



The FBI Oral History Project

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INTERVIEW OF

Former Special Agent of the FBI

HOMER A. BOYNTON
Years of FBI Service 1952-1980

Interviewed on March 2, 2006

By David G. Binney

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David G. Binney: First thing I need you to do is ... I got a little Release and get it filled in. All I need you to do is sign over here and it basically says that we're conveying the rights of the interview to the ex-Agents Association.

Boynton: Right here?

Binney: Yes sir. Actually, I've got two copies ... mine and yours. This is your copy.

Boynton: That's my copy. How many of these have you done?

Binney: This is my third one.

Boynton: Oh.

Binney: And, it's the first time that damn thing hasn't worked. I'm really upset. They like to get the video.

Boynton: Yes.

Binney: Okay, you read the Release. We're all set there. The only thing I want to begin to tell you is what the program is. It's basically an oral history of the FBI, sponsored by the ex-Agents Association. The material will be reviewed by the Bureau; it comes back to you to review the interview, and then we'll turn it over to an archive and it'll be kept at the selected archive of Virginia for research purposes. You'll get a copy of the transcript of the information. And I have a preamble here that I need to go through ... if I can find it.

This is Dave Binney. I'm interviewing Homer Boynton for the Society of Former Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Oral History Program. Today is March 2, 2006, and the interview is being taken place at Mr. Boynton's home in Hilton Head, South Carolina. This is disk one, side A.

Binney: Alright, sir. And let's get your birthplace and year of birth.

Boynton: May 2, 1927.

Binney: 1927. And where?

Boynton: In Hartford, Connecticut.

Binney: Oh, no kidding. I worked in Danbury. Well, actually I worked in New York. I lived in Danbury.

Boynton: When were you in New York, Dave?

Binney: Seventy-nine to '85.

Boynton: Oh. Were you there when Jimmy Kalstrom was there?

Binney: He was the Tech ASAC.

Boynton: He was when I was there.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. He did ... well, we were working' OC.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: And he did a world of good for us.

Boynton: I just saw his picture in the Times. He's New York State Homeland Security.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. What a job that is.

Boynton: Jimmy's a very articulate and aggressive guy.

Binney: Yeah. Well, he got that ... that plane crash. That's where he really got national recognition. He was the SAC ... one of those plane crashes. It wasn't, it wasn't a terrorist act. This is one where one of the fuselages was empty and it sparked ...

Boynton: Oh. TWA ... 800.

Binney: Eight hundred.

Boynton: Yeah. That was off the coast.

Binney: He just made great press because he was so articulate and calm. And, you know, telling everybody we don't know what it is yet, you know. And ... I always liked him, he was a good man. Yeah.

Okay. You were born in Hartford. Were you raised in the Connecticut area?

Boynton: Yeah. Raised in Hartford and went to the University of Connecticut.

Binney: Oh really!

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: Number two in the country. (Laughing)

Boynton: Yeah. Then to graduate school at the University of Southern California.

Binney: Oh. Yeah. And what about your career before the Bureau? What did you do after you get your degrees?

Boynton: I worked for the Bureau of Labor Statistics for, well, the U.S. Department of Labor in New York City. For about a year, after I got out of graduate school. Then I went into the Bureau on June 30, 1952.

Binney: How about your assignments? First, well, let's go back to training.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: Was it the old, the old ...

Boynton: The old Academy.

Binney: ... brick, three story?

Boynton: Yes. Hank Sloan was there.

Binney: I came in 18 years later and he was still there! (laughing) He came in 1970. He was still there.

Boynton: He must have retired shortly thereafter. He showed us how to make a bed. Fold the corners and all that stuff.

Binney: How about Si Tulai? (laughing)

Boynton: Hank and Si – they’re both gone. George Zeiss, no, I don’t think George was there when I was there. There was a man by the name of Pershing Bell, he was kind of in charge of firearms back in those days.

Binney: So the school was in both places. You went down to Quantico and uptown, to the old Post Office.

Boynton: Yeah. We were there in the summer, hotter than ...

Binney: ... Old Post Office? Same thing. Yeah. I went in in April, you know by June it was pretty hot, wow. It was miserable.

Boynton: You didn’t go to the Old Post Office did you?

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: You did? You’re a lot older than I thought you were, Dave.

Binney: (Laughing) Yeah. We started in April of ’70 and no air-conditioning. You know, just throw the windows open; have your break and look out over that balcony. You know.

Boynton: Yeah. The atrium there.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Well, were you at the new Academy?

Binney: No.

Boynton: That didn’t open until L. Patrick Gray, Acting FBI Director from 1972-1973.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: In fact, if my memory serves me, he was the guy who did the dedication. Hoover died on May second and the new Academy opened in May or June.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. Where was your first office?

Boynton: Philadelphia.

Binney: Were you there for a year?

Boynton: No, actually I stayed there ... my daughter had a health problem so I stayed an extra year, three years. From there I moved to the New York office in 1955. I remained in New York until 1972 and then I moved to Headquarters. I didn't move around a lot.

Binney: Where did you work in New York?

Boynton: I started off working Security of Government Employees. Marvelous assignment. I drew Bedford-Stuyvesant. If you ever tried to do that work over there, or any kind of work over there ...

Binney: Uh-huh.

Boynton: Then I was on Security Matters dash C. For a brief period. Then I went on the Soviet surveillance squad and then I was a supervisor there. Then I got off the desk for a couple of years. Didn't want to go through all the chairs.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Then I came back and had sort of miscellaneous squad ... Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the rest of the world. Other than Russia or the Middle East.

Binney: Oh yeah. That must have quite a time in New York, with the Soviets, in the 60's.

Boynton: It was 50's and 60's. Then I went back to Soviet work. I was off of it from 63 to 66.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah.

Boynton: And then I back on. Then I was, I don't know what they called it when you were there, it was Chief of Personnel. Now I think it's an ASAC, well, I don't know what it is now. It was in charge of the Clerk's office, the steno pool, in charge of all the administrative stuff, and handled Mr. Hoover when he came up.

Binney: Did you handle the garage?

Boynton: No, I didn't handle the garage. But handled Mr. Hoover when he came and he came up. He and Clyde Tolson used to go the races but by the time I got them they went to restaurants. They went to Abercrombie and Fitch and stuff like that.

Binney: Out on the Island?

Boynton: They used to go to Belmont and Aqueduct. They'd stay at the Waldorf-Astoria. They stayed for God's sake for fifty years and then, let's see, after that, after Hoover died, Pat Gray brought me down to the Bureau.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: As Liaison chief. Chief of the Liaison Section

Binney: Was that Congressional Liaison?

Boynton: No, no. Foreign liaison. And Domestic. The White House, CIA. I had a bunch of guys who ran all that, plus the Legal Attaches. Then I went from there to Public Affairs.

Binney: You were there when Kelley was there?

Boynton: I was there when Kelley was there.

Binney: And you were there when Webster was there?

Boynton: I was there when Webster was there. I went to FBIHQ when Pat Gray was there. Pat was there about six months after that he bit the dust. Spring of '73. Burning the papers in his Christmas trash. I kind of liked him. He was a pretty decent guy.

Binney: Yeah. We're going to get into that a little bit (laughing)

Boynton: The Watergate Papers ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: The White House had him over a barrel. He wanted the job so bad he'd do just about anything they wanted him to do.

Binney: Yeah. I mean, he burned up some papers, the Kennedy papers, I guess, wasn't it?

Boynton: No they were some papers from Howard Hunt ... some false papers of Howard Hunt on someone. He took them and burned them in his Christmas trash. Took them up there. He lived in Stonington, Connecticut. Pat just died, about a year ago.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. I actually worked with his son. His son ...

Boynton: Oh, did you?

Binney: ... his son, L. Patrick Gray ... the second, I guess, came in to the Bureau when I was at WFO. And so that would've been '85 ...

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: ... '85 ... yeah, around '85.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: And he made a career out of it.

Boynton: Did he?

Binney: He did ... at least 20.

Boynton: Is he out now, retired?

Binney: I think he's out now.

Boynton: Right. But he stayed on.

Binney: But he did 25 years. Yeah. Yeah. Probably got out ... no, he couldn't have, 25 years isn't up yet. Twenty, ah ... well ...

Boynton: If he came in in the 70's, he could be out about now.

Binney: Yeah.

Binney: Yeah. I've never, you know, gosh that was ... I was out in Indianapolis and didn't really know what was going on, but there were some rumors. He, Gray tried to visit every office, didn't he?

Boynton: Oh yeah.

Binney: When he first got there. He had a little routine there.

Boynton: He visited the New York Office one day and it was kind of comedy of errors. But he did try to visit all the offices. That was his intent.

I think, he suffered some from the Hoover mentality of the senior staff. Hoover had been there so long. You know, to have a guy there for so long, you know the ground rules. If this happens, this is what you need to do. Once that guy goes, people don't know, what does this new guy want? Pat was served well by, some, some of the old timers. I can't castigate all of them. And I can't blame them either. They were trained and brought up under Hoover. Difficult to adapt to a new guy.

An interesting story about Kelley. If you don't mind my rambling on.

Binney: That's the name of the game.

Boynton: Clarence told me that when he went over to the White House, he was interviewed by Nixon told him that what you want to do at FBIHQ is clean house. "Get rid of all those old Hooverites." He used to refer to those people. I say 'those people.' That's sounds like a pejorative. I didn't mean it that way.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: But anyway, Kelley decided that he wasn't going to do that. He thought he could change attitudes. And he also suffered from, they were friends of his. Tom Jenkins, Nick Callahan, (**unintel**) ... You know. In looking at it in retrospect, that's what he should have done. Kelley was hurt by his friends and they were hurt by staying at FBIHQ instead of retiring.

