

HISTORY OF THE
U. S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Interview between:

Stuart E. Schoonover, Retired
Industry Relations Officer,
New York District

and

Fred L. Lofsvold
Food and Drug Administration
Woodbridge, New Jersey

May 3, 1982

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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TAPE INDEX SHEETCASSETTE NUMBER(S) 1, 2, and 3GENERAL TOPIC OF INTERVIEW: History of the Food and Drug AdministrationDATE: May 3, 1982 PLACE: Woodbridge, N.J. LENGTH: 148 minutesINTERVIEWEEINTERVIEWERNAME: Stuart E. Schoonover NAME: Fred L. LofsvoldADDRESS: [REDACTED] ADDRESS: U. S. Food & Drug Admin.[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Denver, ColoradoFDA SERVICE DATES: FROM 1929 TO: 1969 RETIRED? YesTITLE: Industry Relations Officer, New York District
(If retired, title of last FDA position)

CASS. NO.	SIDE NO.	EST. MIN. ON TAPE	PAGE NO.	SUBJECT
1	A	0	1	Introduction.
		2	2	Summary of Schoonover's FDA Career.
		12	7	Inspections under 1906 Act.
		16	9	Adulterated olive oil cases.
		21	12	Jake Ginger injuries.
		25	14	Packing stock butter problem.
		0	15	Short weight butter cases.
	B	4	17	Cream Improvement Program.
		14	22	Lead and arsenic spray residue work.
		16	23	Maggots in cherries and blueberries.
		24	27	Inspector travel during 1930's.
		28	30	Lead arsenate on cauliflower.
		29	31	McKay McKinnon.
		0	31	McKay McKinnon (cont.)
2	A	0	31	McKay McKinnon (cont.)
			33	Inspection authority anecdotes.
			38	More on Inspector travel.
			40	Import work.
			41	Frozen egg work.
			42	Shell egg work.
			43	Incubator reject egg work.
			45	Munyon's Remedy case.
		29	46	Dr. Carpentier case.
		0	46	Dr. Carpentier case (cont.)
		2	47	Illegal sales of Rx drugs work.
B	10	51	Drug factory inspections in 1930's.	
	11	51	Drug sampling surveys.	

TAPE INDEX SHEET

May 3, 1982

Interviewee: Stuart E. Schoonover

Interviewer: Fred L. Lofsvold

Page 2 of 2

CASE NO.	SIDE NO.	EST. MIN. ON TAPE	PAGE NO.	SUBJECT
		15	53	Walter G. Campbell.
		17	54	W. R. M. Wharton.
		19	55	J. O. Clarke.
		23	57	Gift package swindle in World War II.
		25	58	Inspection work in 1930's.
		27	59	Providence resident post.
		28	60	In New England
		29	61	Maple Syrup work.
3	A	0	61	" " " (cont.)
		2	62	Industry Relations work.
		10	66	Anecdotes of trial experience.
		22	72	Flood work.
		28	75	End of recording.

This is a recording in the FDA oral history series. We are recording today an interview with Mr. Stuart E. Schoonover at his residence in Woodbridge, New Jersey. Mr. Schoonover served in the Food and Drug Administration as an inspector at several locations and retired as Industry Relations Officer at the New York District. The date is May 3, 1982, interviewer is Fred Lofsvold.

Lofsvold: Mr. Schoonover would you briefly sketch a little bit of your background, where you were born, where you were educated, and what you did in FDA?

Schoonover: I was born December 27, 1904, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. I went through my first year of high school there and then moved to my present address in Woodbridge, New Jersey in 1918. I finished my three years of high school in Woodbridge. From there I worked briefly as an Assistant Chemist in Hayden Chemical Corporation in Fords, New Jersey. I subsequently graduated with a degree in horticulture from Iowa State University in 1928. I then worked for the Moorehead Inspection Bureau, car lot, perishable inspection. At that time the depression was beginning to build up, and jobs were hard to get. I worked in Philadelphia, the Manhattan Produce yards in New York and then transferred to Cleveland.

I turned a position with the USDA in Washington down and then went to New York for one with the Food and Drug Administration at New York. Actually, at that time I had at least a few ideas of what the Food and Drug Administration did. My parents were here and wanted me to come home.

W. R. M. Wharton was then Director of the Eastern District. In those days they had the Eastern District, Central and Western Districts and I worked at the New York Station for about five years. I was transferred, about 1934, to the Boston Station and after being there for a little over a year I was transferred and made, the first Resident Inspector at Providence, Rhode Island. I was there for a couple of years and came back to Boston, briefly, and then I was transferred to the Chicago Station. J. O. Clarke was then head of the Central District but was Director at New York when I was there.

Schoonover: In the Chicago Station I handled the drug work for a while, collected hundreds and hundreds of samples from all over the place. Then I went out on a Cream Improvement Program to Omaha and worked across, back and forth to Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas and then back to Chicago again. Also many inspections were made of tomato factories. I had done a lot of canning work in the New York Station when I was there. In those days the New

York Station went clear to the Canadian border. Much of the summer and fall was spent working out of Albany and in Syracuse, New York. Then there were creameries from there to Ogdenburg on the border.

From Chicago, after being there three years, I was assigned as a Resident Inspector to Cleveland.

Lofsvold: About what year was that?

Schoonover: Without checking my records on it directly, I would say it was just before the war, '42 about '41. I took care of assignments in northern Ohio. About a quarter of my time was spent in the Toledo area, there was a great deal of work there. Billy Ford was then, of course,...

