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Youngstown Law School

Personal Experience

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MORTON SANDS

Interviewed

by

Paul Carlson

on

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C: This is an interview with Morton H. Sands for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Youngstown State University Law School, by Paul Carlson, on April 19, 1977, at 7006 Harrington Ave., Youngstown, Ohio, at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Sands, could you tell us what it was like to grow up in Brooklyn, New York?

S: It was something I will never forget. It is something that I think will always be upon me. I do not know, naturally you do not know what it is to grow up any place else, but it is something I have never forgotten. It was Depression time, for one thing. It was extremely difficult. I was brought up by a grandmother and a father, rather than a mother and a father, because my mother passed away when I was very young. So I had a lot of old world training and bringing up. It was something that I will never forget. It is something that has remained with me to this day. It is something that I can picture with every moment of it along the way, even to this day. It is ingrained in my memory. I do not know how to explain what it is like. I do not know what you would want in the way of explanation. But it left the mark on me and Brooklyn has always remained with me.

That time in my life has always remained with me and vividly. Much more so than many of the other later occurrences and events. I would not know how to describe it other than it was difficult. It was warn and it was period of learning actually. It was a period of very fast friendships and dear friendships. It was a period of togetherness, of family, closeness and family ties that were very strong. I do not know beyond that how to explain it. Even the friends were almost like family rather than friends, whether it was because of the times of what I do not know, but as I say I would not know how to say I grew up someplace else and how it would be different. Maybe it is not different. But, to me it is something that people laugh at me now when I talk about Brooklyn as home and I have been away since 1939. Yet, I consider Brooklyn, New York my home.

It is difficult to put into words, what it was like to grow up. I just do not know how to explain it. I do not imagine Brooklyn was any different than anyplace else to a youngster. It was a melting pot, of course. We had every ethnic group right around us. We grew up with all races and religions. We went to school with them. They were in power and sounds rather contradictory, but it was true. It was tremendous state of learning for me and it was lest, as I said before a very deep impression on me.

C: Was your learning more through experience then, than academic?

S: Oh, yes. Academic, I do not even consider that because you go to school, and you learn -- any school you go into. I think it was more environment. I think it was more environmental than it was academic. We went to school and I think the schools there were good. They were demanding more so than when I left New York. I went to college in Delaware. New York schools were quite

demanding in those days. In order to graduate and to get into college in those days, financial conditions being what they were, most of us would try to go to City College in New York, which was a city school. It necessitated a certain academic average for entrance. It was a free school; you get in without having to pay. Most of us not having the money to go to outside schools planned towards that.

It just so happened that my family moved from New York in my senior year of high school. We moved to Delaware and I never went to City College, but I was preparing to make application. The schools were demanding and I think the academic training was good, but that is not what I think of when I think of Brooklyn, New York at all. It does not even bring to mind the high school or the schools that I went to. I think of family, relationships and the time of the world history that is 1930's, the Depression and what it did and what effect it had on them to this day -- vividly.

C: Could you describe some of those friendships?

S: Well, I guess, a friendship is a very important thing. I guess individuals take friendships differently. I had some very close friends, some very dear friends, one of whom was lost in a war. He was a very close friend. I had a couple of others that were extremely close even in our formative years from junior high school, seventh, eighth, ninth, and on through the end of high school. We not only went to school together, we went to Hebrew school together and we played ball. We had our own softball team. We played ball together, we played street hockey together and everything we did together as a group. It was possibly a half dozen of us. Out of the half dozen there were two or three of us that were very, very close.

As I say, friendships are a personal thing and what they mean to me, it is like family. I think that is the best definition I can give. Rather than thinking of them as acquaintances and friends, I thought of them as family, or more dear to me than family, really. One of them was lost during the war in the Pacific. The strange thing is that I have not heard or seen others in many, many years. Yet, I can picture them as they were and I think I prefer it this way.

When I left in 1939 and went to Delaware, we saw each other. I saw them from time to time, and then the war came. A few years of the war period scattered us. Then, after the war, I saw them again in my very early married years, but since then I do not think I can recall seeing any of them in the last fifteen or twenty years -- at least twenty-five years. And that is strange too, considering how strong the friendships were. But I have not corresponded. It is a new life, you move and you make a life. As I said, in a sense I think I prefer it this way. You retain your memory and cherish them for what they were and in a given period. And if you try to bring them back and relive it, I think you lose in the transitional period. So I prefer that segment being when it was, and the war segment being when it was, and the post war. Each has its own place, different things, you know.

C: During the Depression, did you sell newspapers?

S: Yes, to help put a little bit of money on the table. I used to walk about three quarters of a mile to where I delivered papers. New York City is a lot different than the smaller towns in that it is apartment complexes. So even in those days houses were few. Most of them were multiple dwellings. You would climb four flights of stairs early in the morning to deliver papers. Then, you would go to school at eight o'clock. I used to take the subway to go to school because we had about ten thousand students in the high school where I went. I only went to the main building in my senior year.

I went to a local junior high school just two blocks from home. When I graduated from the junior high school I went to what was considered an annex to the high school. Then, I went from 12 to 6 at night because it was too crowded to go all day. We did that for the tenth grade. In the eleventh grade I went to the annex from eight to one. Then, we became big shots and we made the big school, the main building which was two to three miles away from home. We took a subway to get there, a nickel, and walked home because we would not have the ten cents to ride both ways, necessarily always, so we walked back. Then, we went at eight or nine and got out at three in the main building. We had a graduating class in those days of 1939, of roughly 1250 people. I believe, but do not quote me as fact, it was the largest high school in the world from the standpoint of population or student enrollment. I think that is true, but we had a graduating class roughly in the neighborhood of 1200 children or students.

So in the Depression, I guess there were times when we were hungry. Well, I should not say hungry, but there was not too much to eat until my father found employment. I helped a little, as I said. I was thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen years of age at the time. It left an impression, it left an effect. I think of it even today. We run around tuning out the lights when you think of what the cost of electricity is. Kids today do not think like that. These things are hangovers or carry-overs from the Depression days. I hate to see directly helped them on through that period.

It was a terrible period. As young as I was, I felt it and was effected by it strongly. I did not have enough to carry us through all the way. So it was difficult. Again, I think it was a hardening and strengthening process. It was a very worthwhile process. Even for more good things medical, there is all sorts of research that emanate from wars for the benefit of the people. I think we had, from the Depression, that same thing. The generation that grew up during the Depression as a youngster, people my age, appreciated everything they got and what they earned. They realized that when you worked for it and you got it finally, it is something to be incredibly proud of. And to really look back and feel satisfied for having gotten it because it came so hard.

I think more than anything else it would probably be the effect that I did not see people starving; we saw soup lines and we saw soup kitchens. We saw the relief lines, but I do not think, I did not see terrible things. It was a very, very trying period for families.

C: Could you tell us a little bit more about your own family?

S: Well, yes. My father came from Russia roughly when he was nine years of age. He was either 7, 8, or 9. My mother was born in America. She died when she was thirty-three in 1933, when I was eleven. I had a sister who is three and a half years, roughly, younger than I am and a brother roughly two and a half years younger than she is. Then, I have a half brother and sister by my father's second marriage. They are considerably younger. My sister is, roughly, forty now, which would be fifteen years younger than I am. Her brother is two and a half to three years younger than she is.

Then, my grandmother who raised us was my father's mother. She had come from the old country and spoke very few words of English. Yiddish and Russian were her languages. She raised us and I will remember her until the day I die. She was probably the one person who had the greatest effect on me. Even more than my father. She was a mother and, in some senses, a father and everything to us. She was a very, very strong individual and this was probably in her late 70's when she came to live with us. I dare say she was in her mid to late seventies. It was her mid seventies. Time has a way of dimming your perception of exact dates, but I think she was in her seventies.

C: Do you attribute this old world training to her?

S: Oh, yes. The same code of ethics. She could not talk in English and I only learned the Yiddish because she came to live with us. My mother spoke, naturally, the native American and my father spoke without an accent, although he was not a native American. He was a naturalized American. We had never spoken Yiddish in the house so it was a revolution -- a revelation and revolution -- both when she came to live with us we had to learn to communicate in two languages. One in which she could not understand and one in which we could not understand.

But, I guess there was the love between us, and she had a very strict set of morals and ethics and a very strict old world way of doing things. As far as I am concerned, it is still a damn good way to do things. The Golden Rule is what she went by; it was just pure and simple as that. There was not a lot of deviating from it either. She let you know when you were wrong under no uncertain terms, and she let you know when you were right, too. She ran a very tight ship, yet she was warm. She was always present; whenever there were problems or troubles, she was there. She was like a mother would be, naturally. I will never forget her. Out of all the people that I have ever met, I think she has probably had more effect -- lasting effect -- on me than anybody else.

C: It surprises me that, when you talk about this period, you do not speak at all about academics.