Boynton: Poor Nick Callahan wound up with the whole U.S. Recording thing. The whole bubble burst on a Friday afternoon. And the Saturday papers. And Callahan was fired and dumped.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: The point of my story is that Clarence should have brought in all new people, started fresh but he didn't. Clarence is one of the nicest men you will ever meet.

Binney: I only met him once or twice. I think I was brand new at the Bureau and I came in '77. He had, he had just married. Might have been his second time, if I recall.

Boynton: He married Shirley, she was a nun.

Binney: A, a nun?

Boynton: Yes, I talked to Shirley just the other day. She's coming up and we're going to have dinner. I knew Shirley pretty well.

Binney: Oh really.

Boynton: His wife, Ruby, had cancer. And he used to commute between Kansas City and FBIHQ. We used to have meetings out there – I'd fly out on Thursday and we had meetings on Fridays. Ruby lasted about a year or so, after Kelley became Director.

And then there was a big flap about some valances.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: When Clarence came to the Bureau, he rented an apartment. Ruby came and said, "We need some valances for those windows." So he called in Tom Molton, Tom was one of the chauffeurs then. "Ruby wants some valances." So Tom goes to the Laboratory. Of course, the Lab sends some Grade 15s out there and they built the valances. It got to the media and got involved.

It got into the 1976 campaign. Jimmy Carter said that the first thing he was going to do was to fire Kelley, a man like this who used government employees like this, the material, he is certainly not fit to be FBI Director.

Boynton: So Clarence ... the Laboratory came up with a cost. About \$600. I went into him and said, "Boss, ((\$625 something, whatever it was)." He said, "How am I going to pay this?" I said, "Got a check?" He said, "I've got a check." "Make it out to the United States Treasury." "And what are you going to do with it?" "I haven't any idea what I'm going to do with it. Give it to that Assistant Director of the Laboratory, and let him worry about it."

It should have been a little issue, but Carter made it a big issue. And Carter, considered it a campaign issue. Something to talk about.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. Well, it was shortly after that, wasn't it, that the Miller-Felt thing ...

Boynton: Yeah. That's surfaced in the later part of, I think that surfaced after the Church Committee. Someone else more knowledgeable than I could say.

Binney: Gray was already gone?

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: Oh.

Boynton: Then there was the Pike Committee, not as elaborate as the Senate Church Committee. 75, 76. Investigated the Bureau. .And there was New York and Squad 47.

Binney: Yeah. That's right ... the New York squad.

Boynton: COINTELPRO and break-ins.

Binney: Which was a lot of fun, by the way. (Laughing)

Boynton: Yeah. COINTELPRO.

Binney: We did that. We had the Klan out in Indiana.

Boynton: Oh yeah!

Binney: Oh God, that was fun. We had 'em runnin' all, every which way. But then ...

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: ... and then Attorney General Edward Levi with his new, with ...

Boynton: Guidelines ...

Binney: ... his new guidelines.

Boynton: Yeah. Yeah. Levi came in when Kelley was there and sometime around there was the Miller-Felt thing. Somewhere around '76, '77. I know when Griffin Bell came in, and Miller and Felt were indicted.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: That's probably the Church Committee. The Bureau was under a lot of scrutiny. Somebody needs to interview Jim Adams. He'd be fabulous. Jim testified at that hearing and did a magnificent job. And the day after the hearings, he was home on sick leave and I called. "What are you doing on sick leave?" He said, "I couldn't get out of bed. I sat there for two days, with my neck looking up and tense, and I couldn't get out of bed this morning."

Binney: He pulled a muscle.

Boynton: His neck, he pulled a muscle.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: I said, "Okay, sounds legitimate. Go back to bed."

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: (Laughing) But Jim, he has great memory too. He and Deke DeLoach also have a great memory.

Binney: Yeah. Where's Jim Adams? Is he down in Texas?

Boynton: Yeah. He's down in Texas.

Binney: Um-hmm.

Boynton: Joe Trimbach called me six or eight months ago, something about Wounded Knee. My memory didn't come up the way he wanted it to. But anyway.

Jim Adams was head of the Texas Rangers ...Director of Public Safety for the State of Texas.

Binney: Yeah. When did you take over in Public Affairs? Was that under Kelley?

Boynton: Uh, yes. That was under Kelley. Yeah, I took over in ... well, no, actually, let me go back. I didn't take over.

Binney: Oh yeah?

Boynton: Don Moore was Assistant Director of Public Affairs.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And he replaced Bob Frank or Jock MacDermott, I can't remember which. And, Don came in and then I was selected to be his Deputy, Inspector, Deputy Assistant Director, is that right? I had the title of Inspector.

Binney: Uh-huh.

Boynton: And I had that up until the time of Webster.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Then I had that title all the way up to 1979, and then when Webster, after a couple of guys like Jock MacDermott left, Webster set up the Executive Assistant Directors. And he made Don Moore for Law Enforcement and me for Administration.

Binney: Uh-huh.

Boynton: So I, I was never an Assistant Director. And then he made Lee Colwell Assistant Director for Investigations. I don't know if they still have that or not.

Binney: That's right, Freeh, he shifted all around.

Boynton: Floyd was there. Did they keep the Deputy?

Binney: Freeh had a Deputy Director and went through six during his tenure.

Boynton: Six Deputies?

Binney: Rotated through. And then, when Mueller came in, he went back to Executive Assistant Directors, three.

Boynton: Oh, did he? The three, one of them the first among equals, usually one was his deputy. That would be Lee.

Binney: Yeah. I, I don't know how that's working now but ... Yeah, they were ... he went back to that thing and then ... Well, the Bureau's really gotten ... I think he's got 13, 14 Divisions now.

Boynton: Is that right?

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. It's getting a little unwieldy. Yeah.

Boynton: Well, you know, I recall the Bureau's budget. The last budget I testified about under Webster was 700 million, under 700 million, 650 million, I think. I read somewhere that now's it 2 billion, something number like that.

Binney: Really.

Boynton: That's twenty-five years ago, I realize that. And there's been growth.

Binney: Yeah. We squandered away a lot of money in computers and things like that. That was, that was Al Bayse's baby ... at the beginning, anyway.

Boynton: Al worked for me but he later resigned.

Binney: Yeah. And then a black woman that worked for him. I forget her name now.

Boynton: She took over?

Binney: She took over. Yeah. Yeah.

Boynton: I feel sorry for Mueller. When he came in, he said he would fix it and he just testified about the 170 million spent.

Binney: So under your control, it was not just Public Affairs?

Boynton: No, I had the Records Division and Administrative Division and Technical Services Division.

Binney: And that included both personnel and money?

Boynton: Yeah. It's, it's the whole thing – budget, transfers. Dick Long was an Assistant Director; Bill Bailey and – I had three. Oh, Al Bayse, computers. I had the Technical Services Division.

You know who lives near me now? Do you remember Jim Awe? He was in the Records Division for a long time.

Binney: Hmm. I remember Tom Bresson was ...

Boynton: Oh yeah.

Binney: Who was the Deputy? Al Mc Creight was the Assistant Director when, when I was there.

Boynton: But anyway ... yeah, I had those three Divisions and I kept the title of Director of Public Affairs.

Binney: That included Congressional, as well?

Boynton: No. No.

Boynton: Pat Gray separated, used to be together. Public Affairs and Congressional separately. Are they back together?

Binney: They were when I left.

Boynton: John Collingworth had 'em, had 'em both.

Boynton: Did you know John?

Binney: Yes. Yeah.

Boynton: He came down here to give a speech. Kind of low key, soft spoken, he did one heck of a fine job.

Boynton: I had it during the period of time when the Bureau was just under constant bombardment. The feeling was that you can't handle congressional affairs and all this terrible, criticism at the same time. I thought ... Kelley said it was too much. I wasn't vying for it. I said OK.

Binney: As I recall, that was a period of time where we just were trying, we were reeling from ... well, as you said, there were these old situations ... COINTELPRO... some of those were just coming around to bite us.

Boynton: Squad 47. I recall, and this was a good example of the type of man Clarence Kelley was. When he, when he gave me the job, he called me in and said I'm going to make you the head of Public Affairs. Don Moore was the Assistant Director. He said, "I want you to handle the press. Homer, I want you to do one thing. Just get along with them." He had two Assistant Directors who hated the press. He said, "Get along with them."

He also told me another little story. "The way I handled the press in Kansas City," he said, "a reporter came in one day on a murder case. I'd ask for the file. And the file would be on my desk. The reporter asked me a couple of questions. I answered a couple of questions. I told him I didn't think I could give him any more information. But I told him, I had to leave the office for about twenty minutes. And I left for twenty minutes. And that's how I handled the press." What he was telling me. You do this. You give a little more information than the Attorney General's guidelines.

But the story I want to tell you. One day I pick up the phone. The Washington Post. 76, 77. There are three front page stories all negative. Three stories. Bad news. You don't have many front page stories, maybe five. I went into Clarence. I got you three front page stories. He looked up and he said, "Homer, I don't think you understand what I want you to do."

And he had a little twinkle in his eye ... What a marvelous sense of humor... Webster would have screwed himself into the ceiling.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. I guess he had quite a temper. I, I was never ...

Boynton: Oh God.

Binney: ... never the object of that. Thank God.

Boynton: He had these steely blue eyes. His voice would drop. Now, most men I worked for where they just got mad, would get loud.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: His chin would jut out, and the steely blue eyes and you'd feel about three inches tall. He could be brutal. I remember when I left I was chatting with him. He really burned my ass a few times. He said, "I never did that." I said, "The hell you didn't."