Chief Inspector at Cincinnati. Stuart A. Postle was the Station Chief at that time. He used to call me some special name because his name was spelled the same as mine. Again, a great deal of cannery work in western Ohio and, of course, Indiana.

Then I was transferred, during the first part of the war, to the New York Station. That transfer came about because of a paper that was sent around indicating what Districts desired transferees, if they could make it since the war had started. We had a house here so, I said that I wasn't asking to go but for the good of the service if they wanted me to go I would. So, the ax fell and away I went.

I had an excellent, wonderful time at Cleveland. Walt Simmons was then Chief Inspector of the Chicago office.

In New York...trying to think, I think Charlie Herrman was Chief of the Station then.

Lofsvold: Would McKinnon have been here?

Schoonover: McKinnon? Yes, McKinnon was too. I had worked with McKinnon as an inspector, many, many times. I could tell you all sorts of stories about McKinnon, boy, he was quite a man. Of course, he has passed on now. He phoned me from San Francisco when he was Director there, at one time, and wanted me to come out and be his Chief Inspector, but that fell through.

Lofsvold: And you stayed then in New York for the rest of your career?

Schoonover: Well, yes. From New York and while previously in New York I had been in Newark as Resident Inspector, in fact I served one term of eight years as Resident Inspector at Newark.

Let's see, to go back, no, then from...while at New York I was sent as Chief Inspector to the Cincinnati District and I worked there for a couple of years. I then ran into some difficulties with my home operations and I asked that I be sent back to New York, which they were agreeable to and so I returned here much to my dismay and consterna-

tion. Some times you have to do what you think is best for your life and so it worked out.

Then I was assigned, in the usual routine of things, to hold hearings and supervisory inspector work. I worked with Charlie Herrman on many different types of assignments, especially when we were transferred from 201 Varick Street, the Appraisers Stores Building to the Brooklyn office. There I continued as Supervisory Inspector for several years and then I was made, I guess, the first Industry Relations Officer in the country. I worked up a program there that was very enjoyable. Of course, partly made so because Puerto Rico was in our territory.

Lofsvold: And you retired in what year?

Schoonover: I retired in 1969.

Lofsvold: Stuart, when you first reported for duty here in New York, how many people were in the office at that time?

Schoonover: I would say about ten Inspectors. The Import Division was in the same room with the Inspectors and there were about five Import Inspectors. In those days, too, we handled the Insecticide Act.

Lofsvold: And the Naval Stores Act and the Caustic Poisons Act.

Schoonover: A man by the name of Smith, Smitty, was a Naval Stores operator, inspector, and he knew how to chip rosin with a little axe they had and sample it. I remember

him telling a story about, he was raised as a boy in Georgia and his father had a business, Naval Stores, turpentine, etc., and they had a whole dock loaded, one time, with turpentine and rosin waiting for a boat to come and pick it up and the thing caught on fire and away it went.

Lofsvold: Oh, my.

Schoonover: Then from time to time I was assigned, when the import men were overworked, to go out and help with collecting import samples. I used to go out once in a while even with Johnny Zaic and help on imports and he, for a while, was the Tea Examiner in the office.

Lofsvold: Was Hutchinson here then?

Schoonover: Yes.

Lofsvold: Was that when we worked seven hours a day for five days and then five hours on Saturdays?

Schoonover: You're right. You're right.

Lofsvold: We were still doing that when I started in 1939.

Schoonover: Then I believe Linton was head of the Finance in Washington and about that time he found that we were working one hour less than we should on Saturday. So, we had to work an extra hour and that loused up the train schedule and I couldn't play my semi-pro ball on Saturday afternoon.

Lofsvold: What kinds of industries were you into in those days?

Schoonover: I was assigned, primarily, for almost five years, to candy factory inspections. Believe it or not we had almost 300 factories manufacturing candy. Of course, as I said, our territory ran to the Canadian border and we had factories in Oswego, Fulton, and all over the place. Many of them were hard candy manufacturers, the small type but they did ship in interstate commerce. Also, we had at least a dozen or more large chocolate manufacturers and in those days they bought their beans and made their own chocolate. They roasted, cracked and fanned them etc. Now, in later years, many of the chocolate manufacturers purchased their chocolate in tank truck lots. We had all sorts of violations and literally hundreds of samples, all the time checking on the adulteration, even the percentage of fiber, when they had too much of the shell. The two analysts in the laboratory that were mainly responsible for analyses were Dorothy Scott and Marie Offutt and then Jablonski did the color work.

Lofsvold: That was done all under the 1906 Act.

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: Before we had the authority for factory inspections.

Schoonover: The new authority didn't come until I was in the Chicago District, J. O. Clarke, of course. I might mention that he sent a note around that the Inspectors all

had to study the new Act and that he intended to stop them in the hallways and ask questions of every sort and they had better learn. You never saw such scurrying in all your life and hiding around corners.

Lofsvold: Trying to avoid J. O.

Schoonover: They would take a peek first and then go on their way.

Lofsvold: In those days before we had authority in the Act to make factory inspections, did you have much of a problem of being refused permission to inspect?

Schoonover: No. The only problem was sometimes in the area of taking pictures. While the Act very loosely said that we had the right to make an inspection the exact authority wasn't spelled out.

Lofsvold: When you brought a case against one of these candy factories under the 1906 law, could you present testimony about the factory inspection, during the trial?

Schoonover: Yes, with limitations.

Lofsvold: Mostly you had to testify as to what the laboratory found in the sample.

