

M: And that was Bob Graham's half brother, correct?

Y: Right.

M: Was he in your class, too?

Y: Knight, Kincaid, Young and Harris.

M: So you practiced there how long, how many years?

Y: About ten years.

M: When you were practicing law, did you ever think that someday you'd like to be a judge?

Y: As time went by I did, yes.

M: So in 1961, who was the first person that called you about your nomination? Did you actually apply, was there an application process to be a judge or was there just I guess a call made or whatever?

Y: No, in Jacksonville.

M: So you actually set up first in Jacksonville?

Y: Well, it was a room smaller than this room. My secretary sat right next to me. Then after that, we had another little room but it was much bigger, it was about I guess the size of our living room. And Iris, you helped us get some furniture. It wasn't all as fancy then.

M: So that was in Jacksonville?

Y: Right.

M: If we go back a little bit, did you have a chance to meet John Kennedy?

Y: Oh, yes.

M: So what was your first impression of John Kennedy?

Y: Well, he was very pleasant.

M: Did he actually interview you or talk to you before you went to the Senate?

Y: No, because we had known him since the time he was in the House. When Iris and I left Washington to go to Jacksonville, George Smathers and his wife, Rosemary, had a little reception for us at their home. Kennedy and his fiancée were both there. There was only about 20 people there. I have a book that, maybe I can show it to you. Later, when I was practicing law in Jacksonville, I had occasion to go to Washington from time to time. One time I was there and stopped by to see Kennedy and went into his chambers and visited with him. He said, "George, I'd like to give you something." He reached behind him and pulled out an edition of

President of the State Senate. And it was his boy, it was his birthday because we had a

Y: Oh, yeah.

M: When you came to Orlando, you were in the Post Office?

Y: Right.

M: What are your memories of holding court in the Post Office, what are your best memories or your worst memories?

I: I could tell you one.

M: I guess as a place of holding court?

Y: Well, it was all right. It just really wasn't a courtroom. Then when Judge John Reed got appointed, we built another little courtroom, I forgot what space we took to make this courtroom so he'd have a courtroom. Then we had a courtroom of the kind for the bankruptcy judge. On several occasions when we had either a busy judge or for some reason, some other judge needed my big courtroom, the only one, I can remember using the bankruptcy judge's courtroom which didn't have any jury box. And I can remember seeing the jury in chairs all along the side of the wall. That was where the jury sat.

M: When did you get your first clerk, was that when you were a roving judge?

Y: Oh, yeah.

M: Did you have just one clerk at that time?

Y: At that time, right.

M: And they would ride around with you?

Y: No. Well, sometimes.

M: What kind of interaction did you have with the U. S. Attorneys in those early years, who were some of the Assistant U. S. Attorneys besides Kendall Wherry and can you talk a little bit about him?

Y: He was really for a long while the only assistant that we had here in Orlando. So he had to do just about everything. Now I don't know how many they have. We didn't have any magistrates. We had some, for a while, what was to me a magistrate, he'd marry and set bail if somebody was arrested. But they did not hold any hearings.

M: Would that be the same as a commissioner?

Y: Correct.

M: That would be the office?

Y: Right. But now the magistrates they can hold hearings and even hold trials.

M: Did you preside or were you here during the Jimmy Hoffa trials in the early '60s?

Y: No.

M: That was before you came along?

Y: Right. And a visiting judge would come in.

M: How would you rate the success of the visiting judges, were they well received or was it hit and miss?

Y: Yes.

M: Were there really good ones and really lousy ones, or how would you evaluate that?

Y: Well, as far as I know, they all did a good job. I had an experience with one judge at

like quite an elaborate situation that seemed to never end.

Y: We had a lot of views, you can have a view in a condemnation case.

the practice before you in those years that you were quite impressed with in this area that appeared before you?

Y: Well, I'd rather not.

M: You don't want to --

Y: I don't want to be scoring anybody.

M: If I ask you some names, can you comment on them?

Y: I'd prefer not to.

M: That's fine. One of the cases that I discovered recently that I've been reading a lot about, it seems like one of the most bizarre cases I think I've ever read about, and I'll bet you remember it, I think you were the judge in that case, it's the Dr. Stiles Davis, who was a dentist and was charged with counterfeiting over in Cocoa Beach I think it was. Actually, he had some involvement in Sarasota, just kind of bouncing around all over the place. What do you remember about that case?

Y: I hadn't thought of it in years.

M: Let's go back to 1971, you became chief judge?

Y: Yes, that's about right.

M: So how did your life change when you became chief judge? First of all, how is that decided, is it a vote or seniority?

Y: No, it's seniority.

M: Can you deny it?

Y: Oh, yes. And there have been judges that said they don't want it, being the chief judge.

M: So how did your life change when you got to be chief judge?

Y: In one way, it was more work but in another way, I had more contact with judges outside of Florida than I did before.

M: Were you required to go to the judicial conference every year?

Y: All judges were in those days.

M: Okay.

Y: But they changed that now. It's every other year which is often enough.

really felt that I served justice well and the outcome came out right plus it was a fun undertaking; is there a case like that out there?

Y: I don't remember any fun cases.

hung, I had to go over the entire transcript which was a couple thousand pages to make certain that an issue that was going to be involved in the trials of the counts in which he was by the hung jury, the new, were not involved in the counts in which he was acquitted because if those issues were found to be involved in the acquittal, then they could not be retried.

M: That must have been excruciatingly difficult.

Y: I had to read the entire transcript of the case before Judge Krentzman in order to be able to proceed with the trial before me. It was very unusual, laborious task, but it was interesting.

M: That was a tumultuous time. Watergate, post-Watergate, he was of course involved in the Watergate hearings and then the next thing you know, he's being charged. It must have been very difficult from a political standpoint for the District Attorney, for example, U. S. District Attorney. Just kind of from your perspective, could you sense the political pressure on the U. S. Attorney?

Y: No, I wasn't involved in that.

M: In the 1980s, there was a U. S. Attorney named Bob Merkle.

Y: Yes.

M: Did you have any memories of Mr. Merkle?

Y: I remember Merkle, but I didn't have any close contact with him. I really knew more about him through the newspaper reports than any other way. He apparently generated a good bit of interest.

M: So on the whole, during your career which spanned four decades, how would you rate the U. S. Attorneys' Offices over the years? Which were some of the ones that you thought were the best, were there some that stood out? Do you have any comments on the U. S. Attorneys' Offices over the years?

Y: Well, on the ones that appeared before me, they did their job like they were supposed to. As I said before, the attorneys who appeared before me, both public and private, always did a good job, or tried to. I never had any problems.

M: You never had to dress them down?

Y: Not really.

M:

come in.

M: How did things change? I bet it was quite a difference when all of a sudden you have another judge in the same building. Did you both practice or were you both judging then at the Post Office?

Y: Yes. He came in, as I recall, to fill the vacancy created by Judge McRae's death. So that was at the same time then that I became chief judge, which took me out of the office so much to different meetings and so on that the chief judge has to go to. It worked out very well because he was able then to have plenty to do. I don't know what I would have done without him.

M: So when did the third judge come along; do you remember?

Y: I don't know the exact year.

M: Who were the judges that you had the closest relationships with over the years that you really enjoyed working with? I understand that the district judges work alone a lot, they are very independent and alone but who were some of the judges that you enjoyed socializing with, if you 1 (d) -1 (445 Q1 (f [(so) -1 (ci) 5 (a) -2 (h) 5 (i) -5 (u) -1 () 4 (w) -4 (i) 5 (t) 4 (h)

sometimes than the district judges have. There was an interim period there where if I