Binney: (Laughing)

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. How soon ... how soon he forgets!

Boynton: OK he said, "Maybe a couple of times." "A couple of times you burnt me right out of this office."

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: He could be tough but a great boss. I have great affection for Bill Webster. Great admiration and respect for him.

Binney: Well he did bring, or try to, I think, he sort of led the charge to bring some respectability back to the Bureau. Even though, I agree with you that Clarence Kelley was a great, was a great boss ... but he was, he just couldn't get to first base with these guys.

Boynton: No. Now Clarence had the unfortunate role of replacing Hoover.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And, the house of cards came crashing down after Hoover died. And I'm not sure if Webster had been there in 1976 or during the period Kelley was there, 1973-77, late 77, it was just a case of everything going bad. I know people used to ask me how are we going to get out of this. I said, "We hope that some other government agency gets their tit in the ringer and the media goes to them."

Boynton: The only way we can get out. Reporters are like sheep. They go over to something, they go over there. The Bureau was under fire the whole time Clarence was there.

Binney: Let me ask you. Do you think a lot of it was because they couldn't get to first base with Hoover? And now the Bureau's a more open group, and they ...

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: ... and Kelley doesn't threaten them like Hoover did.

Boynton: I think that was part of it. But times change. You know that J. Edgar Hoover, you know, wasn't there very long ... under the Freedom of Information Act.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And, you know, I don't know how he would have survived under the FOIA. He also had such immense authority, respect, he was an icon. Only he was suffering brickbats at the end.

It was a combination at the end. The Freedom of Information Act, societal changes, more openness, post-Vietnam when the Government lied to people.

Binney: The post-Watergate thing.

Boynton: The ... oh yeah. The Watergate, so all of those things jumbled together. You had to handle media relations different. You had to handle congressional relations different. They all came out of schools, differently, investigative reports. Watergate changed all that.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Clarence redirected the Bureau. I think he redirected the Bureau more than Webster did. He goes into quality versus quantity, and got us out of a lot of statistical analysis.

Binney: That quality versus quantity was really a great concept. I mean, being a street Agent when that came down ... you know I got 30 cases but not one of them's really worth a darn. But, how are we going to account for each other ... or, you know, how, how are six guys going to account for one case and this sort of thing. But! ...

Boynton: Concentrate on the meaningful stuff. And ... you know he did some things in training which I'm not familiar with. Clarence was an innovative guy. He did a lot of innovative work in Kansas City and a lot of police departments adapted a lot of the stuff we did. He was Chief for 12 years, in Kansas City.

Binney: Yeah. (unintel)

Boynton: He came into the Bureau. And he probably would have done more if he had a senior staff that was more agreeable. Affirmative action. He tried very hard that way. He tried to put all the FBI stuff and the old items behind him by making that speech at Fulton Missouri. The Ex-Agents dubbed it the 'I'm sorry' speech. We put this speech together. We went over it several times. And essentially what it said was that "during the latter stages of the Hoover era he did get, perhaps a little beyond our bounds."

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: COINTELPRO, and stuff were beyond the bounds. So he made the speech at Fulton, Missouri, at Westminster College. That's where Winston Churchill made his Iron Curtain speech. It went over fairly well with the media. It did.

The Ex-Agents Society went bananas. A lot of people inside the Bureau went bananas. We don't have to apologize for that. Well. But I think it's kind of, after he made that speech, the reporters began to drift away. They began to look for stuff in the Department of Agriculture and some other places. But Kelley took a lot of heat for that speech.

Binney: From the ex-Agent's?

Boynton: From the ex-Agent's.

Binney: Yeah. When, about when was that speech?

Boynton: That was probably about 1976, 1977. Kelley retired in late 1977. Then there was an acting Director for a period of time. Jim Adams was acting, as a matter of fact.

I attended the Ex-Agents conference in Dallas. In 1986, 87. They introduced Kelley and he got a standing ovation. Really made my heart feel good. He really deserved it.

Some said he was too close to the Department. Too much influence. But he wasn't Hoover. Of all the people we could have had, I think Clarence was as good or better than anyone.

Binney: Had, had he ... he had retired from the Bureau to take the job?

Boynton: Yeah. He retired from the Bureau in 1960 and he was 12 years as Chief in Kansas City, and I think that's, well, maybe 1961, he was sworn in July 1973 as FBI Director.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: When Kelley announced his retirement, a search committee was established. Mayor Bradley of Los Angeles on it. A guy by the name of Tumulty from Boston. There were about ten members. We all had to make presentations before the search committee and they went out and they selected three people. One of them was Neil Welch. One of them was the President of Brigham Young University. Griffin Bell rejected all of them.

An interesting story. But anyway, he was up at some news place in Washington. I just can't think of it right now. To speak before a bunch of reporters. The National Press Club. And they asked him, they said, "Judge Bell, you know, you appointed this search committee to select a Director of the FBI and they met and you spent all this government money and they made their selection, and you didn't take any of them. What do you have to say about that?" "Well," he said. In that southern accent. Sometimes you just have bum ideas."

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: "And that was my idea and it was a bum one." (Laughing)

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: It was just a bum idea. And, then he got Bill Webster. Griffin invited me over. He called Kelley. Webster was selected before Kelley left. I'd like Homer to fly out to St. Louis and meet Judge Webster and we are going to have a press conference the next day. That's how that happened.

Binney: Yeah. Were they friends? Were Webster and Bell good friends?

Boynton: Webster and Kelley? No. They're both from Missouri so they may have known each other but no.

Binney: Yeah.

Binney: Opposite ends of the state, I guess?

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: St. Louis and Kansas City.

Boynton: They may have known each other. Webster knew so many people in Missouri.

I remember walking in the street in New York and people would come up and say, "Hi, Bill. How are you?" He just knew people all over the place.

He was an incredible, intelligent man. I remember him asking me how he should approach his task at the FBI. I said, "Well, Judge, you have constituencies. You got to take care of each one of them. One is the media. Another is the Congress. Another is DOJ. But the most important one. If you don't keep this one, you're lost. It's the employees of the FBI. That's the constituency you gotta keep with you. You might lose the media. You might lose the Congress. You might even lose the Justice Department. But, if you don't take care of that constituency of the employees of the FBI, you're done."

Boynton: So he came in and he was marvelous with the media, Congress loved him, Bell and Ben Civiletti all those guys over there at DOJ, Smith when he came in, I was gone, those guys would call him for advice. And they still are.

Binney: What was the biggest issue that you faced with him?

Boynton: With Webster?

Binney: Yeah. Because Kelley did, as you said, he, he had ...

Boynton: He had ...

Binney: ... fast balls coming down ...

Boynton: Yeah. Yeah. We had ABSCAM and then we had BRILAB. I don't ... well, that was just before I left. He was careful about those. I'll say this, he went forward with it. When you arrest congressmen, a lot of people thought that was entrapment. Turned out, it went through all the appellate process. You know, the Senator from New Jersey, and all Congressman, Kelly, who had the cash falling out of his pocket, on the video tape stuffing it in. Unbelievable.

Binney: Yeah. Now he was articulate. He just had such a command of, of issues. I remember when he came up to New York for the OC Conference ... when they arrested the, the commission and, you know, you brief that guy for five minutes he can talk for an hour on the same thing you just spent five minutes on. He was just brilliant.

Boynton: We went to Chicago for a speech to the Rotary Club and he and I sat together up there on the dais. And he's going to speak on White Collar Crime. And I picked up the brochure from the Rotary Club and saw that the speaker for the previous week was the Chief of Police of Chicago who spoke on White Collar Crime.

Binney: **(laughing)**

Boynton: So I said you might want to take a look at this. He said, "Good grief." He talked about Soviet espionage. "I'm not talking about White Collar Crime after the Chief did last week." He gave a wonderful speech on Soviet Espionage.

Boynton:

But the best thing I saw him do. In August of '79. Three agents were killed, Porter and Elmore, in El Centro and in Cleveland. I can't remember his name.

We were leaving that afternoon for the American Bar Association in Dallas, Texas. So we get down to the American Bar Association where we were going to spend the day. Then the funerals. Bob Porter was in El Centro. Charlie Elmore was in Portland, Oregon. And the other one was in Metropolis, Superman's home, in Illinois. . So anyway, we're debating how are we going to get to El Centro, that was a tough one. And we're going to call Dick and Lee back on the phone. You gotta get us, the judge and me, to El Centro ... not easy to do ...and then up to Portland, real quick.

And then we could probably fly commercial back to St. Louis and then take a Bureau flight over. So they call us back. We can't get you there by commercial. Well, let's rent an aircraft.

Webster says, "I'm not renting any aircraft or private plane and have Jack Anderson writing that I'm spending all this money, foolishly." He was lashing out at Dick and Lee. I said, "How about we take Doug and a couple of fellas, because I think we should have a real good Bureau representation out there. Then we hire a plane and divide it by seven guys and it's cheaper than commercial."

He was just looking for a good reason, you know, he said rent the plane. We took Dick Long and three or four Agents ...

The point of my story is we get there and Roger Young who was the SAC out there, we landed at an Air Force Base, it looked like an abandoned Air Force Base out there. We get in the car and Roger says, "Judge, the family would like you to say a few words." "I'm not prepared. Can I meet the family before?" We were just going to make the funeral. It was a Mormon ceremony. Put him up on the dais or altar or whatever it was. And he made a beautiful speech. He addressed each one of Bob's children. His mother and father. Unbelievable.