Schoonover: Right. In later years, of course, we detailed...

Lofsvold: Oh, yes, the '38 Act it changed things drastically, but I was curious about before the '38 Act whether the court would let you testify about what you saw in the factory.

Schoonover: Of course, you couldn't testify about filth, that was for sure. That wasn't included in the first Act. It was mainly on the samples that were collected and the filth that was found. You testified as to the interstate accountability of the sample. Then the chemist would testify what was found. Not so much the evidence of inspection. With the '38 Act, of course, then that cleared the way.

Going back to Providence.... We did a lot of work on the tea seed oil, that time, adulteration.

Lofsvold: That was adulterating of olive oil with tea seed oil?

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: Yes, I would like to have you say something about that, how that worked.

Schoonover: Well, as far as I can remember my part of it had only to do with the collection of samples as analyzed by the laboratory.

Lofsvold: That was Jack Fitelson, I think....

Schoonover: You're right.

Lofsvold: Jack developed a new analytical method because when they first started using tea seed oil and we could not tell it from olive oil.

Schoonover: It had the same squalene content about as olive oil and the analysis as I understand was a little

difficult to check but Food and Drug being the stern character it was...

Lofsvold: Then there were some later developements in that era of the olive oil business, as I remember too, didn't they start adding artificial squalene that they bought from Kodak?

Schoonover: That's right, in Buffalo. Well, I worked on that quite a bit in later years. We had... I remember this one occasion, they had a set up where there was an indicator put into squalene in Buffalo and they followed that shipment down to the terminal, we watched it being picked up and brought to Brooklyn and the car went into a garage and later... I waited all day, I made believe my car broke down outside the man's house. He came out and went to the store and when he opened up his trunk to put his groceries in I quick looked in the trunk, but evidently when he entered the garage that 5 gallon can was taken out. I understand he would doctor up a tank of oil, other than olive oil and make it analyze like olive oil.

Lofsvold: So, when we took a sample and took it to the laboratory we would find the right kind of constants for olive oil, right?

Schoonover: One of the times watching, in connection with that operation in Brooklyn, one of the men involved who was charged for adulteration...owned a drug store. I was

watching this one place, and there was a suspicious fellow coming and going in an old dirty raincoat, a light one, and I tried to follow and keep check to see if there was an connection between deliveries and... In a short time the FBI visited New York District and wanted to know what I was doing watching one of their men.

Lofsvold: They were looking for him too.

Schoonover: He was in on the gang some how or another, he was in the drug store. There are a lot of stories about... I did a lot of work on adulterated olive oil.

One time Jack Cain was in Brooklyn and he watching through a knot hole in the fence at this one location where they obviously were adulterating olive oil, and trying to get license numbers from cars, etc... I can't recall the name but another Inspector in New York District walked right in to the place and blew the operation.

Lofsvold: I remember that even in 1955 when I came here we still were having problems with adulteration of olive oil and I believe that you were working on an oil company that was operated by one of the big gangsters over in Brooklyn.

Schoonover: Oh, yes, yes. That developed into a trial, court case in Brooklyn, and the guy's name was Profaci. We obtained a court order to look over the records of some firm he was connected with and I did that with Johnny Zaic to get proof. Anyway, we finally forced Profaci to trial.

He had pulled all sorts of tricks through his lawyers, even a number of his priests and others came in and told the Hearing Officer what a great man he was, etc., and also with the Assistant U.S. Attorney that handled the case who happened to be a woman. So, I sat at the counsel table in front and she came into me just as the trial was about to start, a little excited, she said, "Stuart what should I do, that Profaci guy talked to me in the hallway and offered me a big bribe?" I said, "Did anybody hear you, was there any witness, or nothing", she said "No", I said, "Well, forget it. There is nothing that you can do about it, it is his word against yours." Anyway the trial started, witnesses were called etc., and they made an arrangement and folded, he pled and paid a fine and that was it.

Lofsvold: I think that we were the only Federal agency that ever got any kind of a conviction on him. He seemed to have a charmed life.

Schoonover: Right. Then going back, remember those days ...the Jake Ginger trial?

Lofsvold: That was before I started, but that is a subject that I would like to get anything that you can tell me about it.

Schoonover: Well, of course, that case, extract of oleoresin of pine tree resin, they used it to make up a

product that tasted something like Ginger. It operated in part between the Hub Products in Boston and an area in Bush Terminal, I believe, in Brooklyn. Distribution of Jake Ginger was made during prohibition and you could buy a 10¢ bottle, or something like that, and down it and it would give you the same burning effect, as whiskey.

Lofsvold: This was an extract?

Schoonover: Extract.

Lofsvold: Extract of ginger that was used as a beverage in prohibition days, and these fellows were making a kind of imitation of it.

Schoonover: Right. It was down-right poisonous. In getting the information and proof against the firm in Brooklyn, I remember Phil Jackman gave them, not necessarily a bribe, but gave an amount of money to the janitor in the place. He put the papers from their office into a separate bag and many of them were torn in little bits, etc. Well, we kept the whole crew after hours, night after night when those bags came back and some were fairly large and just like putting together a crossword puzzle, and then taped them together and had that information as to names, places, dates, and what have you. Finally they were caught up with.

Lofsvold: That resulted in a number serious injuries?

Schoonover: Right. They had later on when I worked in Fall River, and New Bedford, they had regular clubs or associations. The product effected the extremities, eyes, etc. They crippled an individual and they stayed that way for the rest of their life. So many drank it that they had little clubs...

