: (unintel)

H: Oh, yeah, that was that was a big deal. Anyhow what was the nature of the work that you were doing? You were supervising but was it mostly all criminal or what type of criminal?

F: I had most of the criminal stuff on my side. A lot of the cases in those days were Bureau fugitive cases. People who were Mexican to begin with, when they got in trouble, they came back to Mexico, and we had to go and verify they were there, so we could stop looking for them in the States. So volume wise there were quite a few of those cases and we nearly always had two or three a year at least interesting fugitive cases that were not commonplace

H: Uh hmm.

F: I'm trying to think how this came out. I think it was an INS man who got killed over in the southwest. It was established that the people who did it were from the Mexican side of the border

H: Uh hmm.

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F: Finally through our sources we found them in the mountains and even though they were Mexicans they were returned in the States

H: Uh hmm.

F: It wasn't always that easy, if you had somebody that was a full-blooded Mexican. Sometimes all you could do was say well he's here and so you could stop looking for him up there.

H: Uh huh and that was it.

F: Yeah so that was part of the burden. They had some, I don't know who would conceal this from you. They had some security work of mostly the kind of thing that we would have had in a place like Chicago. Yet in keeping some track of some of the local small Marxist groups especially the Mexican CP and so forth.

H: Uh hmm.

F: And there again there's a real long history of that but I don't know it well enough to tell you. I know that the Director and General Swing, who was the head of INS for awhile, they got into some real shouting matches because General Swing was trying to tell everybody that there were no Communists in Mexico.

H: Yeah.

F: The Director didn't want to hear that. But that's another story.

H: Well, how did you work these, say something like a fugitive case?

F: Ah well, now you're getting down to details. I could play you a tape but I don't know what I did with it because that was the big thing. When a fugitive went to Canada, all Moss Innes had to do was go over to RCMP and give them everything he had and then go back and do something else and when they caught him they'd let him know. Well down there you can't do that

H: Right.

F: Because you don't have, I don't think they have it even today, any really good quality, quality's a bad word, guys that that are really serious about police work. Anyway, so there again it was a question of after being there so long you knew who you could trust and who you couldn't; who had good intentions and who didn't. And we always had good relations with the Mexican Immigration people. They were the ones that deported people, fugitives when we located them. They would go pick 'em up and, unless they had some legitimate claim to Mexican citizenship, you just put them on a plane

H: Well did any of our people just sort of go out in the field and start doing interviews and showing, showing their credentials?

F: I'm going to have to be careful. I do think that we're not supposed to.

H: Uh hmm.

F: And Nate was, he was a real bug about this. You know that's what you call being operational.

H: Uh hmm.

F: And we were not supposed to do that. We were supposed to get someone else to do it. And again since we didn't have that many police agencies on whom we could rely with any confidence, we had to have some paid sources

H: Uh hmm.

F: And what happened and this was another tear-stained story, they got in the habit of calling those people informants which they weren't really, in the true sense of the word.

H: Sure.

F: And then when people like Attorney General Ed Levi and some of those people came through, and they were, you know, singing gospel songs and battling with the bees, I don't want to have any informants blah, blah, blah. Well we finally wound up, I'm sure you know, oh Lordy I can't think of the guy's name right now, well anyway we had to clean out some of those that we had so that we could say with a straight face that we didn't have any informants but we had people working for us.

H: Right.

F: And we should have called them something else to start with.

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H: Uh hmm.

F: Confidential source or whatever

H: Well did we actually go along with these people?

F: No.

H: Not at all huh?

F: I don't actually know. We had some people that were really excellent and we had some that were just routine. But we had some really excellent investigators who had been with us a very long time and that's one of the reasons we were able to get some things done.

H: Sure. Well that's an interesting way of getting things done. I'm almost out of tape here and I've got to get another tape out of a box so it's going to be a couple of minutes. Can I call you back?

F: Sure.

H: Brian Hollstein again, back in action here. This is Tape Two, today's date is February 7, 2008. My name is Brian Hollstein. I'm talking to John J. Foarde, Jr., who is in Austin, Texas, and we were talking about how you got work done down there in Mexico.