Boynton: So we get back there, we get on the plane and we roar up to Oregon. We get there ... Paul Mack is the SAC ... and we got the police and sirens through the town and we get to the church just as the ceremony is starting. Paul says to Webster, "The family would like you to say a few words." "Paul," he said, "where is the cemetery, where is that ceremony to be held? In back of the church. He said, "Can I do it there?" So we go out there and he makes the most eloquent, heartwarming speech. Quoting John Kennedy and philosophers and just heartwarming.

Then we got on the plane, commercial to St. Louis and we get there the next day. We get to the funeral home. He went in to see the family. He had two or three small children, blonde. He had tears in his eyes. He got up and he was so articulate. Just the off the cuff, ability to talk was unbelievable.

Binney: Phenomenal. I used to just be amazed at ... and I had very, very few contacts like that ... but the ones I did, I just (unintel)

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: You can see why he's where he is.

Boynton: We're driving up in Maryland one day and we're going through Frederick. And I mention Barbara Fritchie. Remember that poem, Barbara Fritchie. *This old head of gray hair but don't touch this flag.* So I started to into the poem and he finished the poem. Things like that, not even related to the Bureau. Erudite.

Binney: Yeah. Well, he had quite an educational background. I mean, and a little, a little bit of a silver spoon there.

Boynton: Oh yeah. He went to Amherst and he went to the University of Washington Law School in St. Louis.

Boynton: The swearing in ... you know they had ... Jimmy Carter came over, and Walter Mondale was there and Strom Thurmond, Teddy Kennedy, Griffin Bell, they all showed up.

Boynton: I was in the receiving line. I was first and then the Judge and his wife. I met the people first and then introduced them to him. I never met so many judges in my life. Coming through there. Warren Burger. Burger swore him in. Harry Blackmun. He and Blackmun were close friends.

Binney: Wow.

Boynton: His wife, Lynda, was kind enough to ask me to be the master of ceremonies at his 75th birthday. Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor.

Binney: Is that right!

Boynton: Ken Starr was there, you know, right in the middle of the Monica Lewinski thing.

All kinds of notables. Friends. It was a surprise birthday party for him. He had friends. Lee was there, Roger was there. Maybe John Otto. It was very lovely.

Binney: Well, how old is he now?

Boynton: I think he's about five years older than I am. So 83. In fact his birthday is this week. March 6th.

Boynton: I got his Christmas card, though. That picture card, he and Lynda went down to Argentina fly fishing.

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: He looked good.

Binney: I'm tellin' ya, the guy is robust and ...

Boynton: He sure is.

Binney: I forget where the heck the last time I saw him. It was a reception in Washington, though. And he remembered me, which I was absolutely shocked at!

Boynton: He's got a great memory for names.

Binney: (Laughing). Yeah ... yeah, still to this day. Yeah.

Boynton: He likes to needle me about a few things. Well, I remind him on one thing ... you know, he had a chauffeur named Joe Battle. He went to the airport to pick him up. Webster and Drue get off the plane and get all the luggage and take it out to stow it away. And the car had been towed away.

Binney: (Laughing) Oh geez.

Boynton: (Laughing) He told Battle not to tell anyone. I don't want anybody to hear about this. So one day I was sittin' there and he was needling me. So I said, "Well some guys have their car taken away by the police." "How did you find out about that?"

Binney: I imagine when things were going well, he had a good sense of humor.

Boynton: He did. He did have a good sense of humor.

Binney: But ...

Boynton: He rarely ... he rarely drinks, you know.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: I was at his house one night and there was a full group of people. Senator, Adlai Stevenson III. And he had a glass of wine. His wife, Drue, was very upset. He was kind of droll and funny. He had everybody rolling. And she is just mortified.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And he only had one glass of wine. Just enough to loosen him up a little.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And God he was funnier than hell.

Binney: (laughing) Yeah. I'm sure there are a few people at the Bureau that wouldn't even believe that one.

Boynton: Oh, no. I don't suppose so.

Binney: Say, one other thing I remember people told me about was he used to fall asleep in briefings.

Boynton: Yes. But don't let that fool you ... he would, he must have had low blood sugar or something. But he would, he'd kinda close his eyes ... but boy, I'll tell you, you made a misstatement and somehow or other he'd be awake. "Wait a minute," you know, he, he'd wake up ... but particularly if somebody was new. Is he alright? I think he'd take a power nap for about three minutes and then he'd be right back.

Binney: Did he have AD Conferences? And how about Kelley too?

Boynton: Yeah, both of them. They both had, what did they call them...

Binney: Executive Conferences.

Boynton: Clarence had them and Webster had'em.

Binney: Regularly?

Boynton: Yeah. Yeah. You know, then like any executive, he'd call one or two of us in. I used to go in ... Webster had breakfast every morning, at the Bureau, in that little dining room. Before it was set up for everyone. And I used to go in almost every morning. I'd have something from the morning paper. "Boss, how about this. I had calls on this. How should we answer that?" So I used to meet him one on one a lot. Just the nature of the Public Affairs office. You really speak for him and you better know what the hell he wants to say. I was very fortunate. I had good relationships with both those guys. I admired and respected them.

Binney: I think Kelley ... Kelly, too, had a good understanding of the press and ...

Boynton: Yeah. He did.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: He had a very good understanding. And so did Webster. But Kelley also couldn't do it the old way.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: You just can't hand them a press release and expect them to accept it.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And that's what was under Hoover ... it was a marvelous system, you know. It was a marvelous system you just tell everyone how good the Bureau was.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: I'll tell ya, I was there for five years when the proverbial hit the fan. But, man ...

Binney: That was a tough time. Yeah.

Boynton: Wow.

Binney: That was a tough time.

Boynton: There was stuff that I never knew the Bureau was doing and reporters knew it and there were guys who were leaking it to them.

Binney: Well FOIA was coming out and there was stuff getting out of that,

Boynton: Oh yeah.

Binney: ... that place every day that ...

Boynton: There'd be some reporter calling, the *New York Times*, calling in for some report, talking about some story, you know. You wanted to tell them to go screw themselves. But did you want to read that, fine. If you want to read our side of the story (unintel)

Binney: But it was the old school.

Boynton: The old school. Tell 'em to go to hell, you know.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: That was hard for the old-timers, you know, Callahan, Jenkins. Hoover stayed too long. Oh man, they were all over me. What do you mean? He was the greatest living American.

Binney: Yeah. Also under your, your purview was the Legat operation ... when you first got down there?

Boynton: When I went down to the Bureau.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: I had something like 18.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Now they got them in Moscow, Beijing, Iraq ...

Binney: Latvia ... Riga, Latvia.

Boynton: Riga, Latvia. What the heck is Latvia?

Binney: Well, it was a funny story actually. Louie Freeh visited Riga, and the President said, "I want a Legat." And Louie said, "No, we cover that out of Moscow." And the guy said, "No, no, no."

Boynton: (laughing). No way.

Binney: We're done with the Russians, you know. And Louie came back and said, you know, "We gotta put one in Riga and it'll cover the three countries," but, ...

Boynton: No.

Binney: ... they don't want anything to do with Russia.

Boynton: And they've got a police school in Budapest.

Binney: Yeah. Beautiful operation.

Boynton: Have you been there?

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. I gave the opening address to the ...

Boynton: Is that right!

Binney: And it is phenomenal, Homer.

Boynton: Oh my gosh.

Binney: Yeah. We train 40 police officers ... well, when we opened it, it was 40. Ten from each country of four countries. Translation booths in the back ... real-time translation so that ... instructors were all out of Quantico or the Bureau, and they're presenting, you know, whatever they're talking about ... White Collar, this, that, or the other thing, and these guys are hearing it in their native language. And ...

Boynton: think of the friendships in the National Academy ...

Binney: It's not National Academy but they're all members of the NA grads ... when they graduate ... which I thought was a stroke of genius. Somebody down at Quantico ...

Boynton: Those National Academy members are worth their weight in gold.

Binney: ... and they get they're seal and the NA grad, and the ... and, you know, going overseas now ...and all those, all those Eastern border countries ...

Boynton: After I retired from American Airlines, I ran my own consulting company on the island here for a few years.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: I could get out that National Academy directory and call the high ranking guy in, say Cairo. This is Homer Boynton with the FBI. Sure, what do you need?

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. I found the same thing. I, I ...

Boynton: What was your last job?

Binney: I was one of Louie's Deputies. I followed Floyd.

Boynton: Ahh.

Binney: When Floyd retired, I became Freeh's Deputy for about the next year or so, and then I got ...

Boynton: So you had a nice big office (unintel)
Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: Lee Colwell's old office. I used to ask Alta ... remember Alta?

Boynton: Oh yeah.

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: Alta, Mary and Nancy.

Binney: Yeah. I used to say, "All right, tell me some stories Alta (unintel)." (laughing)

Boynton: Give her a hard time.

Binney: Yes. She, she, and Glover was another one of my favorite people ... John Glover.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: And he preceded Floyd, I think ... into that ... no, was it ... I forget ... sequence, but ...

Boynton: I know John fairly well. John and I were good friends. We used to have a travel group. Everyone's gotten too old. We used to travel to the Broadmoor, the Cloisters.

Binney: A wonderful guy.

Boynton: I served on a State Department committee with him. Overseas advisory group.

Binney: Yeah. He got me ... he got me ... yeah, as soon as I ... I took a

Boynton: What'd you do when you retired?

Binney: I became the Director of Security for IBM.

Boynton: Oh.

Binney: Up in New York. And John was ...

Boynton: So you were on OSAC?

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: ... after I left.