Another product that...a bit of work that later, I don't think you have that problem now, was called packing stock butter in the early days. In the midwest particularly, people with a couple of cows or so would churn out some butter and bring it in wax paper, etc. and trade it for groceries and the grocery store owner would throw it into a barrel under the counter and when it got full, put a cloth over it, burlap, and ship it to the butter dealers in New York. Of course, the difficulty there was that it was loaded with insects and everything else that had crawled into the barrel.

Lofsvold: It would be several days while he was accumulating this?

Schoonover: Right. We constantly checked on packing stock butter from the dealers that received it in New York.

Lofsvold: What did they do with it then?

Schoonover: Well, they put it up.

Lofsvold: They just printed it as is and sold it as butter?

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: So, even if it wasn't dirty when the farmer delivered it, there was an awfully good chance that by the time it was printed that it had picked something up along the way.

Schoonover: Right. Low score butter. Then there was considerable work sometimes, I don't know, they probably wouldn't do it now, but remember the Jack rabbits in Kansas and out that way. They would kill them and throw them into a barrel, put burlap on it and ship it to New York.

On one occasion I was assigned to work on the short weight pound prints of butter. I worked a full summer on doing mostly that, traveling to every butter dealer and any place that had any amount of butter, with a Gurley balance. The butter vendors were located, about a half a dozen or more, in New York City. They would ship to Jersey, dealers would phone in and want so many cases. Well, they would always try to deliver, if a 64 pound tub was ordered, they would always try to deliver 64 pounds. But you know it was impossible because when you squeeze it out you have some water dripping out of the machine, there is always a little loss. On one occasion the dealer in invoicing New Jersey showed the overage of two pounds.

Lofsvold: You mean they got 66 pounds out of a 64 pound tub?

Schoonover: Yes. So that year, I guess it was about 19 seizures of butter in New Jersey, printed by the New York butter printers. There was so much going on, that Mr. Wharton called a meeting of all the butter printers and they got to arguing and then accusing one another saying that, "Well, you printed short weight and in order to stay in business I had to print short weight". So after those seizures the short weight cleared up, at least for a while.

Lofsvold: You spoke of the tubs of butter, were they literally tubs in those days?

Schoonover: Oh, yes. They were round tubs.

Lofsvold: Out west what we had were the cubes, they weighted 64 pounds but they were square boxes, but I had never seen them use tubs.

Schoonover: Well, I guess it was cheaper later on to put a parchment inside of that cardboard, but in the early days the butter was shipped in regular tubs.

Lofsvold: Wooden tubs?

Schoonover: They would deliver barge loads across the river in New York and we would go down to the piers and we would have to take the tubs and line them up accordingly to churn numbers. Then you take according to prescribed sampling methods so many units from each churn. They had an arrangement with the New York Butter Association, when we phoned the butter was delivered from the pier, but he would

hold that butter before using, awaiting word from us, from our laboratory, whether it was satisfactory or not. It worked all right.

One of the problems involved in sampling on the pier, was the wind on the pier. The dirt would fly around. If you weren't quick enough you would have pepper on the surface of the butter.

Lofsvold: Contaminate the butter while sampling it. You were looking then for the 80% fat, I suppose.

Schoonover: Right, high moisture.

Lofsvold: Did that butter mostly come from what the midwest?

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: You mentioned earlier when you were sketching your career that at Chicago you were involved in a Cream Improvement Program.

Schoonover: Yes, a Cream Improvement Program.

Lofsvold: Could you talk a little about that?

Schoonover: Well, the inspectors were trained on the tasting of samples, whether it was a terrifically cheesy taste, a high acid which would make your teeth shiver when you tasted it, a taste that is reminiscent of a dirty separator, and other kinds of tastes.

Lofsvold: These were tastes to detect actual spoilage, decomposition?

Schoonover: That is right.

Lofsvold: That was the one where you took the glass rod and dipped it in, was that the accepted method for tasting?

Schoonover: Well, from Chicago there, the inspectors would go to the City Department of Health and be inoculated for any diseases that might crop up in tasting. One of the main bad tastes was the cheesy taste from an advanced stage of decomposition. Another was from obnoxious weeds in pastures in Arkansas, Oklahoma and the borderline areas. Some of those weeds have a very foul taste, and you couldn't decide whether it was the bad cream decomposition or due to the weeds. Once in a while the butter operator in the place that had already tasted the cream would give the cream can a kick, knowingly you know and want you to throw that out, but you still couldn't take his word. Of course, if it was just a poor taste, it wasn't decomposed.

I remember one time in northern Indiana, George Sooy worked with me, once in a while, anyway at this place I tasted the cream and it was really rotten. I put a tag on the container, they could either put blue dye into it or ground coal and they could in fact take it back and use it for hog feed. I remember this was one of the sects...

Lofsvold: The Amish?

Schoonover: I could see him saying, he had brought in two cans from this widow, he said, "The widow is not going to like this".

Lofsvold: You just condemned it on the spot?

Schoonover: Yes.

Lofsvold: Even though we didn't have legal authority to do so.

Schoonover: That's right.

Lofsvold: Were the states involved in this too?

Schoonover: The states were with us sometimes, but not very much.

I remember in Muskogee, Oklahoma I had a little confrontation there with the Swift Creamery and I condemned about half of their days' receipts. I think... I had to go back the next morning, anyway that cream that I condemned was gone. They had spirited it away to another creamery, at some distance, and Leo Cramer was then Chief Inspector at Chicago District. He happened to be at this creamery where they brought it in and he condemned it again.