S: I do not. I enjoyed my school work, but I cannot name two teachers that I had in that period. I can remember my college professors in Delaware and Youngstown, some of them. I have never been really impressed overly by the academics. I enjoyed it and I did fairly well, but I think there is much more to be learned outside of school than in school. I have always felt that way. I have been diligent in my schoolwork -- do not misunderstand me -- but that came from a good sense of her doing. She would grab me by the ear and sit me down when I would skip school or jump out of the window at Hebrew school so I would not have to go, and I could go outside and play ball. She saw that I got back into school. I have always felt that really there are more important things to learn. I guess that is old and rather trite, but I think it is true.

The learning that is really going to be of any real consequence to you, you get when you get out of school. I had a physics professor at the University of Delaware who said, "I will teach you all the basics, but you will not learn a damn thing about physics until you get out of college." I do not know, I did not pursue that, but I sometimes have occasion to agree with him. You went to school because you had to go to school and you learned what you had to learn; what was set before you. But it was no great moment. There was nothing that really stayed in your memory. Oh, I learned the theory of evolution. The funny thing is when it comes to academics, I learn more from the Boy Scouts. I remember more vividly what I learned academically in the Boy Scouts than what I learned in drama school, junior high school, and high school. And I felt like I got a good education in school; it was a very good education.

As I say, I did well. I have no complaints and I was a decent student, I think. I still can remember more of what I learned in the Boy Scouts. It seemed to be more pertinent to many of the things that happened to me afterwards, during the war. It helped me more than what I learned in junior high school, high school, and college. It was there; it was like a part of life that was there, and it had to be done. I do not think that I necessarily would take it and, say, put it separate and say, "Boy, that was great."

I did not really look forward to going to school, I did not. I went because I had to. I enjoyed it. Do not misunderstand me, I enjoyed not going, too, on the days that were holidays. I had to place it in perspective. I would not put that near the top necessarily, or at the top certainly.

C: Would it have been of a scientific training earlier training, rather than a humanistic with a history in it?

S: Well, when you are in the first six grade you could not say that, of course. From junior high school on up I would say yes, because my interests gravitated towards biology and chemistry. It had always been my ambition from the time I was in junior high school to become a chemist. I went as far as even to write a thesis in chemistry, and three years of being in the army cured me of it. I took a 180 degree turn and I strayed completely from that technical. I am sure most of my training was not a general course in high school, it was academic.

In New York they had the commercial course, the general, the academic -- and the academic was a science majors. These were majors that were going to go to engineering. Those that were going to take the odd courses were general. That was the general curriculum. The academic curriculum was geared towards the sciences, and that was biology and math in high school. I enjoyed it. I really did. It was not that it was a drag and I really dreaded going to school. I do not know if I am answering your question.

It took three years in the army, but I will be honest about it as motive. It was not the fact that I had seen, because I was in the infantry, all these terrible things and as a result that I had avoided the technical. That is not true at all. I still have great admiration for it, but I just had a feeling that it was not for me. As a matter of fact, I did not know what was for me. So when I went back to college I had a year to go, less than a year, but in time it might have been a year.

I took Shakespeare, contemporary and modern literature. I took poetry, English and contemporary. I took insurance and I took all the odd courses that I had not taken before, and I still could not come out and say what I wanted to do. I took an aptitude test. I still could not determine what I wanted to do. It was just three and a half years, as dedicated a student as I was, in chemistry with a great desire to become a chemist. That is how little desire I had for it when I came out and it was not because I thought that chemicals did terrible things. I could not honestly sit here and say that was the thing. I still have great admiration for the people in it and for the courses and what they offered and what they accomplished. But, I just wanted no part of it. It is as simple as that and I do not know why. Maybe I matured and, as a result, decided chemistry was not for me. Fortunately, I found out at a very, very good time for me when I was not committed to it.

I cannot say why, and I do not know that desire for technical because I had great interest and curiosity in all fields. I do not necessarily think taking sciences meant that it was the exclusion. I still love, and always did love, the theater and music. Always, I used to stay up until two o'clock in the morning every night doing my homework, always listening to the radio, listening to either classical or popular music. In those days we were listening to the popular music. I developed a great love for classics at the age of 14 or 15, so it was not that I was geared to technical courses. I have always had great curiosity and desire to learn about as much as I can.

I just never think of my education in those days. I really do not. When I think of New York, I think of the high school as a structure and I think of the buildings and the people I went to school with. I do not think of the courses that I took in those buildings at all. If somebody said, "What was your curriculum at a given period in time," I could not tell them. I do remember, in the sixth grade, I won a medal. It was quite a gratifying thing. They had a contest on Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was going to write the best essay on Franklin D. Roosevelt. I remember that to this day. It was a tremendous thing for the people in that school. I never really thought of it as anything. It was ten schools that were involved and, fortunately, mine was picked. But, again, I researched it and I did

it and I loved every minute of it. But, I never even thought about it until now.

Education was there to be had and done, but it never really sat in the back of my mind to say I really learned a lot during that time. I do not think I did. I really do not think I did. I prepared myself for later education, but I think it was so many other places that I had better education than in the classroom.

C: What do you remember about that period in your life?

S: Well, that first year I remember I was a playboy college freshman. I only went one year and then I had to drop out because, initially, I did not have the funds to return. So, I had to go out and work for a year, so that I could go back. But, my first year in college was, again, all technical and, as a matter of fact, I just about did not get through because my interests were other than in the classroom. I became associated with their radio station there and with the freshman handbook. Those unimportant things, which were terribly important at the time. But after the first year, I dropped out and I went to work at a leather factory. This was just so I could earn some money to go back. When I came back I had a number of different jobs on the side.

I commuted for the second year. For the third year I lived down at the fraternity house. I became president of the fraternity. The second and third year I dedicated myself more to my studies. I did become very active in my fraternity, sports, I was the editor of the yearbook, I was sports editor of the yearbook. I was editor of the freshman handbook and I was vice-president of the fraternity council and I learned a lot about anti-hazing, as practiced at the University of Delaware. Again, I made some friends there. Not really friends, I do not think; they were associations-- good associations. Well, there were some fast friends. I should not say that; that is not true. There were a couple of very fine friends that I made there, one of whom had passed on. We go back to Delaware three or four times a year because my wife's family is still in Delaware and my sister still lives in Wilmington, Delaware.

Again, the university of Delaware did not make any great impression on me either. I played football for them for a while and I enjoyed most all of its sports events. I was active in the student government, as I say, in the fraternity student government. I had to work so damn much I really could not live down there the second year to really become embroiled in it. My time was occupied with working and going to school and the few interests that I did have, then. I did not get started in dramatics there, which is an interest which has really followed me to this day -- something that I do some work in now. It started years ago in Brooklyn in the Boy Scouts, but after that, when I left and went to Delaware was when I really became active. I was active in the dramatics and I became a member of their dramatic society.

But, Delaware left no great impression on me. It was a beautiful school, but I think it has its certain negative aspects and positive aspects. It was a beautiful school. It was a typical college, small college. When I started there, we had possibly 1400 students. And I understand when Youngstown State



played Delaware University, I was the only graduate of both schools. I think they had something like 15,000 or 16,000 enrollment there. It is big and it is still a beautiful school.

I am sure it is a lot more liberal than it was. I understand that blacks teach there now. When I was there, there were no blacks there. The jews that went there were restricted to one fraternity only. It was rather trying. Not trying, I should not say. Really, it was just distasteful. It took away from what I might have considered enjoyment. I was so preoccupied with working and what have you. It was not like, in a sense, going to college like you would like to think of going to college, that you can go and take part in all the functions and everything.

I do not come away from Delaware with any great fond memories at all. Not unhappy memories, necessarily. I do not feel that it is a negative thing. I do not think about it really. I went there and got a degree and that was it, as far as I am concerned. I did have a couple of fine professors. I was in ROTC. I got into ROTC and finished four years of it. I actually did not graduate as a lieutenant because we were taken into the army before that. But I went in and became an officer later on. I worked up through the ranks.

C: So you went to the war and then you came back to finish your degree.

S: Yes, I left Delaware in 1942 or 1943 and went into the army. I got my basic training in anti-aircraft, my commission in anti-aircraft, and then I went into the infantry. I served over seas -- this was until the end of 1945. Then I came home and went back to Delaware and finished in 1947. By right, had I gone through, I started in 1939, September of 1939 and I should have finished in September of 1943. But the year off that I had to go to work would have made it 1944 and three years away. So, it was 1947 by the time I got back and got my degree would have been June of 1947. I received a bachelor of science in chemistry.

C: What were the reasons that you went into ROTC?

S: Well, in those days, a number of reasons. You get a job working in the gun shed -- "the thing to do." I did not see any reason not to go in. We were not thinking about a war at first. Although, maybe I should not say that. I will tell you something very honestly, my thoughts worldwide were not centered or distributed much beyond my own immediate circle. I did not have great consideration for what was happening in the world at that time, or great thoughts. I listened and I did not comment. I do not think most of us, very honestly, were of a generation at that particular time where things were happening to us and not affected by us. I do not think we made ourselves heard, or naturally we were heard. We talked about the youngsters speaking out now; we always spoke out.