Binney: Yes it was. But John was active in it.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: And he called me down ... funny story ... we're not supposed to tell war stories in these things, but I will anyway. But, he called me down for lunch. I hadn't been there a week yet ... he said, "Come on down, I want to talk to you." So I came down to New York and Bristol Meyers (unintel). He said, "I'm going to tell you two things. First of all, the wheel has already been invented. All you do is pick up the phone and ask one of us. Don't worry about it." He said, "The second thing is don't make it look too easy." (Laughing)

Boynton: (Laughing)

Binney: He said cause these guys think, you know, and he (unintel) and he says to me, "frown your brow a little," you know, go like this, make it look ... see what I can do. You know. And he says, "Dave, their worst day would not even make a ripple in the Bureau." He said, you know, "but don't make it look too easy." (laughing)

Boynton: When I was with American Airlines it was the same way.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Same way. You know, I would get a memo on terrorists or skyjacking or something. I'd talk to the Chairman. Keep them nervous, just keep them nervous.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah.

Boynton: Oh, thank God, we have Homer.

Binney: John was ... he was wonderful. So. But he got me in OSAC and that's a good organization.

Binney: Anyway, I was telling Alta and she had, she was telling me the list of people who had had that office. And I said whew, this is ...

Boynton: Lee.. Well, Jim Adams. She was there with him. He was in ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Yeah. John Mintz, and then Floyd was, I don't know whether Floyd was after Mintz, or ...

Binney: Well, Louie created the one Deputy and Floyd took that office. I'm not sure whether ... I don't think Buck was in that office. He went out to Dallas.

Boynton: Yeah. You know, even with Lee and Don and I, we were all Executive Assistant Directors but Lee was the number one guy.

Binney: He had that ... Louie used to call it the Hoover door.

Boynton: The Hoover door. Right.

Binney: (Laughing) He'd come in the back way ...

Boynton: See Clyde Tolson. Gee, it's been a long time. Twenty-six years.

Binney: Yeah. Eleven. But anyway, as I said, I'm not supposed to ... we're not supposed to engage in MY (*stressed my*) war stories. (laughing)

Boynton: Right.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. Let's see ... can, can we go back to New York and, and any of big FCI cases that you might have worked there.

Boynton: Yeah, there's a couple, you know, they have kind of faded into obscurity, but big cases.

Binney: They had the TOPHAT and the, the other ... the other guy.

Boynton: TOPHAT, FEDORA...

Binney: FEDORA. That's right. Yeah.

Boynton: Matter of fact I was there. TOPHAT. I was involved in surveillance with him. Some other Agent Ed Moody, lives over in East Tennessee, contacted TOPHAT. And John Mabey ended up being principal contact. When TOPHAT went to Thailand, . You know TOPHAT was killed over in Russia.

Binney: Yeah. Ames.

Boynton: No. Dick Hanssen.

Binney: Oh. Oh, really!

Boynton: Well, if my memory serves me. I think it was Hanssen.

Binney: Oh. They were considering murder charges against Hanssen.

Boynton: Really?

Binney: Yeah. They didn't ...

Boynton: I think I read that.

Binney: He should have been.

Boynton: But anyway ... oh,

Boynton:

Another case was John Butenko. Butenko worked for an Air Force contractor over in New Jersey. He had a lot of documents and he'd bundle it up and they'd meet over in New Jersey. We arrested him one night and he had ... he got thirty years I think.

We had TOPHAT, FEDORA. Cases of some consequence. Not of the Rosenbergs or something like that.

Binney: It was quite a competition between WFO and New York and WFO always felt like they were second rate because they never had ... you know ...

Boynton: Well they were! ...

Binney: ... any of, any of their turncoats.. You know ... (laughing)

Boynton: That's right. They didn't have any TOPHAT, FEDORA, I can't think of the other one.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: We had another one we developed, but he went home and we never heard from him again. He was a hat of some kind.
maybe.

Binney: The other two were ... got novels it was written about.

Boynton: I wonder about FEDORA, if he ever ... And TOPHAT was Dimitri Polyakof? We can say them because they probably dead. Polyakof is dead, it was in the papers some time ago. Ames sank a few people and Hanssen sank the rest.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton:

Binney:

Boynton:

Binney: Oh!

Boynton:

Binney: Yeah. Was that, was that at the 69th Street office?

Boynton: Rosenberg case, of course, that was before my time. In the late 50's and 60's we had some good work done with the Soviets.

Binney: Yeah. That, that was the peak of the ...

Boynton: Yeah. It really was kind of the peak. Then after I left, we had the Air Force guys and there was a whole series of spy cases. But that was after my time in New York.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. Anything around the Cuban Missile Crisis? Were you still in New York then?

Boynton: Ahhh ... let me see, that was ... yeah ...there wasn't much going on with that. Or if there was I wasn't aware of it. Those were the only cases of any magnitude I worked. Then I had that personnel job for three years. And automobile accidents. Remember when we held the Agents responsible.

Binney: Oh, yeah. Yeah. And in New York City ... that was something. ...

Boynton: I wrote one up and sent it down. And John Moore was supposed to have said, (I don't know if it's true or not), that it was the greatest work of fiction that he had ever read.

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: Worked hard to get those. I don't think I ever had an Agent held responsible.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: But one time two guys with brand new cars are going up Second Avenue and they both smack into one another.

Binney: Oh geez.

Boynton: Boom! Totaled both new cars.

Binney: Is that right.

Boynton: There was a kid who jumped in front of the cars. We couldn't find the kid.

Binney: Or a deer or something.

Boynton: Yeah. Kind of hard to have a deer on Second Avenue.

Binney: Or somebody ... somebody made a disparaging remark about Hoover, you know, in a bar. I loved that.

Boynton: Right. Right.

Binney: That, that was one of the best.

Boynton: That's how I got into a fight, defending Mr. Hoover....

Binney: Oh geez.

Boynton: Crazy stories. I'll tell ya, I could talk all day. Yeah. I was going too fast. Oh no, no, no

Binney: (Laughing) No, no, no ... I didn't say that.

Boynton: I don't want to know that ... let me ask the questions.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: That was a different Bureau. You know, I remember when I had that job, from 69 to 72, if a single girl in New York and anywhere else in the Bureau became pregnant, outside of wedlock, they were fired.

Binney: Really.

Boynton: Before I left the Bureau, in 1980, if a single girl became pregnant out of wedlock I was sending her letters of congratulations. That's over a period of ten years. Talk about changes. But the world changed. The Bureau had to adapt. It's a whole new Bureau. I know I couldn't work in the Bureau today. Computers, etc.

Binney: Well, the kids all have cell phones. They've got ...Everybody's issued a laptop on graduation.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: Yeah. I have a son that's in the Bureau.

Boynton: Oh, do you!

Binney: He's up at WFO and ...

Boynton: Oh great.

Binney: ... his Bureau and my Bureau are two different places. And ... and, you know I had a lot of fun in the Bureau. I loved New York. I have some great friends up there ... and Steve often says, he says, "I don't think I'm having as much fun as you did."

Boynton: Really.

Binney: Yeah. And I said, "What do you mean?" And he says, "Well, you used to have," you know, "a lot of your friends would get together and that sort of thing and," he says, "we don't do that anymore." They sort of like a, you know, eight to five and then they go home ...

Boynton: Yeah, I've heard that from ... from other people ...

Binney: Yeah. The camaraderie is not there.

Boynton: We had a camaraderie and sometimes a dangerous camaraderie. Popping down booze and stuff. It's a different type of Agent I guess.

New York, having served there. And we took a lot of abuse from the rest of the country. Oh you served in New York, yes, and goddamn it I'm proud of it and it was one hell of an office to work in. Tough to work, tough to cover one lead.

Binney: Yeah. Tough doing the work, tough getting to work, but it was the best work in the Bureau.

Boynton: Yes, it was.

Binney: But God it was the best work in the Bureau.

Boynton: I was there seventeen years.

Binney: I was only there six, but ...they were six good years.

Boynton: You had enough.

Binney: That we had the ... took the whole OC ...

Boynton: What did you ... what were you doing?

Binney: I was a supervisor of Organized Crime and ... under Frank Story ... was the ASAC ...

Boynton: Oh!

Binney: Yeah. Yeah.

Boynton: You know I'm thinking of Tom Story.

Binney: Frank was ... he came out of Philadelphia. He was a supervisor in Philadelphia and then became ASAC of OC in New York and that's when ... God, come on Dave ... ADIC ...

Boynton: Oh yeah. The one that came out of Security, I think.

Binney: He had about three SACs and then he was the ADIC ... and I'll be darned if I can remember his name.

Boynton: I think I know the guy you're referring to.

Binney: But ... there was Brietzing and there was the ...

Boynton: This guy ... this guy died, I think, the one you're referring to.

Binney: Yes. Yes, he did. But we had ... God, isn't that awful, I can't remember the names now ... but the guy with the raincoat over his shoulder ... always ...

Boynton: Oh ... Oh, oh, oh ... Kenny Walton.

Binney: Kenny Walton.

Boynton: Kool-aid.

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: (Laughing) ... what a character.

Binney: (Laughing) And ... you know, we had a lot of fun. It was, it was fun. It was great work. We had five OC Squads and 270 wiretaps from the beginning to the end of that thing ... three years ... over three years.

Boynton: I don't think there are the characters in the Bureau that there were in those days. It's kind of cookie cutter now, everyone comes out and I don't think that about your son. But there used to be real oddballs. You wondered how did he ever get here? That type of guy always seemed to get the work done.

Boynton: Guy that put together a motorcycle in his apartment. He lives up in Stuyvesant Town. Brought it up piece by piece. And he's testing it. Br-oom, broooom, Br-oom. The neighbors are calling. He's on the 18th floor. Marty Hackenthal, drank beer all night. Four o'clock in the morning. He had all these beer cans in trash baskets. He dump all the beer cans and wake everyone up. We got a call. Do you have an agent by the name of Hackenthal, or something? Marty is causing all kinds of disruption with his beer cans. Marty for Christ sake, can't you throw away your beer cans during the day? But those types of characters. Don't have any more.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. There was a story ... I think you probably were there. There was an aircraft hijacking out of Poughkeepsie and the ...