Lofsvold: Was Cramer at Chicago?

Schoonover: Yes. He was Chief Inspector at Kansas City...

Lofsvold: Yes, I remember he was a resident of Omaha and Kansas City and Denver, but I didn't know that he had served in Chicago too.

Well, that was really an organized campaign just to try to do something about the use of bad cream in butter?

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: All through the midwest? Was that one of Mr. Clarke's projects, or was it being done all over the country?

Schoonover: I don't know how it originated, whether it was in the Administration or what, but there was an awful lot of bad cream in those days. Some of it would come from a farmer that had a few cows and he would have to keep it for about 10 days and they would have, sometimes in the barn, a little cement trough with a little water in it, take the cover off the can and leave it stand there... It was the inspector's decision in the field, sometimes, when the can was dumped out on to the screen of a 500 gallon tank and the last can contained a dead rat, what to do about it. When you are inspecting cans like they did at Omaha, sometimes they would have over a 1,000 cans, like on a Sunday afternoon that had come in and if you had one fly, suppose you let that go, but if you had 5 flies and six grasshoppers, when do you condemn it? There is nobody there to tell you what to do and actually I don't think anybody would want to tell you. You make the decision yourself and they would close their eyes, but it did represent an economic loss.

Lofsvold: Especially, to the creamery if the bad cream went into the tank with all the rest of it.

Schoonover: Some of the cream came from Texas into Oklahoma. They didn't have refrigerated trucks to any great extent and they would throw a wet tarpaulin over the top of the cans and sometimes the temperature, like in Wichita even, I remember, about 114 in the shade and the stuff would warm up in a hurry.

Lofsvold: Be boiling out of the cans?

Schoonover: I remember one time...once in a while when you were in a hurry you'd cut the wires that held the cover on. Once when I cut the wire the thing blew up from the pressure inside and the rotten cream hit the ceiling and came down on my shirt. Little things that you remember.

In Fayetteville, Arkansas, in the summer time the creamery opened, just as it was getting daylight. So it would be a little cooler to work. I sat in my car watching all the cream cans that were lined up on the platform waiting to be dragged in and dumped and when they turned the lights on the whole platform just moved with cockroaches.

Lofsvold: Oh no.

Schoonover: In about 30 seconds they were all gone. Wherever they went. They lived on cream that spilled.

Lofsvold: Thinking about that period, we have a large number of pictures that were apparently a collection of Mr. Larrick's, pictures of FDA personnel, mostly inspectors, and one group is called the Flying Squad. Did you ever hear of that term or have any idea what that meant?

Schoonover: It strikes a distant chord, but I don't know.

Lofsvold: Somebody was speculating that it referred to a group of inspectors who were specially trained in fraud work and traveled all over the country doing that kind of work. It is not one that you recognize?

When you were doing this cream work then you didn't stay within your own station territory, you traveled all over the Central District.

Schoonover: Oh, yes. You were away, for instance, you started out right after the 4th of July and got home for Labor Day. My wife said she was going to divorce me, and I get home for Labor Day and I am sent up to around Traverse City, Michigan and didn't get home until around Thanksgiving.

Lofsvold: Up there, what was it canning of...

Schoonover: Spray residue.

Lofsvold: Oh, spray residue....

Schoonover: Orchards and so forth. It was an area where there had been apparently little work done. I got into sort of a hassle, in fact, this one fellow let it be known that he was going to shoot me the next time he saw me and I was thrown out of his orchard. I had found some high residue and in order to get samples I had to go down at 12 o'clock at night, at one of the freight places where

before the car that he had loaded with apples was dragged on to the main line, main freight line, and break the seal and get into the car and take my samples, because he wouldn't let me do it in the orchard. That was likely why he was going to shoot me.

It was interesting later at Manistee, Michigan, Saturday afternoon I walked into a freight office to get records and he was sitting there with some of his cronies. Everything went dead. I went about my business and he did nothing.

Lofsvold: This was the lead and arsenic problem?

Schoonover: Yes.

Lofsvold: Prior to World War II. Did you do much of that work when you were at New York or Boston?

Schoonover: Well, New York...oh yes. In New York particularly now in Monmouth County, there are still a number of orchards, also in New York State in the Hudson Valley, and Cherry Valley, from Albany to Syracuse. Through Rhinebeck, New Paltz, Tivoli, Hudson, New York all through there there is still a big fruit industry.

I remember one time at Germantown, they had a cold packing plant, and I was checking the cherries brought in. You would take a no. 2 can and cook them up and put them in a pan with a black bottom and look for the maggots. One #2 size can had almost as many maggots as it did cherries. I

went back and checked and found that an undertaker had bought an abandoned farm with cherry trees on it. He had hired somebody to chop the trees down and then picked the cherries off and brought them to the cold packing plant.

Lofsvold: Never had been sprayed or anything?

Schoonover: No. Those cherries never got cold packed that year.

Lofsvold: There were canneries in that same area too, canning fruit or was it just shipped fresh?

Schoonover: It was mostly shipped fresh. The canneries in New York state, at one time, canned string beans, corn, peas, etc., but a good part of that industry moved to the midwest after that.

Lofsvold: They were up in the Mohawk Valley and in that area?

Schoonover: Yes. In that area.

Going back to the canning industry, working out of Boston one time and coming from Fryeburg, Maine they had a 20% corn infestation there and you checked with the County Agents and others as you go along and they had difficulty there, of course. Then in those days too you checked the garbage wagons and so forth to see if they were using any saccharine in place of sugar as a sweetener, which happened sometimes.