I will never forget my father. We knew all of the answers, of course, but then, again we knew nothing. We did not really have any great interest of what was going on abroad. I am talking about as a freshman in college. I did not --

and maybe I am doing an injustice to some of the others, but I think most of the others are the same way. What was going on outside as it affected out lives in the college, that is what was all important, at that moment.

I really do not think that there was any consideration for not going into ROTC really. I mean, there was no great thought in my mind that just would be the generation of generals or what have you, or warlike people, or soldiers. I will tell you very honestly, I think it was very good training for me during the subsequent years during the war. It was excellent training for me for the period that I spent in the war, in the army. Although it was anti-air crafting, there were some basic elements that were very, very useful to us. Leadership training and other things, I thought, did help us immeasurably because when the time came, you can say what you want when you are embroiled in a war -- it is better to be prepared than it is to say, "I am here and I do not like it and I am not going to do it." It has got to be done and it should be done properly. I mean if you are going to win. If you are there just filling a parachute, you are not going to win.

That was a war that the country was given official warning, not like the Vietnamese conflict or in a sense the Korean action. It was a war declared by this country and, I guess, there is no such thing as a justified war, but I think if any war was necessary, in my mind, that was a necessary war for us. I possibly feel it a little more personally than many of the other people that were in the army, but I was Jewish and there was a lot that I thought. There were a lot of things that were happening that I did not think were the same thing that we were fighting, in my mind, when we went to fight Germany or "the enemy". But, actually, in school, the fact that some of the boys were taken -- the reserve officers -- that had no great impact on us. Our own click was still there. Our environment was not disturbed, really, and it was only when it became disturbed when the war was declared and we did not know where we were going to go Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. But we really became more concerned and involved.

C: Is that when you joined the ROTC?

S: No, I enjoyed the ROTC when I went into college in 1939. Pearl Harbor was in December 1941. I went to college in September of 1939. And I joined ROTC September 1939. I could not see any reason not to join. It was in anti-air craft and it was a curriculum that I would get credit for. I did not think four years ahead of being a second lieutenant. I did not even know what it meant to be a second lieutenant. I did not have any idea. It was a course that I was going to be enrolled in and I was going to do the best I could. I did not know what it entailed. There is a lot of math involved in it; there is a lot of directorial work and it took a lot of hard work. It was interesting to me. I did a lot of crossword puzzles during a lot of it. That was how boring a lot of it was, really. I made up crossword puzzles. I can see myself sitting there at that damn desk right now making up crossword puzzles. I droned and droned. There was nothing worse in the world than hearing a regular army man talk. I do not think, ever, some of

them were boring.

Again, I do not think we were involved, really I was not in what went on. When I was in New York, I saw socialism working and communism working. I lived among people that some of who were very, very committed to the socialists, or whether you call them communist, I do not know. I do not mean the Nazi but, I am talking about what we call the workers group. These were the forerunners for some of these socialists or were socialists organizations. They were very, very early for the removing or maneuvering of blacks and whites in those days. That was something that I saw back in 1936, 1937, and 1938. It is just coming to the core now. I knew a lot of these people intimately and a lot of them were teachers and very well-educated people, very intelligent intellectual people. So, I was not shocked.

Some of that was a little better than what I encountered when I went to the University of Delaware. It was diametrically opposite in the worst kind of environment as far as I am concerned. This is the only thing that is good and the only thing that strayed from that is bad.

C: I noticed you mentioned that the years that you were in the war, were very valuable, the experiences that you gained now are more?

S: Yes.

C: You made it all the way to Captain, right?

S: Well, that really was not any great thing, really it was just being in the right place at the right time. I think being involved in combat is an experience, and I guess it is trite and it is probably been said so many times over. When your life is in jeopardy like that, you just think that everybody else around you is being in jeopardy. It is an association or a relationship that grows that is very difficult to explain. But, it is very wonderful.

You live an entirely different life. First, of all you do things that you would never under normal circumstances do. You do physical things that you never thought you were capable of doing. You do things that would positively revive you under normal or under circumstances. You do what has to be done at the moment. You call on strength that you never knew you had. You meet people of every conceivable type and I mean character wise, strength wise, physical, and moral. Education wise, from the highest, most educated onto the least educated. You get a complete education of what you find in a man who can not use more than a few words is probably a far better man, than the man that's come out with three degrees and also has great proclamations about the world. You find that people accomplish things that they just could not think that they would accomplish, but more important I think you learn to live like an animal.

You learn to think, in a sense, almost like an animal. You live an entirely different type of life. As far as leadership is concerned you either got it, I think, or you do not. You have some training, and then some people will respect you

for what you are and for what you can accomplish and do. You are either their leader or you are not. I do not think of the leadership as any of it at all. It was there, it was necessary, it was in combat with the position that you had to be "the leader", but that does not mean you are great. It means that you have to assume the command. I think, more important was the everyday living under conditions of not knowing whether you were going to live from day to day, under adverse weather conditions. It would be 15 degrees below zero and three feet of snow and have eleven hours of continual walking until you reach an objective at eleven o'clock at night and you try to fight for the next three or four hours in the dark. Seeing men accomplish this and accomplishing it yourself, I think, it gives you a different prospective altogether.

I belong to a temple here in town and I go quite regularly, and I have been quite active in it. I sometimes sit and listen to ministers and rabbi's and the clergy. I think, that too many times they tend to talk without having been there, which to me is a terrible thing to condemn what other people do when you sit in a comfortable chair and you have an admiring audience is not exactly fair. You live an entirely different life. You become a different person, maybe not better, in the long run better if you get through it, I think. You become more appreciative, certainly, what you have afterwards, I have always felt that way.

I told my wife long ago that certainly, after I got out of there, money would never be the prime incentive in my life because I was so happy to be alive. It is the truth; every day is a bonus. And the fact that you saw so many people that did not make it gave you cause to appreciate it. Now, I think, in that respect, it makes you more appreciative and certainly better. That is the way I feel about it. The leadership, I minimize, I really do not think that is of any great importance, really. Although, I will say this: it is amazing the amount of leadership talent that is available on demand, on call, it springs up when it has to. When it lays dormant, the fellow that walks along day after day carrying a mortar or a rifle and doing nothing but what he is told it seems to man like he was born to it. And it happens. As I say, every terrible thing, I think, has good that comes from it and that can be good, that is a good life. And medicine jumped ahead by, God knows how many strides in the four year period of the war.

In 1939 to 1946, a certain technology in the field that I am in welding, it would have taken forty years to accomplish what they had to do in five or six years because they were forced to do it. So, all these things that are terrible would fall behind the things that are great. If it can be said that there are good side effects or good effects result from bad things that's certainly the proof of it. To me, the war, I think, it is living with so many different types of people as a family, again, if you want to survive. That is the most important thing to me.

I do not mean fast friendships because these relationships were severed when we were mustered out and never have been assumed again. But, for the moment, for the period of time that they existed they were all important and we depended on one another for our lives. And we either trusted each other and worked with each other or we were dead. And in that respect, yes, it was a period of time that I would never want to go through again, but it is a period of

time that I would not sell for all of the money in the world.

C: There must have been bad officers.

S: Oh, I hope to tell you there were. There were as many bad as there were good. Because a man is an officer does not mean that he is a good or bad one. If a man is a clergy man, that does not mean that he is a good man or bad man. You are born a man before you are born whatever it is that you assume what you are. I mean, whether you become an attorney, a doctor, there are bad doctors, bad attorneys, bad teachers, bad salesmen, bad everything. Certainly, there were bad officers, I had some and I would not wish them on my worst enemy. They were terribly bad officers, not bad, but it got awful as could be in the situations that we were experiencing.

But, I think that the wonderful thing is that, sooner or later, if they do not cause any deaths or any great tragedies along the way, sooner or later they fall by the wayside. They are either booted out or they are killed, whether by their own troops or by enemies. That does not only mean in combat we had them replaced. We had him replaced because he was incompetent. We had the general of our division, I think he was replaced because he was incompetent. I do not know that for a fact. I know the regimental commander was incompetent. I am not ashamed to say it. I agree that they were bad officers, there are bad everything you cannot take a category in life today, a profession, a vocation, and tell me that everybody in it is positively good. There are good and there are bad. There are better and there are worse. There are some that are good, there are some that are passable. Some that are damn good and some that are damn bad and some that are abominable. There were some that should have never been where they were.

But, when you take the war and when so much is done so fast it stands to reason that you are going to get more than a fair share of bad ones. That is I think, a reasonable statement. You have got to consider that our country got ready in five minutes, not like Hitler over the years that they were preparing and building. We did not. We were fast asleep. We refused to recognize that there would be a Pearl Harbor, even though they had ample warnings of it. A typical American attitude, if you leave it alone it will go away. Just like this energy crisis, today, forget about it and it will go away. Nobody wants to acknowledge that there is one. Maybe there is not, maybe I am wrong. But, the thing is this, we prepared in no time and in the monumental task that we had to take all the men that we had to prepare for nothing, sure we had bad officers.