Boynton: Yeah!

Binney: ... and the Agent shot and killed the hijacker.

Boynton: Yep. Yeah.

Binney: And the Agent was a little ...

Boynton: Kenny Lovin.

Binney: ... overweight.

Boynton: Yep. Kenny Lovin.

Binney: And Hoover wanted to personally congratulate him and he was overweight. (Laughing)

Boynton: They didn't dare do that. (laughing)

Binney: I had heard that but I wasn't there then.

Boynton: Kenny Lovin killed the guy out at Kennedy ... but this guy, I know who you're talking, he was a Senior RA in Poughkeepsie. He's long gone now.

Binney: ... and they were trying to figure out all kinds of ways to get him down to Washington and finally told him that, "Mr. Hoover he's in court ... can't get him out of court."

Boynton: Yeah. One time I drove out to the airport on a hijacking. And from the years I handled Hoover, I had this Cadillac. I used to drive it and test it just so it would run ok. So I'm out on Ditmar Boulevard out in Queens and all of a sudden it comes on the radio, we have a hijacking. John Malone is on the air so I decide to go to the hijacking.

I take that car and, man, I think I passed a couple of Bureau cars. Hoover's car with the sirens going and I roared up to the hanger wherever. Malone looks and he turns ash white. What the hell are you doing here? Well, hell, it's a hijacking, you called for help. You get in that goddamn car and get out of here as fast as you can. I don't want any help from that car.

Binney: (Laughing) Or worse yet ... worse yet, show up on the news!

Boynton: (Laughing) ... on the news. Oh God, he had apoplexy.

Binney: Oh geez.

Boynton: He didn't want Hoover's car out there.

Binney: It's the one office, I think, in the entire Bureau, that the stories are legend.

Boynton: Absolutely, they are.

Binney: And they, they still do fantastic work.

Boynton: (unintel). I remember sitting there and asking some guy how he was. Well, down in (unintel) we had sunshine, beautiful day. Another one, well I don't understand it, I only had snow and the guy from Long Island says we had sleet. All guys in the same office but all this different weather. ...

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: Huge area. I know I commuted from Levittown, Pennsylvania, Every day for five years. Every day. I got a 5:40 train from Trenton. I had been in the Philadelphia office and I couldn't afford to move. And so I got transferred and I'd get on the train and it was about 2 hours and ten minutes to get to the office. I'd get there 7:10, 7:15. The guys from Stuyvesant Town would get there at 8:14 and half.

Boynton: And I'd leave at 6 and be home by eight fifteen at night. But I was 26, 27, 28 years old. Hell I didn't see my kids except on weekends. But you had to ... And I wasn't the only one. There were about six or seven guys.

Binney: Wow. They come into Penn Station?

Boynton: They come in to Penn Station. The old office was on 69th and Third Avenue and we took three subways to get there.

Binney: Wow.

Boynton: When you were there, were you at Foley Square?...

Binney: Yeah. I'd come in and grab the ... Lexington Ave. ... I guess it was Lex Ave ... and then we'd come right down the Brooklyn Bridge.

Boynton: Where from?

Binney: Danbury.

Boynton: Danbury. Yeah.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Okay. That was a long commute.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. That was long ...

Boynton: You had the same thing.

Binney: I couldn't afford ...

Boynton: Take the train or did you drive?

Binney: Well, when I had a car, a Bu car ... I'd come down to 86th Street, you know, I had a little decal ...

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: ... so I could park it ...

Boynton: Right.

Binney: ... and just take the subway in.

Boynton: Yeah. You probably had a beautiful place to live.

Binney: I could afford it ... you know, I mean, we even looked in Westchester and the property taxes were astronomical.

Boynton: Oh, I think the guys in Headquarters are doing that.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: There out in Fredericksburg ... well, Fredericksburg is close.

Binney: They got a good deal now.

Boynton: Do they?

Binney: I'm not sure, I think it's a ... either, I think it's a nine month TDY. They'll bring a Field Supervisor in, nine month TDY at Headquarters and then let him go back and wait to be an ASAC. So they cut out, really, two moves.

Boynton: Yeah. That's good. Cut expenses plus hardship.

Binney: Because what they've gone back to ... Their going back to that First Office transfer. There was a lot of years where, you know, the guys would be in their First Office ten years ... now he's going back to 18 months, I think ... and trying to get them out to a big office.

Boynton: Yeah.

Binney: But cutting out those two moves to make ... and then they got the, the, what we used to call the rent-a-goona where the ... you don't have to be on the staff you can just be on the staff from the field office and do six or eight inspections and not have to make that move. So, ...

Boynton: Boy that's a ...

Binney: ... and that's a time, you know, that you've got your kids are teenagers or they, you know, they're late ten and 12 ...

Boynton: That's why I got off the desk. I just didn't want to drag my kids through those moves. ASAC, SAC, Inspection, Aide, Inspector ... you know, I mean it was just back and forth, back and forth. I was never an ASAC; I was never on Inspection Staff ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: There's not too many guys who had a career like mine.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: You have to realize, I was never an Assistant Director, never a Bureau Supervisor, I was never a Unit Chief. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Binney: Were you ... you're not an SAC?

Boynton: Never an SAC....

Binney: Yeah but the Admin ASAC in New York?

Boynton: Well, no, that was just a Grade 14 when I had it.

Binney: Oh really.

Boynton: Oh yeah.

Binney: They got an Admin SAC now.

Boynton: Oh I remember. I know they do. I was just a Grade 14 and when I left Bob Matthieson came in.

Binney: Yep.

Boynton: Remember Bob?

Binney: Yep. Yep.

Boynton: And they gave him a 15.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And they changed it, as they should have.

Binney: Uhm-hmm.

Boynton: It had been that way for years when I had it. It was kind of a prestigious job, you know, you handled ...

Binney: Kept the SAC out of trouble.

Boynton: It did that. Joe Ponder was SAC at that time. All that personnel stuff, investigate that stuff. You'd have to understand what to sweep under the rug. You just couldn't put it all out there. You'd go home with a nervous stomach. You wonder about the guy you gave a second go round to, who tore up an anonymous letter, that your faith in him was ok.

Binney: Yeah. Did you ever work with Joe Sullivan when he was up there? The Criminal SAC.

Boynton: Yes. Joe was there when I was there, but I was on the Soviet so I didn't work for Joe.

Binney: Uh-huh. Yeah. And who was the SAC?

Boynton: Well, I started with Joe Schmit.

Binney: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Boynton: And then Vick Turin and then I moved over to Administration and then it was Joe Ponder and he was replaced by Dick Baker.

Binney: Yes. Yeah. That's the only area I knew and he became an Assistant Director.

Boynton: Well, he's was also SAC in Philadelphia for awhile. Malone was there. Harvey Foster was there when I first got there. And Malone was there when I left.

Binney: Yeah. They all had their nicknames too, didn't they?

Boynton: Yeah. Yeah. Well Malone treated me awful good. There was no other Assistant Director that survived twelve years in that office. Twelve years. He was great on public relations, made speeches. And he let the SACs run the office. But there are a lot of funny stories about Malone.

Boynton: Supposedly, he got on the elevator one morning and there was some steno that he knew that had an auto accident the night before. And he supposedly said, "I understand you got banged the night before." Anyway... Oh God, there were so many funny stories about John Malone. But he was good to me.

You could never tell him anything because he told the Bureau. He was up front about that. If you tell it to me, I'll tell it to the Bureau. Which kind of told you that it was your level of responsibility if you wanted to dump something. It ain't me. I agree with him. He shouldn't be holding back stuff. Anyway, be that as it may.

Binney: Well, the Bureau back then was a different Bureau than ...

Boynton: Oh it was. Hoover. The phone would ring and it was Hoover. Well, you remember at Headquarters, the ring from the Director's Office. *Reeeeng*. Did it still do it when you were there.

Binney: Nah.

Boynton: Did they stop that?

Binney: Since he had left, died, ...

Boynton: Well, it was still there when Webster was Director. The ring and the little red light. And they had it rigged so it wouldn't stop ringing.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: It was just like a fire alarm. And whenever it rang, everybody got excited. The secretaries about had apoplexy. The Director's calling, the Director's calling.

But it's just, just like that phone but it just kept ringing until he answered it. Holy Moley.

Binney: What, did he just pick it up and have it automatically set to ring?

Boynton: Of course, he dialed dial your number ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: ... you know, and, and it would just ring.

Binney: Oh God.

Boynton: I guess somebody must have stopped.

Binney: No. I, I didn't have any of that.

Boynton: Awwhh man ... you'd have a visitor too, you know, visiting and they'd go, "what that, the fire alarm?" (laughing)

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: And your secretary, "The Director's calling." I can hear it!

Binney: Yeah. Did you ever run into Miss Gandy?

Boynton: No. I talked to her on the phone.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And then, of course, I met her at an Ex-Agents occasion and I presented an award to her and I think in 1978.

Binney: Oh. Yeah.

Boynton: She was there. I dealt with Dottie Skillman, who was Tolson's secretary.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: I was interviewed by Tolson once and it was one of the worst experiences in the entire Bureau. But anyway, he was a tough bird. I went in to see Hoover and I was handling him in New York. And, I was also in charge of recruiting and so I go see Hoover and we chatted. He did most of the talking. Everything fine. And the next day I had to see Tolson. So I go in to see him. A very dour looking man. So I see here that New York, you're down three on your recruiting." We, of course, had a quota in New York. Then he said, "And I see you're down for recruiting in Washington too." So I said, "Mr. Tolson, can I see those figures?"