Lofsvold: In corn? In the early part of the pack.

Schoonover: I remember one time in New Jersey, here, down at Freehold, I was in a railroad station checking late in the day, records for freight shipments and I looked across the way to a tomato plant in operation. I never knew it was there and it was right on the edge of the dividing line for the Philadelphia District. I took a quick look at them, and boy they were going through three and four deep on the line, with nobody checking them, with mold and what have you, so that firm went out of business in a hurry. I reported it to Philadelphia District.

Lofsvold: You were mentioning, was it blueberries, checking them for maggots?

Schoonover: Oh, yes. We did a considerable amount of work every year. Of course, inspectors sometimes would ride the boat down from Maine and there were a lot of blueberries picked wild in Maine, and shipped to the New York market and they would take samples and run them coming down.

Lofsvold: Examine while they were in transit?

Schoonover: Right. Cook them up and put them into a tall deep container of some kind and then decant the color off and then you would have the solid material and put it in a pan with a black bottom and pick out the little worms and if there were over 3 millimeters; sometimes you would have a whole mess of little tiny ones but... One thing that I recall, and I felt so sorry for the individuals, a group of

people in Pennsylvania, during the depression had apparently put their resources together and picked a whole truck load of wild blueberries, in crates, 32 quarts in a crate, and sent them to the New York market. Well, in that work, you tramp around all night long especially at the Washington market, go out to Gansevoort, sometimes the Newark market and if you saw little loopers crawling on the outside of the crate you knew that there was something cockeyed with the blueberries in there. I took a sample, back to the laboratory and ran a quick test and they were terrible. We had to condemn the whole load.

Another time following a seizure of blueberries, I went with the U.S. Marshal in the Market District in New York and the crates didn't feel quite right. When you lifted them up to take the incinerator. In those days, they took them up on the East River and burned them. There were adjoining cellars and somebody had left the top layer and had put moldy cherrries and everything else in the other layers underneath. They got away with several layers of blueberries to sell. I went up to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to make an investigation, but you just couldn't make the facts jell after a thing like that happened.

Lofsvold: If anybody had stolen the blueberries and had substituted other bad fruit for them.

Schoonover: That was another contest we had. Every once in a while you would meet some obstreperous individuals that didn't want their products seized and they would put up a fight for it. I remember one time in Providence we seized some bandages that were not sterile and I went with the U.S. Marshal, he was a big fellow that weighed about 300 pounds, loud voice and the owner refused to show us where the goods were and said he had sold them. I was positive he hadn't sold. The marshal said, "Get'em, either I bring those in or bring you in". Well, he raised a trap door behind the counter and went down the cellar and got them. The same thing happened one time with a load of peas that I had sampled, the fella tried to hide them.

Lofsvold: On this blueberry work did you also work on the stuff coming in from Canada?

Schoonover: Not to a great extent, no.

Lofsvold: Or did we get Canadian blueberries in those days.

Schoonover: Occasionally, to my knowledge, but most of it was the state of Maine.

Lofsvold: I see.

In those early days, Stu, did FDA have a fleet of cars for the inspectors?

Schoonover: No, you had two or three cars, that was about all. On your assignments you went out to...for instance,

you took the train to Scranton, which you could drive now in a couple of hours, but that was an overnight trip, you took a sleeper and you had your Gurley balance plus your suitcase and your grip with all your papers and so forth. Whatever you had to do you either walked or you took a taxi or a streetcar, but you were limited on a taxi because you had to have so many units of baggage otherwise Linton wouldn't approve it, he would take it off of your expense account. I remember one time he sent an expense account back, because I had misjudged the gasoline tax by 1 cent. It wasn't right, and back it came.

Lofsvold: What if you needed equipment, like butter triers and things like that, you had to carry those too?.

Schoonover: Absolutely, you checked your assignments. I made out a card for each town and what I had to there. If you were on a trip and you got a telegram, there were a lot of telegram communications in those days, a request from another district to do something and you lacked equipment, you would go to the local health office and see if you could borrow something there.

I remember one time in... I was working out of Syracuse and I got a telegram from Western District to check lugs of grapes for short weight. It seemed sort of far fetched to me because those things ran all over the map. Anyway I kept a check on the freight car. It was

recorded as coming into Syracuse. The freight agent was suppose to let me know but becoming suspicious, I phoned ahead of time and found it had been diverted to Ogdensburg. I jumped in my car that night and got up to Ogdensburg, before the car arrived. I lacked a scale to weigh with but...it was loaned to me by the health office in Ogdensburg.

Yes, you did a lot of foot work in those days. I remember one time I was working in New Haven and there you traveled by bus, etc. and I had an assignment to sample five pounds blocks of cheese, from Swift or Armour, one of them, and I had a whole big load and I had to get on the bus with all that and my grip and the Gurley balance...but that was the way you operated and you didn't think anything about it.

Lofsvold: Part of the job.

Schoonover: It wasn't to bad around New York, because they had in a sense a better subway system then than they have now. Five cents is all it cost on the subways in those days. It ran all over the place. In fact coming across the Brooklyn Bridge, in that area, they had those old trolley cars with the side board. The conductor then walked the side to collect the fares.

Lofsvold: When you were away from the office and collected these samples, you shipped them in every day by Railway Express, or...?

Schoonover: REA.

Lofsvold: But if you were working in town, why you went into the office at night and delivered them, or brought them into the office for the laboratory?