F: Again there's an exception, one of the exceptions, it surprised me but I didn't object to it was during the Watergate thing. When the Florida offices found some Mexican checks in the bank account of one of the burglars. So we had to get busy and we found out who the guy was through our sources. The Mexican Bank Police always helped us when they could. Then the guy to whom these checks were made payable had to be talked to. They pussy-footed around and they didn't actually tell us to go talk to them but we did. And no hackles were raised about it and he told us. Then that was one of the many things that helped break that case. Because he had received them from a guy in Houston whom he knew who was a functionary of some kind in the Committee to Re-elect the President, locally in Houston. And so that's an example of what we normally didn't do.

But I wouldn't want to say that, of course, if somebody came in the Embassy and wanted to tell us a story, we had no reason to discourage them from doing that.

H: Sure.

F: And we did. We talked to quite a few people when they came in. But after that I don't think I'm going to be able to say that none of them never went out to knock on doors because I just have a feeling that maybe that happened for awhile.

H: Oh yes, but in general, in order to get things done, you were using these ...

F: We had to go through the police or some of our own paid sources. Yes.

H: And they would get out and get things squared away. So the volume of stuff down there then was mainly fugitives, US fugitives?

F: Yes, that's what killed us finally, because one of our guys who was one of our really good agents he got ticked off about something and he decided that he didn't like the way things were going and so he made a suggestion of some kind that the Bureau, in effect get out of the business of locating fugitives. at least in foreign countries. And he made it as a regular Bureau suggestion. And they were looking for opportunities, excuses to cut us down and they were looking for excuses to rap us on the knuckles or what have you, but they eventually, they took those cases. They're now being handled by the marshals.

H: Right. Well that's happening here in the states I guess.

F: Yeah, I think it's going on everywhere.

H: Yeah yeah.

F: That was Jimmy Adams. Jimmy Adams was not one of; he was not the captain of our fan club. But that's for some other reasons that have nothing to do with what we're talking about.

H: Sure. You mentioned also that they had an active CP down there; Communist Party

F: Yes

H: And were there other groups that worked down there, the terrorist groups or subversive groups in general?

F: That's something that when we wanted the Director to give us some more people we used to use the argument that we needed these people to identify and keep track of terrorist, terrorist type or Latin whatever you want to call them.

H: Uh hm.

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F: And that's true we did need coverage for them.

H: We had our trouble. That was around the time, especially in Central America, of the religious people getting involved and what were they, well the Nicaraguans and over in El Salvador, things were getting pretty unstable.

F: Yeah. Well, to my knowledge, we didn't have much trouble with those people in those countries. We had some pretty capable guys went down and dealt with them. I don't know if you ever met Art Cammarota. He was a contemporary of Clark Anderson and some of those.

H: Uh huh.

F: You probably had been off the scene before and Jimmy Miller who was just buried here about a year ago had it for quite awhile and we handled all of Central America out of Mexico.

H: Right.

F: At that time. Now I understand now this is something that Nate would spin over in his grave. They've given the Florida offices some of those countries. That's something that was unheard of because the whole thread of the operation was that the agent had to be there as part of a diplomatic group so that he would have some protection from whatever.

H: Sure.

F: And apparently that idea, I'm sure that idea does not prevail around the world now to the point that to the extent that it did then.

H: Well it is odd because Central America looks to Mexico for its culture. And just everything about it is Mexican oriented as opposed to either well Hispanics or Cuban oriented or Puerto Rican oriented certainly. Yeah it would seem more reasonable to remain with Mexico. But who knows.

Was there much in terms of problems with foreign espionage there, in Mexico?

F: We didn't have a whole lot. Some of the times, if there was a case of some magnitude involving double agents and all that, the Bureau would send somebody from the States down to participate in whatever needed to be done. Then we also at that time we were collaborating with our people, well we used to say our people from upstairs because we were on the fourth floor, and they were on the fifth.