Boynton: "These figures are incorrect." He said, "What?" They're off. I know they're off. So anyway, I go back to in-service. Ponder came bolting into in-service. "You told him these figures were incorrect." I said, "I'm telling you they're wrong." Then, Jim Adams got into the act. I'm telling you the figures are wrong.

Anyway, I go into Tolson. They had a driver by the name of Harold Carr. Harold had been driving them for years. Harold had a diary. When I die, I want to give you that diary. When Hoover and Tolson were younger they went out and around. People talk about Hoover being gay. I think they had some broads up there somewhere. I think it was just the opposite. And Harold knew all about it.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: But anyway I went in to see Tolson, still about the recruiting in New York. He said,, "What are you doing about getting us a new chauffeur in New York? Who's driving?" Well, I didn't know that Mr. Hoover wanted a new driver. He said, "Well Harold Carr is just too old!" Tolson was all of 76.

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: And Harold is about 72. "I just talked to Mr. Hoover yesterday, he didn't say anything about it." "Well, I'm telling you. And I, I don't know why you're not doing something about this." Rest assured that as soon as I get back to New York, we'll have a new driver. What a tough man to deal with.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: ... and Harold was 73. If they ever had an accident, those three old farts wouldn't be able to do anything anyway ...

Binney: Harold was assigned to New York?

Boynton: Oh yeah. He was an Agent. He was made an Agent. He was one of the first group of blacks that they made Agents. ...

Binney: Oh, oh, okay. Black Agent.

Boynton: I think they went to firearms. But I mean Harold was decrepit.

Binney: Did he know New York City to drive in?

Boynton: Oh, he knew New York City ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And ... you know who used to drive? I had to think of ways to keep him busy and to get rid of them. He drove Mrs. Lincoln Cromwell. Now that name doesn't mean anything to you, and didn't mean anything to me either at first. And Mrs. Lincoln Cromwell was the sister of a guy by the name of Kenny Cromwell. He was a notorious cafe society drunk. But Mrs. Cromwell fell in love with General MacArthur and Harold was the chauffeur for Mrs. Cromwell. Mrs. Cromwell (unintel) also the sweetheart of General Pershing, this goes way back in the 30s (laughing).

Binney: Whoa!

Boynton: And when Pershing, Harold told me, "It's all in my diary, Homer, it's all in my diary."

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: When Pershing found out that MacArthur is doing this, he sent him out to the Phillipines. Not the second time. Sent him to the Phillipines.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: He's making love in the back seat with Mrs. Cromwell.

Binney: Are you serious!

Boynton: And then ...

Anyhow, Harold used to tell me these stories. He told me about wild parties out in New Jersey. "Oh yeah, Mr. Hoover went to wild parties."

Binney: Yeah. God, where is that diary?

Boynton: One night ... oh, one day I get a call from the chauffeur. I'd gotten a new chauffeur ... this is not Harold, I got a new chauffeur, Tom Judge. He calls me one Sunday morning ... Hoover's coming in the afternoon. He said, "Homer, I'm sick. I just can't perform today." So, I said, "Well don't worry, we have a backup for this." And we did, Jimmy Young, another black Agent. He's away on a fishing trip somewhere. So I called Nick Callahan. I said, "Nick", he was about ready to put Hoover on the train, ... I said, "Tom Judge is sick and Jimmy Young is away on a fishing trip. And he gets all excited, "What are we going to do?"

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: "I'll drive him." "You're going to drive?" Geez, I know how to drive a car. "Well, I'll tell Mr. Hoover." I spent three days as a chauffeur with a hat on, not a chauffeur hat but I had my fedora.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: So anyway, one night ... I pick them up at Abercrombie and Fitch ... So, one night we go to this restaurant called Le Cote Basque. And it was run by a lady by the name of Henrietta Spalter. Henrietta had been mistress of a great chef at the Waldorf. Henri Soleil. That's his name. Very famous fifty, sixty years ago. Henrietta was his mistress and they had a son named Albert. I knew Albert too. So anyway, I drive up to Le Cote Basque, you know, with all the other Cadillacs and get Mr. Hoover and Clyde in there. And Henrietta brings out a dessert for me, you know, I'm just sitting there eating the dessert, all the other chauffeurs wondering who this was.

Anyway, Hoover and Tolson come out and Henrietta is on Hoover's arm. And he's smooching a little bit with her. Tolson gets in the car and I'm holding the door. Thinking to my self, six thousand agents would like to see this tonight.

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: (Laughing) She said, "Meester Hoover, you must come tomorrow night and we will have the most magnificent evening together." He said, "I'm sorry, Henrietta, I have other plans." He didn't have any other plans but that's what he told her. Henrietta throws her arms around him. (laughing). So then she looks at me and she said, "Bonsoir, Monsieur." I said, "Bonsoir, Madame." (laughing)

Binney: (Laughing)

Boynton: And I get in the car and I drive them back. That's a funny story. Who would have thought. But I'll tell ya ... I don't know whether he was a switch-hitter, I don't think so. This was pretty hetero. And he was 74 and she was 68. Man, he had his arms around her and I thought boy, oh boy, oh boy.

Binney: Did Clyde say anything?

Boynton: No, no he was just sitting in the car, waiting for Hoover to finish with Henrietta.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Anyways, Tolson again. When they leave the Waldorf, I always go up to the room to make sure they haven't left anything. I look in the waste basket in Hoover's bedroom, right next to the bed. They had a big suite at the Waldorf. A big sitting room in the middle and Hoover's bedroom on one side and Tolson's on the other. So in the wastebasket next to the night stand was a beautiful penlight. Years ago you'd have a light that was also a pen. I tried it. It worked. Well, he must have knocked it off the nightstand and it went into the wastebasket. At least a letter of commendation, I might get an incentive award. So I call a man by the name of Rufus Beaver. Rufus worked in Tolson's office. I got this penlight, and I'm going to ship it down to you. Tolson accidentally dropped it. So I called Rufus. Did you get the penlight? Take it in to Mr. Tolson? Oh yeah. Tolson said, "Goddammit, I threw this thing away in New York and I don't want to see it again."

So much for the letter of commendation and the incentive award.

Binney: Yeah. What a pair. What a pair.

Boynton: I wish I could think of some Kelley stories. And Webster. Some personal stories.

When you're the Public Affairs guy, Roger, Baker, myself, you travel with him. You're in hotel rooms, late at night ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Oh I do have a story on Webster. We're at the Hotel Utah. He'd finished his speech, went back up to the room and there's me and, I don't know, maybe the SAC and Drue his wife. And there are some peanuts on a table and he's eating them. Drue says to him, "Bill, that's enough on the peanuts." He had a little water or something and ate some more peanuts. "Bill ... that's enough peanuts. I don't want to see you eat anymore peanuts." He turned to me, he says, "Now I know why J. Edgar Hoover was a bachelor." (laughing)

Binney: (Laughing) Is that right? Whew! Out of ear shot, though.

Boynton: Yeah. Yeah. (unintel) "Now I know why J. Edgar Hoover was a bachelor." He and Drue got along wonderfully well. She was a marvelous woman. Then she got cancer and died.

Binney: Kelley ... his wife died ...

Boynton: Yeah. Ruby. Went to that funeral.

Binney: When he was Director?

Boynton: When he was Director.

Binney: And, then Webster's as well.

Boynton: Webster's as well.

Binney: Wow. That's really ironic.

Boynton: Well, and both of them married to these women for over forty years. And both of them remarried.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: She was a very, very nice lady.

Binney: Really an attractive lady ... and

Boynton: Very attractive ...

Binney: ... classy.

Boynton: ... and classy lady.

Binney: Yeah. Well they, you know, those were tough times that his wife was sick for four years ... and running the Bureau.

Boynton: Yeah.

Boynton: That's how the valance thing happened with Kelley. He's dealing with was Ruby's dying of cancer and going back and forth to Kansas City, trying to get the Bureau running the way he wants to, dealing with Congress

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: So he rents this apartment and Ruby comes to see it and makes the comment on the valances. I think it was the only time she was ever in it. Hell, he didn't even know what a valance was but I already told you that story.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: It was too bad. It was really kinda was a blot on his career for awhile and it was really nothing.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: But again, Clarence was a ... Clarence was a Chief of Police and an Agent and he was far better with local police than Webster was.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Kelley would go to International Association of Chiefs of Police. And they loved to have their picture's taken with Kelley. And they did. Then Public Affairs had the job of figuring out who was who. Then he'd sign them all and you'd send them out. Webster found that troublesome.

Boynton: A good Kelley story. We were up, he was going to give a speech at Harvard. The plane arrived early and we had a couple of hours. I forget who the SAC was, Dick somebody, and so he says, "Let's take a little ride." So we go around in the Boston suburbs. SO we're passing this town hall police department and SAC Dick Bates (that's his name), says, "The Chief in there is a National Academy Graduate." Clarence says I want to go see him. So we pull into the parking lot. Dick goes in first, next thing you know the Chief and the Deputies all rush out and Clarence is shaking hands all around. Oh you got to see the Mayor, he's at a Council meeting. And he took him over. And that's a typical Clarence Kelley story. And he loved it.

Boynton: Webster wouldn't do that.

Binney: He was a, a little bit aloof.

Boynton: A little bit aloof. That was his style.

Binney: Oh yeah. He was one of, one of them.

Boynton: Clarence loved those guys and they respected him. The Police Chiefs loved Clarence. But Webster they respected him. Certainly respected his intelligence.