Schoonover: Right. A little story on McKay McKinnon while he was still working as Inspector in New York. He was coming back from the Connecticut area and he had some samples in his car and he was beating the track down, so the police stopped him for speeding and he gave them a story that he was rushing some samples back to the office and he had to get them analyzed. So the police said, "Follow me, I'll lead the way". McKinnon said he was shaking in his boots for fear he would want to come up to the office and see if he was telling the truth. But he let him go.

Another interesting story on sampling out of Albany. I was working with a State Inspector there, on spray residue. There was a farmer putting straight lead arsenate into a 5 pound sugar sack and putting a dab on the cauliflower plants as he went along. Well, sometimes the inner leaves are used for making soup. You know, there were little pieces of lead arsenate, the size of the end of your finger, the rain had gotten down there. Boy, to me that was really dangerous. So, I went back to the State House with the State Inspector and he put it on the radio for the State Police to stop any truck from this fellow going out

of state and turn it around until we could get an analysis and check the load. So, I got a telephone call from the New York District, "Hey, what's going on up there. State Police are stopping trucks." So, when I explained, well it was all right.

Lofsvold: That agreed.

Schoonover: The state had taken over the deal and we were out of it.

I was assigned once on the shipments of apples from the Pacific Northwest to check the spray residue. There were a large number of cars coming in. You would go over in the middle of the night before the cars were put on to floats to take them over to North River piers. McKay McKinnon had been out to a party and he came in to help me in the wee hours of the morning with a plush coat and a derby hat.

Lofsvold: All dressed up?

Schoonover: He was climbing into cars, pulling out boxes, and sampling apples. Just before that I had been waiting and the Jersey City Police came along and wanted to know what I was doing waiting there at the corner in the middle of the night. I explained what we were about so that worked out all right.

Lofsvold: If they'd seen McKinnon in his Chesterfield coat, they really would have wondered.

Schoonover: Well, he was a brilliant young man. When he put his teeth into an operation he could really do it. He would take shortcuts too. I remember one time we went over to Patterson to check on some, what we called alcohol candies, because it was against the law to put alcohol into chocolate candies, and we went to this one plant and it was locked up, no evidence of life at all. Somehow you had the feeling that they might have seen us coming. So, there was a side stairway that went up to the roof, we got up and there was a box on top of an opening and we lifted it off and there was a stairway there. Mac looked at me. He said, "Well, there is no time like the present". We went down to the factory and it was according to the terminology "hot", they had just left, they had seen us coming and away they went. Well, we could have gone to jail, you know, especially today for breaking and entering.

Lofsvold: Breaking and entering.

Schoonover: But, we found what we wanted to find and they were making shipments someplace and that was it. If the U.S. Attorney had ever...if there had been a trial, as to how we had got the evidence the case would have been thrown out. You know, in those days it took... Like the old story about checking on a certain factory in Connecticut, they had rented a row boat and gone down to the lake along side the factory, trying to watch operations, etc., and

some guy told them there is no fish in that lake what are you doing out there.

Lofsvold: They used to do all kinds of things in order to try and find out what was happening.

Schoonover: Oh, sure. Particularly in those days, if you acted as if you had the authority, it wasn't questioned. Once in a great while, I'm trying to think of the name of this individual again and I can't. He made an inspection in New York, he came back, he had taken pictures and the firm phoned and demanded that he bring the pictures back. So, Wharton directed him to take his film and everything back and give it to the firm. Of course, we had no directive on this. In fact, even today, I imagine that they insist on that you can't take pictures, and the Act doesn't spell it out.

Lofsvold: That is right, I think the instructions still are that if they forbid you to take pictures, you try to argue them into doing it, but if that doesn't work you put the camera away.

Schoonover: But there are times... Years ago, too, I remember there was a factory in downtown New York that made wine jellies, and they were sold to a fancy firm around the main station in New York, the millionaire section, the fancy restaurants, etc., and so the minute you go into some of these places, this is after we had authority on the '38

Act, filth problems. It has a characteristic odor when there are rats in the plant. I looked over and under the counters, and found heavy evidence of rats. I decided to go back the next morning and they had all these wines cooling over night, in round plastic cups and they would dip them into warm water and then put them into a cellophane bag with sugar. Well, you could see the paw prints where the rats had been walking through these cups. Several of them had rat pellets lying right on top of them. The trick is to go in first before the evidence can be disturbed. So I got that evidence, but again I had taken pictures and I wasn't challenged on that. So that was an open and shut case.

Another open and shut case, I had a letter on that sort of a commendation of some kind. I had an assignment to check on a complaint on the pits in cherries at a wholesale grocer in Dayton, Ohio. The cans were labeled pitted cherries and in those days, too, you could pull all sort of shenanigans. So, I went around to the back and walked in as if I was a salesman and talked with some of the flunky employees there and struck up a little friendly conversation and found out that they had been in that weekend, the boss had taken a couple of them, and stripped the sub-standard labels and put fancy labels back again.

Lofsvold: They took the substandard legend labels off.

Schoonover: What happened the cherries had already been seized once and sent back to the factory in Buffalo where they labeled them with the proper labels and then got them released after seizure and sent them down there.

Lofsvold: Then they put the original label back on?

Schoonover: So, with that information I went into the office. I approached them you don't ask them, you tell them, if you want the information. I said, "You relabelled these cans over the weekend, and you have your invoice for the shipment, etc. He ordered labels from Chicago. He signed an affidavit covering the full transaction with factual records.

Lofsvold: He confessed?