H: Uh huh.

F: And so I don't know if that answers your question.

H: Uh huh, probably.

F: We didn't have that much that I'm aware of, and there again, I handled very little of that because that was the boss' side of the house.

H: Uh huh.

F: He had all that kind of stuff and I had all the other stuff.

H: So were there other criminal violations that were of interest down there now? I mean, for example, I don't know when things got cut over to who but there's always a lot of drugs problems in Mexico.

F: Yeah we were not involved at that time and I can't answer you today. I presume that our office down there is involved to some extent because I know they're up to their eyeballs in it around here; from what I understand.

H: Yeah.

F: But at that time, no.

H: At your time it wasn't then. What was it BNDD was the Bureau of Narcotics?

F: At one time and then it changed to DEA.

H: Yeah and somewhere along the line they changed over.

F: I don't know if you heard about this sheriff in Phoenix, Joe Arpaid.

H: Uh no.

F: He makes the national press about once or twice a month. Well, he was the boss of the BNDD Office when I was down there. He was a BNDD Agent

H: Uh huh.

F: And of course now he's been retired for quite awhile. He's been sheriff in Phoenix for about the last ten years and they love him up there. My son lived up there for awhile and they can't get enough of him. He's got his prisoners out living in tents in the yard in the hot sun and all kinds of stuff. And of course the ACLU would like to lynch him, but so far they haven't. Can't make anything stick.

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- H: Worse things that can happen than the ACLU. In the other violations did they have a lot of car problems at the time?
- F: Oh yeah and that was a rough deal because NATB, I don't know if you know who that is
- H: Yeah. National Auto Theft Bureau.
- F: They had a local and he was a Mexican and of course he found cars quite often. And quite often he found them in the custody of some local police or government official because as far as they were concerned if there was some reason to seize the car, they didn't care. And they usually didn't care when you went and told them it was stolen. And that's one of the ways we got in the hot seat with Jim Adams because one of his contacts in San Antonio when he was SAC up there, was a car dealer. And one of the car dealer's cars turned up seized by this Mexican agency which did that for a living. Jimmy couldn't understand why we couldn't get it out; bring it up to him on a silver platter.
- H: Sure, why not?
- F: But once in awhile, well first of all, if a fugitive came down there with his own car then they would take him out in it because we have that kind of relationship with the Mexican Immigration people. So that's one way and that happened at times. We had a case where a guy was down there with a flashy red convertible and a bunch of stolen paintings. So I told Dick Clark one day I said, "We know this guy's around some place I'd be glad to pay for a phone call to Acapulco." We had very good contacts down there. And they found him and picked him up before nightfall. Then of course that car, and whatever went with it, went all the way back and the insurance company would call me. We want to reward somebody. I said, well you can't reward us. I finally gave them the name of the Mexicans who helped us; although I probably wasn't supposed to. We made a good friend.
- H: Yeah oh yeah.
- F: A better friend.
- H: Sure, sure. Well, just getting paid regularly, I imagine, made them good friends.
- You mentioned Watergate as being an outstanding were there any other big name cases that you were down there during the, were you there for Kennedy assassination or?
- F: I wasn't there yet. I was at the Bureau at that time.

H: And King?

F: Well, we got involved looking for James Earl Ray. I don't know if you realize it; there's no reason you should, the car that he was using had a Mexican tire on it and Mexican tourist sticker on it. So as my friend Nate used to say, well you know who ... and you know who he meant when he said you know who has got the idea that he's in Mexico. So we got to cover everything just before cover the lead before we get it and we did. And we kept sending in, well we would send in a daily cable. Apparently the boss was talking to the Attorney General every day on that case.

And the guys, Dick Long, I don't know if you know him. He was one of the guys who was handling the case and he thanked us all later. He said you really saved our gizzards because we had to have something to give the boss every morning. As a matter of fact a number of people, including myself, got commended on that case even though James Earl Ray was eventually located in England just because we kept the ball bouncing and kept the paper coming in.

H: Well, that's the name of the game, keep the paper moving.