I will tell you who the worst ones were, the ones who came out of the regular army. The regular army people were positively the worst group of people who were in the regular army. People that could not find a job. People that did not want to go to jail, that had their choice of going to jail or going to the army, and we had a few of these. The misfits, the incompetents, all they wanted was the pay at the end of the month and a place to sleep. They had no incentive and no initiative. They were the worst that we had in the army, I feel. We were

dealing with many of these, not all of them, and I do not ever intend to condemn a group for a few. But, I would say the percentages of regular army people over what we dealt with were more incompetent.

I think the level of intelligence was the thing. They learned slower and the thing is, that they were like robots. They had learned that you put this foot down first and then that foot. And you do not change it, even though you are being shot at. And the time comes when you must change it and they are reluctant to change. By the same token, if it were not for them, we would not have had an army. They claim, the reserve people that came out of the reserve, like myself, or I think of friends of mine that were older than I was, and certain lieutenants who had positively no practical training the army other than school training. They went into a regular army, immediately, to go to war and it took these, what I call incompetents, to make it and they did. They were drilling man as mechanical things and they were great, but in fighting a war, I thought they were terrible. It is as simple as that.

C: The volunteer army, now, are you against that?

S: No, I speak intelligently about it for a number of reasons. First of all, the army has changed. When you say army, I think of army as when I was in the army. I have not given great thought as to the way the army is structured now. We have an entirely different type of army. Well it is true, a lot of the kids that you get now, are kids who cannot find a job. We are going to have the same problem and I can only hope that they would learn by past experiences. But the instructors that they have now are better than what they had before. They are better able to get to these youngsters. First of all, they can get more education than they have ever gotten before. Before, the only kind of education was how to strip a rifle, how to pack a field kit, how to fire a cannon, or a mortar, how to ride a horse. I think, now, they give them more in the way of social education for social work, how to live among people more than they did before.

Before you would kind of be a hard nutty to exist in a regular army. You just had to be a damn hard nut because you were banging heads with hard nuts. I think, now, that these kids that are going are given, I think maybe I am wrong. I do not know. You see, I am totally unfamiliar with it. I would not say that it is a better army than a drafted army. The good thing about a volunteer is that it is a volunteer; he goes willingly. The bad thing about a drafted army is you take a man that does not want to go, and he will fight you every step of the way. He might turn out to be a damn good soldier, but some like this volunteer. I think they give them better preparation. I do not mean preparation for fighting a war, necessarily, but for living today. This was something that they never got before. If they were misfits in the outfit, they stayed misfits. You did not take them, like a fellow out of a prison, and try to recondition him and to make him into a useful human being. When you put him in the army, that is what he was outside, that is what was inside. Only now, he has a uniform. He was living among a bunch of people who were like him. They had no need for it. They did not use it. I think a

volunteer army could be a very, very good thing. But, I think, it depends probably more on the leadership, the people training it.

C: It is a shame that the battle conditions have to weed out the good and the bad.

S: That is true, although we had good barracks officers that turned out to be terrible field officers, and vice versa. One of the finest field officers I know used to show up drunk every morning, and he would walk thirty-five miles. After a night of being dead drunk, I would carry him up and put him into his bed, at five thirty in the morning. [At] Six o'clock he fell out, and we would walk thirty-five miles in eighty degree heat, three times a week. And when we went into combat, there was not a finer officer in the world. The men that he succeeded took off and ran from him, ran leaving a company abandoned, the commanding officer and the executive officer. One of the officers were killed, two were wounded, and he was the only officer left, and he went through the rest of the war without getting shot, without getting hurt, and commanded tremendously well. You could put him back in the barracks and he would be the most drunk soldier that God created. There is no two ways about it.

There are some people that are born to wearing a uniform and studying and gesturing and posturing, and there are some people who are meant to fight a war. I am a firm believer in that and I think there are two kinds of soldiers, I really do. I had to kick some of them out of the hole to get them moving. These are the guys who talked the loudest and the longest about how great a soldier they were. When the time came, I had to boot them out. The guy that they called the feminist or the queer fought like a maniac. He carried twice his load and dug his hole faster and better than anybody. I really think they should have two armies: one for show and one for fighting.

C: After being in the academy for two years, I know that show part.

S: After all, they have got a purpose there. They do not want to turn you out, necessarily, as a robot that is ready to fight. They want you to be a well-rounded soldier. They try to give you all sorts of education, a fully rounded education. Then, later, they will point you towards the navy. I am not familiar with the navy, but I am sure that there are various categories that you would then go to. But it is after having gotten, I should think, a fairly well-rounded college education along with it. That is not it at all. You are taking something completely different from when you take a guy, a civilian, and throw him in the army. He learns to march. Of course, they do not have the time or the money, but they should give this man more than just a desire to carry a rifle, to clean it, and to fight. They should give him some knowledge of what he is doing, where he is, and what is going on around him. What is the purpose of him being there?

C: Were there other jobs that you had?

S: Well, when I got out of college, as I said, I did not know what I wanted to do. I took an aptitude test and it pointed towards selling and purchasing. I had all of the technical training, and I did not want to sell insurance because I thought there were some other ways it could be used. My brother-in-law was in the welding field and he worked for a General Electric distributor out of Philadelphia. I had had a little bit of welding training in school, so I was interviewed by the General Electric people, and I went to work for their distributor in the Youngstown area in 1947, a couple of months before I got out of school.

I worked for them until 1950, and then I was hired by the firm I am presently with to do the same type of work that was sales work in an engineering field, in a welding field. I have been doing it until now, although now I am one of the officers and I own part of the company. I am inside now, and I am not out, but I was on the road for mostly twenty some years. It was about twenty-two or twenty-three years, or better. It brings me up to where I am now, really.

C: Was that challenging and interesting work?

S: Oh, yes. I think, possibly. I like meeting people. I am not terribly sure myself, and I guess people would say I am extroverted. I do not know if I am or not. I do not feel, in my own mind that I am, but I do enjoy meeting and talking to people and trying to sell. I enjoy the give and take of sells, purchasing and selling -- well, trying to sell and the other man buying -- and knowing my subjects. I think I know it well. I think after the years that I have been in it, I would say, that I have a fairly decent working knowledge of my field. I have done fairly well in it. I have become the president of the American Welding Society, in the area Mahoning Valley Chapter. I have made a bit of a name for myself in the area, in the field. I enjoy it. It is challenging, it is gratifying, and I enjoyed it. I enjoy being inside now, and waiting on people in the place and buying. It really has been very satisfying. I do not regret it at all. I really do not.

I think the only regret that I have, now that I had an opportunity to go into law a few years ago -- not a long time ago -- is I did not take that. There were circumstances that arose, at the time, I was just working for the man who had owned this company and he passed away. That was about ten years ago, I guess. About that time, I had an opportunity to go into law with a successful law firm here in town. I think I could have done well with them, and I chose to stay where I was for a number of reasons. I had commitments to the people and there was nobody there to run it, other than myself, when he passed away. I felt that it was not fair for everybody that was working there to have it closed. So I stayed on. I do not normally harbor regrets because I think it is a waste of time. I never cry over spilled milk. What is done is done. If I were to say there was a time that I should have made a change, it was then. It has not worked out badly for me and to say that, I am not unhappy. Possibly, that may have turned out to be the worst thing that ever happened, too. I do not know.

I got into law school purely by luck. I did not intend to go to law school. What happened is that when I was in the reserve core, when I got out of the



army in 1952, I had to be in there for five years. Then I renewed my commission for five years, through the Korean War. Then they came out with an edict that you had to sign a permanent commission or relinquish your commission. I figured the hell with that. I did not want to sign anything permanently, that was too long. So, I got out of the reserves, and at that time, I should have gone on and I would have been almost retired now and would have had my pension in the future. But, I enjoyed my work in the reserves because I worked with a lot of youngsters that needed training and I prepared them for training well. I think the army goofed when it handled the Korean situation the way it did and not taking people. Thank God they did not, but we should have been taken before some of these people that they did take. We were better trained to handle it than some that they took.

At any rate, that was in 1952. In 1950, I just got so sick and tired of watching television, I told my wife, "I have just got to do something to get my mind back. I am going to go up a wall watching this damn TV." So she said, "Why do not you go back to school?" Well, I was going to take technical courses, but I figured, well hell, I had had enough of those and I was dealing with it everyday. So, I said I would go to law school with the express purpose of taking one or two courses. And that would be enough. But one lead to another, and it was rather intriguing and they were pretty shrew. Their courses overlapped so that you never quite finished, you have to keep going on to finish. One was a two semester course and then, you take a one semester course, they start another two semester course. You are always hop skipping and jumping. Well, before I could turn around I was half way in. I was coming out instead of going in. So, I went the other two and a half or three years and finished. I did fairly well. I got their award for top student after two years and for top student graduating. It was gratifying. I enjoyed it immensely. I really did, and I did because the first group of professors that we had were quite competent and good.