Binney: Yeah. Did you provide the briefing papers ... did your office set up the briefing papers for both of those testimonies ... in the hearing?

Boynton: No. That was Congressional.

Binney: Oh, was it?

Boynton: I'd do the press conferences. Come up with all the possible questions you could have. Kelley was pretty good on his feet. Webster was better. And of course you salt a few questions with some friendly reporters.

I remember one time when we were really, criticism was coming down, raining like a cloud burst on top of us. So we're going to have this press conference. So I get a couple of reporters, Ed Rogers, he was UPI, he was just lovely. Ed here's a question I'd like you to ask.

Boynton: So we get about fifteen minutes into the press conference, thirty minute press conference, I told everyone thirty minutes, so Clarence is trying to answer all these terrible questions. So Rogers gets up about fifteen minutes into the conference. Mr. Kelley, asks the question and Clarence runs on for fifteen minutes. And I call the end of the conference. Poor guys.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Called manipulating the press I guess.

Binney: Oh, geez. That's great. Yeah. I guess Webster didn't need that kind of ...

Boynton: No, not really. He was pretty good. But he blew it one time. There was a small press group, run by this guy, Godfrey Sperling. Godfrey was a Bureau Chief of the Christian Science Monitor. Every Thursday, he'd have about a dozen reporters in. Breakfast, I think. And he invited Webster in about once a year. And he asked a question, can't remember what it was but Webster talked about some kind of nuclear device you could carry in a briefcase. We weren't back at the Bureau five minutes when the phone started ringing off the hook. That was a rarity for him to cause a real flap around town. It's hard. I blew it a couple of times.

He was a member of the some Society, the Veiled Prophet Society in Missouri. The Veiled Prophet Society was a chowder-and-marching society out there in St. Louis. But it had some kind of a connotation, racial, or something. And this was going to become an issue at the hearing. So I talked to him about it. And he said he was resigning. I told a reporter about that and then big headlines. He was pretty good. He wasn't too mad at me. He said, "I wanted to save that for the Congressional hearings. You kind of ruined that one for me."

I needle him about that now and then. "You still a member of the Veiled Prophet?"

Binney: They gotta be careful about any ...

Boynton: They gave Judge Alito a hard time about that Princeton group.

Binney: Oh yeah! You talk about poetic justice!

Boynton: A hypocrisy. He's going to resign!

Binney: (Laughing) he's still a member now.

Boynton: I didn't have any big cases. I was just an administrator. I've got a lot of little stories ... I wish I could remember them all. Kind of the type of guy he was, a reflection of the man in that era.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I think you've done a great job in describing both these ... or all three of them ... in particular Kelley and Webster.

Boynton: A little bit of Hoover ... on a personal level, one on one.

Binney: Well, very few people have that kind of relationship with Hoover.

Boynton: Well, I didn't have a relationship.

Binney: Well, I mean, you know ... the New York Office, which was ...

Boynton: ... you know, I'd meet him at the train, and he'd call me on the phone, you know, and say so and so had died and get the flowers. Or we'll be late. He called me Boynton. And Tolson could never remember my name. I remember the day I was driving around and I had the window up in the Cadillac, and I heard Hoover say "Boynton. Boynton." I knew Tolson had asked him again what my name was.

Binney: Did they, did they have assigned seats in the car, or ...

Boynton: Oh yeah. Hoover always on the right. That's where the President sits. And they had Cadillacs all over the place.

I remember one day the Secret Service called me. Nixon was coming to New York and it was a quick trip and they couldn't get the White House Cadillac up here. So could they use Director Hoover's Cadillac. I said, "Ok, go ahead take it." I was talking to John Malone and he went into the overhead. Can you imagine that? He said, "What do you think you're doing?" I said, "Well President, need the car, etc."

Boynton: He said, "I don't even want the White House to know he has a car." President of the United States. Isn't that amazing? I told you about the hijacking. That car was in a special place in the garage. When you were there, they had probably gotten rid of all the Cadillacs. But he had one in Miami, what they would do. They'd get a new one in Washington and then Jack Dunphy would drive it up to someplace on the Jersey Turnpike and I'd drive the old one down. The old one would go to Chicago, and Chicago to LA and LA to ... He had Cadillacs in about five cities.

Binney: The bigger cities?

Boynton: In the big cities, yeah. They'd move them but they were expensive. They were all armored and had special engines. And special glass. And he had five of them.

Binney: And they didn't have much mileage, obviously.

Boynton: Oh no, no. Special tires. I don't know what they cost.

Binney: Well, I'll be damned.

Boynton: I guess it was probably better than the Attorney General's, although I never saw the Attorney General's.

Binney: Yeah. New York, Chicago, LA, Miami ...

Boynton: and Washington. The new one was in Washington. I think he got a new one every other year, but it was in the budget.

And he had to testify. But his testifying was a piece of cake. Fines, savings and recoveries. Autos recovered.

Binney: Yeah. And, we're recovering more money than you're paying us and ... that was the big thing.

Boynton: Voluntary Overtime, ...

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: ... you know, saving all this money ...

Binney: Yeah.

- Boynton: And you know, in a way, in a way, the media turned against the government. Hoover wasn't the only one doing that stuff. Everybody was gilding the lily. And the media after Watergate and Vietnam, our job, the media we all have different views of it. But I'm grateful that we have a free press. They may have the wrong story and they may be biased and all this but I'd rather have that than be spoon fed and a lot of stuff comes out that's wrong. It should be.
- Binney: It took them ... the Bureau ... it's a two-part question ... one is, it takes a lot to go from the Hoover no comment type of thing to we've gotta be more open in the Bureau. And the second part of that question is, my comment, the training down at Quantico and, I think, as an ASAC and an SAC candidate, I had to go through media briefing.
- Boynton: Through media training. Yeah.
- Binney: And I mean, that was, that was really valuable.
- Boynton: That started under us. Before that I had, Tom Harrington, a Grade 15. He couldn't put two words together on paper but he was just masterful at understanding people and the press. I attribute any success I had with the press to Tom. Tom was just my strong right arm. But anyway, he came up with the concept of media coordinators, so we called them all in from every office. This was 1977, under Kelley. And every office suddenly had a media coordinator. We called them in, used to call them in once a year. ...
- Binney: Yeah.
- Boynton: We started the training program at Quantico. I think there was recognition under Hoover, he testified before Congress and we had one spokesman. De Loach and Tom Bishop. Then it was a whole new ballgame. So you had to train guys, ASACs, SACs and media coordinators. For awhile they had to wear two hats, media coordinators and Now they are just media coordinators and I bet in New York they have a couple of media guys. Change of times from Hoover to Kelley. The openness. I was lucky. I wasn't at Headquarters, I spent twenty-one years in the field.

Boynton: I got to Headquarters right after Hoover died, you know, I, wasn't locked into a lot of old thoughts ...the old school. The old school, and that's why the Assistant Directors, they were old school in public relations.

Binney: Yeah. Yeah.

Boynton: I worked for Don Moore and he didn't go in for heavy lifting. We're good friends but he let me do all the work. I didn't mind because if anything happened he was behind you 100 percent. You can't ask more than that.

Binney: Was that the Don Moore out of New York

Boynton: Called him Big Daddy. He was out of New Orleans.

Binney: That's right.

Boynton: He was a character. Spent all day long reading the paper. I'd come in and I ran the show. I got in trouble a couple of times. He was right there with me. I've worked for some bosses who let me do all the work and when I got in trouble it was me. 'I don't know why Homer did that?'

Binney: (laughing) I worked with some characters too. Dana Carroll was probably the biggest character. You probably didn't ...

Boynton: Yeah, I knew Dana.

Binney: Did ya?

Boynton: Yeah. Unfortunate his passing. Happened rather quickly.

Binney: You know the Wesley Grapp, Santoiana ... down there in Florida?

Boynton: Yeah. (unintel)

Binney: There were three or four of them that they just had egos. I never knew any of them, but they had that ego. They were ...

Boynton: Terrible and very strict..

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: And Neil ... did you know Neil Welch?

Binney: Yeah. I worked with him up in New York. He ... yeah.

Boynton: Neil could be tough.

Binney: Yeah.

Boynton: Neil was smart too.

Binney: He took Kelley's concept...

Boynton: Quality versus Quantity.

Binney: Quality versus Quantity and he jumped with it. I mean, he was the first guy. I think he was in Detroit at the time. And remember when he took all the reactive stuff and put it into one squad, and I was like, "what was he thinking?"

Boynton: Neil was, my only problem with Neil was that ... you're not a member of a Union. You're not, you're not ... you're a representative of Headquarters. It's your job, whether you like what Headquarters is doing or not, it's your job to articulate what they're doing back there. Even if it's stupid. And Neil went the other way. He wasn't a member of management. He was always siding with the troops. That will make you popular but that's not your role. Webster, he and I used to talk about him once in awhile. Neil was just not with us. He's supposed to be my representative. What did he call them? He had to call SACs something and it was a good term. I can't remember it right now. He had, well we all had big egos and I'm sure he was a good boss, probably go caught out in ...

Binney: He was a good boss if you were working in OC.

Boynton: Oh, that. Yeah. I heard that too.

Binney: ... anything else, it was, it never even came up on his scale. He, he treated a lot of those guys like dirt. And ...

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Boynton: I'll tell you something he did that I admired. Sometime in the '70s, we sent out an SAC file about the COINTELPRO files. And it wasn't too articulately drawn. Left a little room for individual decision making. And Neil decided that all the files should be destroyed in the Detroit office. He destroyed them all. Man, it's too bad that every other SAC and d we didn't do that at headquarters.

Binney: (Laughing)

Binney: I'm gonna shut that off.

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