F: Before we get off that and before I forget it again, did you ever hear about the Barbara Mackle case?

H: Yes, I worked it.

F: Well, you know that the woman who was involved in that came from Central America.

H: Right.

F: And the consular officer down there, I'm trying to remember, I don't think it was Salvador, I think it was Honduras, made sure that the police knew that we wanted anything they had. Well after a lot of messin' around they came up with a fingerprint card on her that they had. The only one. Because if you recall much about that case the first IO came out, there were no fingerprints. And about the same time that came out we got this card, I forget how we got it, we either got it through the consular office, through diplomatic pouch probably, and sent it in. And then the second IO came out with her prints and that's the way they caught her.

H: Right and she was up in what was it Oklahoma or Kansas or something?

F: Salt Lake maybe.

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H: Somewhere in the west.

F: The SAC there was Jack Burns who was in my training class.

H: Yeah that was a beauty. I keep bumping into people who worked the Mackle kidnap as we're doing interviews and what have you. I was in the Fort Meyers RA and that was where Krist was grabbed.

F: Fort Meyers, Florida?

H: Yeah.

F: My wife's aunt lives down there.

H: Oh what do you know?

F: We've been down there three or four times in the last ten years or so.

H: Well, that's forty years ago for me though, thirty years ago. But yeah and it just so happened I moved in here into Connecticut and looking for an attorney to close on our house and I look for a Bureau attorney. We got to talking and it turned out he had been in the search party in the swamp there, searching for him and on and on it went. Every time I got to talking to somebody it seemed they had been on the Mackle kidnap case.

F: I'll be darned, I'm glad I mentioned it.

H: Yeah.

F: Because I always felt that if it hadn't been for Jimmy Miller and the kind of contacts he had throughout Central America, we might not have that girl yet.

H: No, she was gone.

F: Yeah.

H: You know, she was really gone. She disappeared. Well, after the first attempt at the drop there in Miami, when there was a shoot-out with the police, she escaped and they were separated and Krist went his way. He stuck with it, he got the second pay-off. But she disappeared and nobody had any particular leads on her. It was pretty dead. I don't know, she was gone a couple of years? It was awhile, I don't remember exactly.

F: It wasn't a quickie.

- F: And, of course, the thing about that case not only was it a hideous thing for anybody to do and a great headline grabber, but that girl's father, the victim's father, was a personal friend of the Director.
- H: Yeah, yeah.
- F: I didn't know if you knew that.
- H: Yeah and he was, he was a famous guy in Florida there too, he was a developer. Had scads of course, that's where you go, where the money is, no question about that.
- F: You betcha.
- H: Other major cases that you might recall from your time there in
- F: I'm trying to remember. We picked up the trail of James Earl Ray in Mexico. We covered where he had been, what he had done and how long he'd been there and it was just that he wasn't there any longer.
- H: Right.
- F: He had already left. He left Mexico before he did the shooting.
- H: Oh, so he had been down there then for, just hanging around?
- F: Yeah he was, he was kind of a ne'er do well and, of course, he was an escaped federal prisoner at the time. So I don't know exactly, I don't have those facts at my fingertips any longer. But we found the place where he bought this Mexican tire and that led us to the place that he'd been staying over there in and around Puerto Vallarta. We sent one of our guys over there, well you know him, Jean Gray.
- H: Yeah
- F: He was over there and Deke DeLoach called the boss and said, "You know, I think you ought to get somebody over there." And I loved it because I had sent Jean over there while the boss was out of town and so the boss could tell him, we've got somebody over there working.
- H: Yeah, we don't need any tips.
- F: Yeah.

H: Well, it's interesting though in how, what a wonderful organization. You get a tire. I mean for goodness sake, that's gotta be tenuous. You find a tire on the car and you're able to trace things down.

F: Yeah.

H: It's absolutely amazing sometimes how stuff comes out. Any other ones you recall?

F: I'm trying to remember. Those are the ones I'll never forget.

H: Sure.