I think the school fell apart during my three and a half to four year mark. I think it really just began to slide when Ray Falls died, who was the man who had been the dean. Plus, I think the legal profession wanted to see it go, very honestly, with all due respect and apologizes to them, and I do not care who knows it. I told them this when I was in my second year and they interviewed. I thought they were going to throw me out then. Well, I did not really care if I stayed. I could take a different attitude than most of the fellows. The other guys want to become attorneys. As a matter of fact, I never intended to really practice. I told them that, that it just did not seem to me, as the old expression goes, "too many lawyers". That is why they do not let kids into medical school now -- too many doctors. As a result, they keep the best talent in the world down in medical school and bring them in from overseas to practice. Just to protect the damn AMA or ABA. Here is your bar association in Youngstown and they just did nothing to try to keep that alive. I fault them for it.

That school was a forerunner of Youngstown State University. I will say this, it was one of the finest law schools in the area because their percentage of

passing was as high as Ohio State, Akron, and Case Western Reserve, if I am not mistaken. I might be wrong. You probably researched it, but I think you will find that the percentage of passing at the bar was high, if not higher, than most of these other schools. You might be at night law school, but you do not get through the bar being a night law school with that percentage unless you have some pretty fair gentleman heading it. And they did: Noels Wyatt, Ray Falls, John Newman, who is still a practicing attorney here in town, the younger Nadler fellow, Paul Stevens. They had some very, very fine teachers. But, then it began to fall apart. They had nobody to head it, nobody to front it, and they had nobody there to fight for it. So, it just went by the wayside. I think it is a crime, I really do. The city of Youngstown, I think it was crime that they let this thing go down the drain the way they did.

But I lost interest the last year and my grades suffered for it, too, really. But, I managed to maintain them enough so that I squeezed by with that honor. I got out and actually did not expect to pass the bar exam; and actually did not care if I passed it. Again, I had not gone with the intention of becoming a practicing attorney, and I still do not practice. I do not ever regret it; I regret the time that I took from my kids. I had to learn to study all over again. I had to learn to reproach different sets of problems that I had in addition to working full-time and having a family and two young children to raise. It took time and if it had not been for my family, I might regret it. In the event, in a sense, my wife pushed me and wanted me to do it. I was quitting every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. When I came home, I said, "The hell with it. I am not going to sit at that damn kitchen table another three hours."

I worked my back off. I studied like hell, I really did. And I enjoyed it. I like the give and take in law. As a result, the fact was that my attitude was like a lot of the other guys. I did not care if I passed and I did not care what I said to the guys that were teaching the class, if they liked what they heard or not. I was going to say it, and I did. I had developed some very nice relationships as a result of it, really. I enjoyed my time in it but, again, I would not do it again. But I am not sorry that I did it, except for the time that I took from the kids. And they were too young to realize it at the time.

C: Would you be in favor of them re-establishing a law school, then?

S: Well, only if they did it properly. I do not believe in any half ass approach. I do not think they should just for the sake of saying that we have a law school at Youngstown State. If they do, they cannot do it like they did before. I do not think they should have a night law school, I think they should have a day law school. They have got to staff it and be prepared to carry it on the way a law school should be carried on. This night law school was an altogether different school. They had about 5,000 or 6,000 students. It was not the institution that it is today. I think it is like I said before, when I was talking about my childhood, there is a section of time when things happen then, that will not happen or it should not be brought back to try to make them happen here in this area or this

era. The night law school had its use and its time and did its job, but I do not think they should renew a night law school as such. I think it should be a part of Youngstown State University as the Youngstown State University of Engineering School is, their Arts and Sciences, or what have you. I think it should have been staffed properly. They should have a first-class law school, just like they have a first-class engineering school. And not half ass. Let a man go to Akron or Case Western Reserve where he can get what he should have on a full-time basis. Really, we were against the odds. Really, you figure, we had practicing attorneys that came in. If they got ill, then what happened? You bring in another guy who does not know the curriculum. It is an entirely different ball game. And I do not think they should depend on that kind of ball game. I think they should have people who are teaching. They could be practicing attorneys who are now instructing for a living. Do it that way and I am all for it. The fact is, there are not too many lawyers; they are graduating every year. If they do not go to Youngstown, they are going to go to Ohio State or somewhere else. What kind of an excuse is that, there are too many law schools? It is like I told them the time when they interviewed me. I told them -- I thought they were going to throw me out -- I said, "You are worried about me taking his job. If you are any kind of an attorney, you do not have to worry about me." The competition breeds business. We find that out in business. When I started in the welding business, there were three or four or five people in the area selling the stuff. So, if there was a hundred and five, we would all make out very well. The business grows, and the law business is growing.

C: So, in their minds, they felt, that competition was a threat?

S: As far as I was concerned I thought they were through. Now, I accused them of it. Of course, I got a lot of raised eyebrows. One was a good friend of mine, and I specifically accused him. I said, "Why do you call me in and ask me why do I want to become an attorney, when all you want to do is discourage it and wrap black crepe paper around this whole thing, a boarder. You want to bury it right now, bury me, do not become an attorney." I said, "Why in the hell did you let me start for, if you do not want me to become an attorney?" I do not know if he was trying to test me to see how strong my desire to become one was. I did not see any of them there that were great world leaders, that would carry the torch of the law profession. They were practicing attorneys because that is what their business was. There were no great law or legal minds or legal leaders there. I do not fault them for being that, but then do not set yourself up as a criterion and say, if you do not match up to this, you should not be an attorney.

And, like I said, I did not care whether I became an attorney or not because until the day I graduated, I did not expect that I would. I thought I would quit along the way. Like I told you, I came home every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and cried to my wife, "The hell with it. That is enough." And I am a great crier anyway. I had enough. It got my mind active, more active than I wanted to be. It did, it taught me to study again. I am glad that I did it. I really

am. I am not sorry, but I would not do it again under those circumstances under the night school, unless I intended to become an attorney. You never suffer for any knowledge that you gain along the way.

I had a couple of opportunities and I turned them both down. When you are growing up and you have raising a family, you have commitments. I was not where I could say, "Well, I will take two years and I will invest it financially." I had to work everyday, to make any money so that I could pay my bills. This would have been an investment, in time, against the possibility of the future, which if I had been more daring or younger, I might have embarked on it. But, I had a family to think of and, as I say, I am not sorry. I never really cry over spilled milk; I do not regret that I did not do. I do not even think I ever sat down and said, Oh hell, I should have, or if only I had have. I do not believe in that, life is too short for that. I think I would have done fairly well as an attorney. Who knows, if I should retire sometime, I might still become an attorney.

I have many friends that have become attorneys and have done well. They went to school with me and have done well. They went into the law profession. Some, like myself, just continued along their driven paths and did not enter into the law. Most of them did not. I do not know how many we started out with. I think we finished with about eight or nine. We started with about 22, I think. I think, maybe, nine dropped out and maybe there were about ten that are practicing law, and two or three of us are not. Take it like an experience, just like any other experiences.

C: Was your attitude towards the bar sort of non-chalant?

S: Well, no, I would not be honest if I said I did not study for it. I prepared and I went to the course that they used to give up in Cleveland to prepare. I do not undertake anything lightly. I believe that would be stupidity to invest five years and then to go up with the thought the hell with it. I thought, If I do not pass, I do not lose anything. I have not lost anything because I do not intend to use it. I still have the knowledge. It is just that I will not have the certificate, the paper on the wall. I prepared for it and I thought I busted it after the first day, very honestly. I had to work, the first day that I could ever conceive. The second day, in my mind, was as good as the first day was bad. But, I did not know if it was good enough. You never know how you do. Then the third day, I went to the end and I got the hell out.

Then, I drove from Columbus down to Wilmington, Delaware because my wife was there in 1959 with the baby. She was visiting her folks with the kids. I went down and I told her to forget it, that I had busted that one. As a matter of fact, I bet Marty Goldberg, who is one of the prominent attorneys in town here, dinner. He and his wife against my wife and myself. I said, "Marty, if I pass it, I will take you to dinner, and I know damn well I busted it, and so you will have to take me to dinner." So, I passed, but I sure thought that I did bust it after the first day. No, I did not approach it lightly. I would be a liar if I said that. I seriously prepared for it and I wanted to pass it. I really did. I figure when you invest five

years of your life that way. You would be a damn fool to say, "I do not want to pass it." You have no business investing your time or even preparing the bar, then get out after five years and walk away. When I put in that time, I definitely did want to take it, not for the sake of becoming an attorney. When you do something you want to do it right. It is simple as that.

C: When Dean Falls died, you talked about the school going to pot. Was that the attitude of the instructors, too?

S: Well, I think what happened was that we lost a few of the decent instructors and then we had a gentlemen, I think he suffered from epilepsy or from seizures. I went into class and he was not nearly as competent. No way could you compare him with Ray Falls, not only from a standpoint of academic achievement or knowledge, but from command of respect and from administrative, the chores that had to be done by the administrative, which was what Ray Falls was. He was not only a practicing attorney, but he was so successful as a practicing attorney he could devote time to the school. The other gentleman was retired and I just do not think he had it.

You see it never had accreditation, it was never an accredited law school. There were certain things that had to be done. They had to get a full-time dean and that is when they considered hiring Judge Rigelhaupt, I understand. They were going to approach him, I do not know if he was on the bench, then, or not. At any rate, they wanted him, I think they had in mind to ask him to become full-time. Then, they had to have a full-time law library. And there were certain things that they had as prerequisites that they had to fill in order to become an accredited law school. And I think that if they had not become an accredited law school within a certain time they were going to let it go by the board. I think they just gave it the little kick that it needed to send it over the top. I think they figured since he is dead, there is really nobody to push this thing, and it began to fall apart. It really did. I think Noels Wyatt died, if I am not mistaken. He was one of the better teachers that they had had over the many, many years. A very, very demanding man and because of it he turned out good people.

C: What about your favorite courses?

S: Well, I will tell you. I have a great ability for learning things and then walking away from them. I like to contract and courts because of Noels Wyatt. He was probably the most challenging professor that I had at the law school. He was the most demanding and challenging man I know.

End of Interview

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Youngstown Law School

Personal Experience

O.H. 980

MORTON SANDS

Interviewed

by

Paul Carlson

on

May 12, 1977

C: This is a second interview with Morton H. Sands for the Youngstown State University Oral History Origram, on YSU Law School Graduates, by Paul Carlson at 7006 Harrington Avenue, on May 12, 1977, at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Sands, on the last tape, you had just begun talking about Noels Wyatt, could you tell us your memories about him?

S: I think that in the tape I said that he was demanding and challenging, and then the tape stopped I wanted to say also, he was an uncompromising and unrelenting man. He knew what he wanted, he knew what he expected of you and he would not settle for less. He gave you assignments to do and it had to be done in no half measure. He was very set in his ways and was very strict. At 7:30 you came to class, and if you came at 7:31 the door was closed and he would not let you in. He gave you so much to prepare and he expected you to be at ease with all of it and knowledgeable about every one of the cases that he had demanded of you or given you to be presented. Should you be called on, you would do one, two, three, or whatever it was that he gave you. If he gave you ten cases, you had to be prepared to do ten. This was in a two-day notice. You would have Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday, I forget. You have one night to prepare in addition to the other course and in addition to your full days work.

Plus, he was rather warm with all of us. He did not want you to think he was, but he was. He was not a soft touch by any means; he was very, very strict. But, I think because of it we learned well. Well, I speak for myself. I learned well. I did very well with him, and I think I got a tremendous amount of information from him. I appreciated his attitude, although sometimes, I called him some rather unkind names under my breath. I did well with him. We got along fine. I think, out of all of the instructors I had at Youngstown University Law School, he was probably the one that I remember the most vividly. I think he was the one that gave me the most. The others, many others were good, some not so good. He stood way out in front in my eyes.

Dean Ray Falls, is another one. He was of a different character, but he was extremely knowledgeable. He presented a lot and he asked a lot of you, which was good, I think. The fact that Youngstown scored so well, proportionately, in the state bar exam, I think speaks well for men like Dean Falls and Noels Wyatt. There were a few other good ones too: John Newman, I have forgotten the fellow we had in Creditors Rights, Myron Nadler was his name, young Nadler, Paul Stevens was a very fine instructor, Judge Maden. Most of them were good, very good.

C: You mentioned about being called for the interview?

S: Yes, but I have forgotten when that was, whether it was the first year or the beginning of the second. I honestly, do not recall what the purpose of it was, whether they wanted to see whether we belonged in law school or what. I can

picture in my mind that it was at the courthouse. There must have been about six or seven. They questioned us as to why we were in law school and what were our intentions. I was not at all impressed with the panel or their questions, or in my own mind, their motive. Maybe, I give them an injustice, but it just seemed to me that it was negative attitudes rather than positive. I was not at all impressed.

As a matter of fact, I was unhappy with the way they went about it. Since I had no real intentions of practicing, at the time, law, I wanted to get knowledge. I had gone, primarily, as I mentioned, to keep my mind active. I felt courses of this nature, where I would have to think and read, the law would do that. So, I really did not stand to lose a tremendous amount if they said to me, that they all interviewed us with the thought that so many attorneys in a city of this size. I do not imagine they were personally afraid of competition, maybe, they just thought that they would be an access number of lawyers to the number of people in the area.

It seems, to me, when I turn around now, everybody and his brother is a lawyer or studying law. They seem to be doing fairly well financially. So, I think there is a place for them. I think government regulations and agencies being what they are and new laws being what they are, there is probably more of a need for lawyers than there ever was before. Lawyers are specialists, like doctors. There is no such thing as the old family doctor or the old family lawyer. You go to a tax expert, you go to a torts and personal injury lawyer, you go to a real property lawyer, you go to a lawyer that deals with a labor relations, and they are all very, very specialized in their field. Of course, that does not mean that they cannot handle others, but if they get questions that are rather, not questions, but situations that would encompass a lot of work into a field other than what they have specialized in.

I think there is a place for a lot of these young attorneys. I do not imagine there are too many attorneys. Like there certainly are not enough doctors. Yet, the AMA makes it extremely difficult for young people to go to med school. That has not happened in the legal profession by any means, because every time I turn around I see a whole flock of new attorneys. Or every time you talk to a youngster and ask him what is he going to do, he will tell you he is going to be a lawyer. We wanted to be teachers or professional people when we were kids, when it really meant something. They do not know what they want to do, so they become an attorney. But if they are good and they have a knack for it, I would imagine there is a place for them. They do not seem to be starving.

C: Do you remember any of the gentlemen that sat on this panel?

S: Just one, he happened to be a friend of mine and that is why I remember him. Saul Malkoff, attorney Malkoff, he is the only one that I happen to recall. I am tremendous at being at a given situation, forgetting who was there, I do not remember my teachers names in most cases, from high school and from college. No, I do not remember any of the others.



C: In our attempt to get an overall picture of the graduates of the law school, we wondered if you would be willing to answer a few questions concerning current controversial issues? Do you think we live in a just society?

S: I, very honestly do not recall what I said. If you do to other people what you would like them to do unto you, I do not think you can go too far wrong. I do not like to see injustice in any shape or form. I do not like to see discrimination in any shape or form. I grew up with it, not in terrible measure, but I have been a victim of it to a degree. I know what it can do and how it makes you feel. I do not imagine I am saying anything out of the ordinary when I say, I just do not believe in injustice. Of course, it is a very noble statement to make, but it is true. I cannot stomach and I do not condone any, if I can do anything about it, injustice in any measure of any type in any situation. There is no place for it, I do not think. There is no need for it. Life is too short. There is so much that you can do in this life. In the short period that we are here, it is just a waste of energy and time and good material to; good people to embark on a program or a course of discrimination or what have you.

It is against my nature and it is against everything that I was taught as a youngster in my home. I guess that is where we get it from. After all, you basically learn at home what you are going to be. You get a big chunk of it in your house, not only in school. You might learn courses and you might learn about geography and history. You might, of course, come in contact with many other types of people. But, by and large, what you get at home from your parents, they are the people that have the biggest influence on you there. They laid the ground work and from there, if it is properly put down, the building will stand and weather, the storms. But, if it is improperly put down or not put down at all, I do not think the building will stand and I do not think the character will stand if it is not based on some sort of real good solid grpimd under its foundations, and that is what my grandmother and my father gave me.

Well, I attribute it to them. Neither one of them would stand for any injustice or any, even like, at home as a youngster, you would spit out things that are bothering you. It is in the nature of an unkind remark towards a person for anything other than I did not like him personally, why, not liking him personally they could understand. But, if you did not like him because he was black or if you do not like him because he is protestant, or if you do not like him because he is catholic or what have you, they would not stand for any of that. My grandmother was as devout a Jew as I have ever come across.

But, I think, again, I think what you are, we had a motto in our junior high school and it just came to mind now. "What I aim to be, I am now becoming," was the motto over there. I think, at home is where it starts, what I aim to be I am now becoming. Because of it, I am sure, like all of us, I have done many things that I regret, unkind things at times. Not, that I am a saint by any means, but its just something that I cannot sleep with easily, if I know I have done something that is not proper.

And I think it still, even though I am 55, harkens back to the days when my

grandmother would sit and give me a what for if I did not perform properly.

C: Are you optimistic about America's future?

S: I do not know. I see so many things that make me feel unhappy. I think if they had turned it over to the young people and let them do something, only with a little bit of help from the older generation, I would be a little optimistic. I am unhappy and pessimistic because I just cannot see where necessary changes can come about easily. Maybe it should not come about easily; things that come about too easily are not things that you want to keep or cherish.

It just seems that our county has gone so far. For example, our government, the Senate, the Congress, the committee that have sat and do sit because they have been there fifty, sixty, seventy, maybe a hundred years, we do not change them. I think the reluctance to change, things that are not proper, the way they have got to fight; they cannot get Congress to commit themselves on a policy of ethics for their members. Now, this, to me, you should not have to ask a man to abide by a code of ethics. If he is a moral or half way moral human being, he should do that. But, the fact that they cannot get them to police their own house, these things bother me.