F: And I got called up once. I was at home on the weekend and the switchboard operator said, "I got a guy on the line calling long distance. Can you talk to him?" So he puts the guy on the line and the guy wants to know if he can be extradited if he flew from the States into Mexico. I said, "Well, I wouldn't advise you to do that. I think if somebody wants to find you for some charge or otherwise I think you ought to face up to it blah, blah, blah."

So anyway I called back to the Florida office, I knew where the call came from. They went out and identified this guy. Then that's when everybody was having the hots about aircraft hi-jacking.

H: Right

F: So they filed on him. I forget what the charges were but the judge threw it out. But I got to go up and that was the other thing, you know. If you were in a foreign office, you weren't supposed to be coming back to the states to testify. But we did once in awhile.

H: Once in awhile. Has it changed much as far as you know from your times?

F: I have no idea.

H: The legal attaché system?

F: I don't even know anyone who's in a foreign office.

H: There's a lot of them.

F: I thought of the guy I wanted to mention to you, Roger Castonguay. Do you know him?

- H: Yes, yes I know him quite well. Yeah.
- F: He was involved in this business about whether we call these, whether we call these people informants when they really should be called something else?
- H: Uh huh.
- F: He was at the Bureau end of that. So he and I traded a bit of correspondence long before I ever met him but I have a high regard for him.
- H: Yeah, well he's active. You know I see him every once in awhile.
- F: Yeah, I've seen him at a couple of conventions.
- H: Yeah, yeah. The conventions and all.
- F: And so is Bob Bermingham.
- H: I don't know; Bob Bermingham.
- F: You haven't talked to him?
- H: No.
- F: He was in Monterey for awhile when I first went down there.
- H: Monterey uh?
- F: Monterey. He was one of the Resident Agents, yeah.
- H: Okay. Yeah that was the next thing I was gonna do. I think we're kinda winding down and I wanted to get some leads for people to talk to that could help me out with legal attaché work and what it was like in various places.
- F: I'm trying to think. John Grant was down there for awhile. He was one of the Mormons that they sent; and pretty nice guy. He was sort of acting ASAC for awhile. He was one of the guys that we used to like to go over to Mexican immigration and so forth. As you undoubtedly know those people all speak flawless Spanish. I mean people of that religion.
- H: Oh yeah, the Mormons. A lot of them go over on missions and things.

F: I don't really know if John was, he might be able to tell you something. There was one of the guys, one of the guys who was, as my friend Nick used to say, "he was a bad-ass" as far as the Mormons were concerned. And he'd go off and started up his own group. I always thought John was shoveling a little sand for the Mormons while he was looking for this guy but never made an issue out of it.

H: Yeah, well that could happen. You know, I just had a block about the Mackle case. Ruth Eisemann-Schier was her name.

F: Yeah.

H: The fugitive. Yeah.

F: Yeah, I remember that.

H: Yeah. Well, you're better at remembering names than I am.

F: She was supposed to be quite a doll too.

H: I guess so. We had a lot of pictures of her. When they got the car after the first attempt at the payoff when there was a shoot out they recovered their car and in it was their passports and photographs of them with Barbara Mackle.

F: Oh no, kidding?

H: Yeah, and all their clothes and everything else. They were headed out immediately. They were going to disappear.

F: Yeah.

H: And so they had all of this stuff and it was damning. There was no question of who had done it and the names and photographs and everything else so they were pretty well IDed. Anything else you'd like to tell me about your career with the Bureau?

F: I'm trying to come up with something

H: Legats?

F: I've been out of there for more than twenty-five years. But it was never dull. There was always something going on and I have to say that I think, by and large, we did a pretty good job of it. I feel good about the job that we did. They weren't really checks, they were bank drafts.

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H: On the Watergate?

F: Well, if it's a check, it's made out to somebody. Oh yeah well blah, blah, blah. But anyway we found out that, but we found the guy, and he was not involved in the plot of any kind. He just did this for this friend of his who was, I think he was an attorney in Houston and bought them and sent them up there.

H: Okay, well.