I can see where the young people are disenchanting and unhappy. I can understand when I was eighteen and nineteen, I was very impatient. Impatience is naturally one of the characteristics of youth. You sit back and you say, well, you have got to be patient. Well, you know, I have been patient all these years, and nothing had happened, then you have reason to be impatient. I can understand why they are not happy and why they are not disenchanting and I agree with them whole heartily. I can see there is sometimes, when you try anything legal and proper and it is of no consequence, sometimes you just have to hall off and throw a rock through a window. It is like the fellow with the horse, the fellow who bought a horse, and he haled off and hit him across the head with a two by four. He said, "What are you doing? Well," he said, "before you talk to him or ask him anything, you kind of get his attention." It is that way, maybe the young people and the government in the 1960's, that is the reason for all the burning and all that. They have been crying for attention and crying for attention. Then, actually, people of our age always know better, that is for damn sure. You know, we never accredit young people with knowing anything.

We do not listen, and if you do not listen, you do not hear. If you do not hear, you do not change. Maybe, that was the only way that they could get their attention. It happened in Israel, the only way that they could hear what they wanted was to commit acts of terrorism. They blew up the British installations and hotels which was a terrible thing. I remember condemning it when I was a kid in New York, but it achieved a descent end. Did the end justify the means? Was that the proper way to go about it? As a legal person, you are not supposed to break the law. Well, I understand that. What if they do not want to change laws? How do you go about getting them changed if you cannot make people listen? In that respect, I am unhappy. Certainly, I am impatient because

I do not have many years to go. I lived all this time wondering about it. I am and I am not. I am pessimistic.

Well, I think of the Roman empire. What made the Roman empire collapse is the fact that it became rotten from within. We are spoiled and, in a sense, we have lost a lot of our moral values. We expect too much easily without having to work too terribly hard for it. I think, as a result, this country condones a lot of things that years ago, we would not think of condoning, misconduct on the part of the officials, businesses or what have you. People just do not give punishment like they used to. It is because of that, I think, we are becoming weaker and weaker. I think what will happen eventually, if we do not turn around and charge, the fact is that this country will go the way the Roman empire did -- a very highly enlightened nation or government, it went by the wayside. It fell from within. It was a very highly energetic, productive, enlightened government, and yet little by little we are striving backwards.

I am concerned about it, deeply concerned. If it concerns anybody, it concerns our young people and what can we do about it? Elect different officials? Just like you see that one congressman from Nebraska or somewhere in the midwest, quit because he was just so completely unhappy with the attitude of the people that he met in Washington and I think that, by and large, there is a man who has the guts to get up and say it, and do something about it. He quit, maybe quitting is not the right attitude. You know, when you quit you leave the field for another man to come in and take your place.

You get discouraged, and I am certainly not one, do not misunderstand me, I do not like him, myself, to him or I am not placing myself in his situation, but when you are one voice alone, you get kind of lonely. And you wonder. We did a show last year at the playhouse, 1776, and it was John Adams that said, "Does anybody hear?" And that is it, does anybody hear? And this was back in 1776, a year after that was the Bicentennial, and it applies in 1977, a year after the bicentennial. I just wonder, nobody seems to hear.

Everybody is comfortable, and everybody is happy. The American's have to get a good kick in the backside before they turn around and get mad and do anything. They get indignant, but they do not do anything about it. We get unhappy and we do not do anything about it. We are comfortable and warm and eating and having two or three cars, and three television sets. What the hell, why be disturbed? I think this, the fact that there are a lot of people that are not properly cared for that are needy. I just do not think that a lot of people in this country care about it. As long as they are taken care of, the poor brother that does not have anything.

But, they do not really deprive themselves. Imagine what would be in this energy situation, whether his approach was right or not, of Carter's. In asking us to deprive ourselves of comfort and we see how well we measure up in how willing we are to deprive ourselves of this. That might be wonderful start, that might really be a great start, if this country would start to deprive itself of a few things. It is like a fat man when he loses weight. I can speak from experience, because I am the greatest dieter in the world. I feel great when I lose weight,

and I take off a lot of the unnecessary fat. We might be more energetic and more aggressive and more ready to tackle problems, instead of thinking, the hell with it, I will go lay down. Again, it is a rambling dissertation, but really is it probably optimistic? No, unless the younger generation is terribly strong and forceful generation. The people in my generation told the kids in the 1950's and 1960's "Well, you have got to go out, go to college, make yourself a living." That is what we were taught, to make yourself a living.

Well, we grew up during the Depression, where there was a difference between eating and not eating. These kids never had to worry about it. So, why should we make them worry and make the money and the job, the criteria. But, by the same token, civilization demands people to perform jobs, certain things that have to be done or else the civilizations crumbles or it becomes no civilization; everybody goes their own way. The world cannot operate if everybody pulls in a different direction. It cannot be put simply, I do not think. There are too many things that tend to begin to adopt a course of procedures something else pulls you a little bit to one side or the other because there are all these forces working on you.

This is not the simple world it was back in 1776. It is a highly complex civilization from a business standpoint, from a physical standpoint from every standpoint. People say, well, we are not as moral as we were in 1776, but we are different than we were in 1776. But, everything is different. You cannot liken the two situations. Morals are not suppose to change. What is good is basically good, or should be. So, I do not know. But, I say that the young people are forceful and enterprising and they are going to take many kicks. They can back from it and have a purpose and the purpose is to set this thing right then I would be a lot more than optimistic than I am today.

- C: Speaking about the youth, one of the problems, I guess they face is concerning the drug situation. Is the decriminalization of marijuana a good thing?
- S: There are so many conflicting reports that I have heard. I could not speak authoritatively on it because I do not know enough about it, but what bothers me more than anything about marijuana is not the fact that a kid smokes it, but I think, they say it has no ill effect. Well, it has less ill effects than liquor. Well, I do not say liquor is great. Most people do not drink liquor to excess. A lot of people smoke. It becomes a crutch and this is what bothers me. A kid finds that he is not quite as strong as he should be and he puffs on some marijuana and it makes him easy, it make it easier for him. So, he keeps working on the marijuana. Well, it is like anything else and pretty soon he is still no stronger for having smoked it. He has not solved anything, that is the first thing. He is no stronger and he cannot resist any better so he goes to something slightly stronger. This is what bothers me more than anything. I think most kids today, and probably my son, I do not know, have tried marijuana and they walk away from it.

I do not think, if you made it legal, the country would be a country of

marijuana smokers. I think anybody that takes it as a habit is stupid. Like they take liquor as a habit, that is stupid. But, there are weaknesses that people just cannot overcome easily. So, you become in a sense addicted to it. I do not necessarily think, it is not that they become addicted to marijuana that bothers me, but it would be a course or an avenue to something worse. And then when they get mired in it and they cannot get out of it, then they are lost completely. Just like a drunk is lost completely. The kids will say to you, "Well, you drink alcohol." Well okay, but two wrongs do not make a right. It is an old cliché, but it is true. The fact that people drink liquor does not mean that you should embark on a program of marijuana if it is going to be detrimental. What bothers me is the people that push it for money. See, these people push it and they push marijuana hand and glove with the hard stuff. They do not discriminate. They are there for the buck and this is what bothers me more than anything else, opening it up.

Maybe if you made it legal where they could walk in the store and buy it, then you take the bug off the street. I do not know. Maybe you do. It bothers me in that I think it leads to things that are worse, other than that the fact that a kid puffs a little marijuana is nothing to get uptight about. It depends on what kind of kid he is. If he is a smart kid it is not going to bother him. If he is not, this kid is going to have problems no matter what. The thing is that he is just making it a little easier for him to get hurt than if he did not have it available to him. He is a minority.

The trouble is when you talk about drugs, it is blown out of proportion -- well, not blown out of proportion. Sure, there are a lot of people that try it, but how many are really harmed by it? That is the big thing. I think it is a small minority, but you should not make it easy, I do not think. Again, what bothers me more than anything is the path that they, the kids, will take marijuana to what? If a kid smokes marijuana anything can happen to him, from now until the day he dies. But once he starts to get into the hard stuff, the heroin, the cocaine, then what? Then, you have big problems; the kid is lost. There are very, very few, well it is not the proper word resurrected, but that are brought back into the main stream of society once they have gotten on to the hard drug kick.

It is terribly difficult to break it and stay clean. Just like it is terribly difficult for the alcoholic to stay away from alcohol. That is why they need help. They have Alcoholics Anonymous for that specific reason. You wake up in the middle of the night and you want a drink, so you get on the phone. You sit down and talk to somebody who can talk with you, somebody who had been in your situation and you can tell them that you need help. A guy that is a heroin addict and has been cleaned or dried out, he can come back but, whether he can get on the phone and talk to somebody about it or not, I do not know. I am not that familiar with it, it just bothers me, that it might lead to the worse drugs. Like I say, it is the people that push this damn stuff is what troubles me more than anything because they are interested in one thing only, the buck.

C: What are your views on capital punishments?

S: Well, I am a hardcore sometimes and sometimes I cry. I really do not know, blow hot and cold. I have always thought that somebody who sets out to take a life, you know they say only God has the right to take a life, well, that is true. But, God gave us the right as human beings to judge our fellow human being and to build a society in which we would punish people for wrong doing and reward them for good. I think he delegated some in a sense of responsibility to us and I think, under extreme circumstances, it is okay.

So many murders are murders with passion. When you get into first degree murder, where it is premeditated, I believe in capital punishment in that respect. I think it should be discriminately chosen for certain crimes only. In that respect, I would not be adverse to it. It is difficult for me to see a human taken under any circumstances, but still and all, I do feel, when you are in war in the jungle, you try to live. When somebody is out to kill you, you must protect yourself. Here, of course, you are in a sense protecting yourself. Although, not at the moment this person is not threatening your life, you are taking his life for what he did for having taken someone else's life, but it is in society. Certain crimes, I think, are deserving of capital punishment. I think it should be weeded out, yes.

C: What are your thoughts on abortion?

S: Well, I believe in abortion to a point. I think to a certain time. I have not gone into it, like I have heard some discussions, but I really have not gotten into it. I should not speak on it because I really have not given tremendous thought to when is a life a life. Then, are you taking a life and what right do you have to take a life? I think there are too many unwanted and people just put the child up for adoption. I have two adopted children and I treasure them both, of course. I just do not know. I believe if a youngster gets into trouble and it happens quick enough and she knows it quick enough, I think she should have the right to an abortion. Certainly, I think indiscretion, just so everybody can go out and enjoy a night knowing that they can get this taken care of, it loses some of the meaning of the abortion. I would vote for legalized abortion, yes. But, I do not know what period in time you would say it is vial, if the life is there in being, so that you are taking your life. I do not visualize it as a life or altogether in essence really I guess it is a life. Maybe it is because I cannot see it in form walking around or even laying in a crib kicking its feet and its arms. I do not visualize it as a life, but I do not know whether we have the right to take that life, again. I guess under certain circumstances I would certainly stand for legalized abortion.

C: How did you react to the Vietnamese war?

S: Well, initially, I was gun-ho, but after a short while, I thought it was a mistake that we made. Again, why were we there and you know everything, this threat to our democratic way of life because it is communist inspired. Was it a war between North Vietnamese and the South Vietnamese, when they should have been lest

to their own pursuits to determine it themselves or were the North Korean's strictly, purely communist's. There are so many conflicting things, but I do not believe ever that you should enter a war with the idea of just containing. I think you have to enter a war to win because if you enter with the idea of containing you are going to lose your shirt and you are going to lose your men.

Initially, I was for it because I think I believed this premise of communism and all, but I made a tragic mistake. We should have learned from France long before us. They learned it. We should have learned it, if not from a moral standpoint, but from a practical standpoint. They got the hell kicked out of them and so did we. You do not intend to use all of your weapons, then do not fight. We had an atomic bomb. It is a terrible thing to say, but you know, if you are going to win a war, I remember people used to chastise and call Patton all kinds of terrible names because his idea was to win a war, you do anything you have to do to win a war.

Well, war in and of itself is not a pretty thing. It is kind of hard to fight when war itself is not an ethical thing and a moral thing. How in the hell can you fight it morally and ethically? There are all kinds of clean wars and dirty wars. There is no such thing. A war is a war. And when you are out there killing somebody, does it make any difference whether you kill them politely or if you kill them impolitely? The fact is you are there to kill them. And to kill them as quickly as you can and as many as you can so that you can save as many of your own people, so that there is not a terrible waste of life, or do not get involved in war.

I think when you get involved in a war, you should get involved for a highly moral purpose. I mean there must be some complete threat to your existence or to the way you live or to the things you stand for. More than anything else, a threat to your existence. Now, certainly, we were not threatened, but the thing is you have commitments in the world. You cannot live in this world as we did 100 years ago; it is too small. There are certain things such as treaties and agreements and the way of the morale issue end and these things. I don't think you could put it simplicity or simply. This is the thing so many people try to do. They tried to put it as a very simple thing, as what to do. Yes, it was wrong, yes it was right, or no it was wrong, yes it was right.

I think there is too much to be taken into consideration, however. I think we got ourselves suckered in real good and we did not know when to get out. I think we were. It was sort of like when you have got too much pride, and pride goes before a fall, is that the saying? Well, it is the truth. If you do not want to stand up and say, "Damn it, I made a mistake, let us get the hell out and we will take our beating for the moment, but we will stand stronger for it." But, now when you keep saying maybe it is eternal optimism, we will stay a little longer, we will push a little more and maybe we will get a break. But we did not get a break. We got broken.

As I say, initially I was for it, but after a bit not too very long afterwards I began to become completely disenchanted with it. I was unhappy about the situation. I think we made a big mistake. I think we had our ears pinned back.

But, that is not the worst thing in the world. Anybody that cannot take a beating and stand up afterwards and say, "Yes, I got a beating but that does not mean by any means that yes, I am finished. That does not mean that you can come over and clobber me again." It is all that much better for it. Sure as hell, if you go through life, and if you live for any period in time, you are going to get your ears flattened many many times.

And the measure of a man is how well can he respond to that beating. Would the beating be justified or unjustified? How well can he handle that beating and come back and become a strong person for it? And I think the measure of the country is the same thing. We are not used to it here in this country. We are just kind of cocky. We are very impatient people. We are two hundred years old. We really think we are great. Well, really we are nothing we are peanuts, we are infants. We have this immaturity and this impatience of youth too, if the American people go abroad and they look down their nose at that they see there. Everything is old fashioned. Those people were there long before we thought about being a country. During the war, I found it to be true.

We took men overseas and they treated the people in England, France and in Belgium as though they were poor relations. And it irked me, seeing the image of the ugly American. It is true. Americans are very rude people. I do not think they want to be, believe me. When they get away from their country, I do not know what happens to them. When people come to this country, they say people would open their arms to them and treat them like long lost relatives, even if they do not know them they know they would take them in and give them everything, do anything for them. Put the American abroad and let him get the slightest but of slightest hint of impoliteness by the people in that country, right away they are up in arms. Like what do you people know? It is a strange thing.

C: Do you think a lawyer should be able to advertise his specialty?

S: Well, not being a practicing attorney, again, I have not given much thought to it. I understand what they are trying to do. Like with these doctors they are trying to keep to themselves. I sometimes think that the lawyers and the doctors adopt a "hollier than thou" attitude, that theirs is the only profession worthy. I think I mentioned the fact that I had a little to do in law school about that. That there is the only profession that is beyond reproach, and it is next to Godliness, it is like cleanliness. That is the law professional and the medical profession. I think you should. I cannot see why not. So long as it is tastefully done. Look, you measure a man by the way that he does things. If he does it carelessly or, you know, runs that sort of an enterprise, I think people will know him for what he is. And if he runs a very good office and he does it tastefully and people can see that it is done for the purpose of letting them know. Especially today in the age of specialization.

You know, there used to be a time when you went to a doctor for all your ailments. One doctor, your family doctor. You went to one lawyer for all your



problems. If you have a criminal case against you or if you need a will to be written or a contract or a lease or a property to seal or a divorce, you went to the same attorney to handle it. Today things are so complex and diversified that I think certainly an attorney specializes.

You see the thing is this, many attorneys, although they do specialize in on particular facet of law, they do not want it thought that they would turn away a will or a contract. A buck is a buck, you know. And I guess that is why when you go into a law office, there might be in a big law office with forty people. If you got a problem relating to wills or estates, you go to see ABCD. And if you have one dealing with slander -- somebody slandered you -- you go to see EFGH. And if you have one to do with divorce, see KLM. And if they have enough to take care of all your ailments, they can take care of all of your problems.

I do not see why they should not be able to advertise. I do not hold the medical and the legal profession that sanctified that they should place themselves above others. Maybe that is a wrong approach. And again I do not know what the objectives are to it, really. And I have not heard them and it might be that they are very valid. I will not belittle them, but I have not heard them. This is my own particular opinion.

C: Well, over two interviews we have covered quite a large spectrum, we have covered your whole life and your period at the law school and now you have talked about current controversial issues, your attitudes toward certain issues. Is there anything else that you think is important that you did not tell us?

S: Well, no I really did not know what to expect, so I just thought to myself, what I would like to say for posterity? And nothing under no great moment or consequence myself. Like the king in "The King and I", each day you go about your business just trying to do the best that you can. And you live your life for one more day is what it amounts to. There is I guess an over all course that you set for yourself and you try to stay within it and you try to move within what you set for yourself. And you try to accomplish what you set for yourself.

I cannot think of anything that I would like to comment on necessarily. Just the fact that this is very interesting to me, this concept of oral history. I never imagined that there would be anything like that. That they would embark on a course of this type and I think it is well taken. Not for this interview necessarily, but I can see where it would be very, very helpful, more than just interesting.

And it gets a lot done at the moment. When you think of history, you think of past, I guess. What happened 100 years ago or the last world war or the Korean War. But this is history today, I might not be here tomorrow. So, I do not think of anything specifically that I would like to comment on. I am sorry that the Youngstown Law School has fallen by the wayside. I would comment on that. Other than that, no, except I am glad to be alive. Like a lot of people say, they are sorry to be alive and in these times I am not. I am not at all.

C: Well I thank you again for your time.

End of Interview