Schoonover: So, he was prosecuted. Another time, at an insecticide factory in Connecticut, I had a very nice conversation with the owner of the factory in the office when I went in. He said to me very pleasantly, "Now, Inspector, you see that door". "Yes". "Well, you are not going through it" and that was that. I didn't go through it.

Another plant in Jersey, not too far from Paterson, I went in to make an inspection and it was a bread plant. I was asked to wait and come back again later in the day and I said, "Well I have authority, I have written you a notice and I am here to make an inspection. There is nothing in

the Act that says I have to make arrangements with you to inspect your factory at a later time. Well, he kept me waiting and he said something about his attorney. I said, "Fine, call your attorney, I'll talk to him", and it happened to be an attorney that had formerly been in the General Counsel's office in Washington, and he did phone him and I did talk to him. I said, "Well, you tell me, you're refusing to permit me to make an inspection now and I'll leave". Well, he said "I don't want that on the record, you know." I said, "Well, it is either going to be one thing or the other, either I am going to make an inspection or I don't." OK. It ended up then during the time I was doing this he had somebody squirting a hose on the ceiling, on the floor they had everything drowned in that bakery, they had cleaned it up. But if the evidence is there...

Lofsvold: Yes, if it is bad enough to do anything about, they are not going to be able to clean it out in 15-20 minutes, or even an hour.

Schoonover: Another time, there was a cheese cake plant in the back end of Newark and the brown crumbs that they put on the top of cheese cakes, after they make it, that room was overrun with mice. So, it was late in the day when I hit there, I had been to other places, so I said I would come back first thing in the morning. I did go back first

thing in the morning and he had a crew hired to go in at nighttime, you never saw such...it looked like heaven itself.

Lofsvold: Cleaned all night?

Schoonover: Quick drying paint, the floors were clean, all the questionable containers were thrown out. I said to myself, "They destroyed my evidence". In one way it is good to effect a correction like that.

Lofsvold: Yes, it accomplished what you started out to do.

Did you get involved in the Elixir Sulfanilamide recall?

Schoonover: Only in the sampling end of it. A lot of that was done, and I wasn't directly involved. I knew what was going on.

Lofsvold: Where were you at that time?

Schoonover: In Cleveland.

Lofsvold: Were there any shipments up this way, or was it mostly down South?

Schoonover: There were some shipments around here, yes. But, collection of samples, etc., essentially.

A little story, another time, a bakery in Bayonne, inspecting that...I went there on a complaint of somebody being made sick on the cannolis. So, I looked around the bakery and saw several bags of sugar under the counter. They would take some sugar and put it into a bin and would use that to mix with the cannolis. Well, the bags, cats

had been sleeping on the things and you could see other insect activity, so I cut the bag and lifted it up and you could see this dirt all through the bag and into the sugar. He claimed that it was the cheese he got from another place in Brooklyn that had caused the difficulty, the sickness and so forth, and I said, "Sir, here is your evidence right here, you just got plain dirt into your mix." Boy, he went up in the air and grabbed a big butcher knife and came after me. His wife let out a scream and so I didn't waste anytime I walked out the front door. I wasn't going to argue with a man in a case like that, because he just went nuts. I got the local health inspector and the police and went back to finish the inspection. No use being a dead hero.

Lofsvold: No. Heavens no.

Schoonover: The field trips would last from a week to a month or more. Assignments were collected, as sent to you by the Chief Inspector and you had a basket on your desk and you marked it travel assignments. Day after day you'd throw the assignments in there until they built up sufficiently to make a trip worthwhile, enough work in that area. Then I would make out a card with the name of the town, and what I had to do in that town, and then leave a list of that work with the Chief Inspector when I left. You would have your assignments bundled and you go in that

town and work on your assignment there. In between, usually by telegram, giving you new assignments or you would stop at the post office in that town and there would be mail there with additional assignments.

It was very interesting to work during the depression. Remember we had to take a month off without pay, rather than take a lower salary. Well, we were allowed...we got down to \$4.00 a day per diem, it was sort of a job to operate on 4 bucks a day, but what I did was stop at the Poughkeepsie YMCA and get a membership card for \$3.00. That card entitled you to stay in any YMCA for a \$1.00 a night. So I slept in plenty of YMCA's for a \$1.00, sometimes it was an iron bed in the gymnasium but I got by.

During the depression too, at the Hotel Mizpah in, Syracuse, you got a full course Sunday dinner for 75¢. Lofsvold: You got to know all of the places where you could do that.

Schoonover: Well, you had to.

Lofsvold: When you had to take that month's furlough was it a straight month or was it some days for each month.

Schoonover: Some days for each month. Usually you could tack it on to your vacation, whatever it was, and they kept track of it.

Lofsvold: You were traveling as you said either by car or by common carrier on these trips?

Schoonover: Mostly. Later though after '38 and etc. of course, you had cars to travel in.

Lofsvold: When they sent you these assignments by telegram, they came from your Station headquarters and you had to keep them informed about where you were going to be so they could keep sending you things?

Schoonover: Yes. You kept them informed so that they could keep in touch with you. This one inspector, I can't remember his name, he invariable incurred the wrath of the District, he sent a telegraph saying, "leaving", etc., leaving...

Lofsvold: Was that Eddie Palmer?

Schoonover: That is right, Eddie Palmer.

Lofsvold: Yes, I heard those stories.

Schoonover: A telegram like that was worthless.

Lofsvold: Yes, he didn't want to be found. You mentioned that early, in your first year or so that you were here you did some work on some imports also.

Schoonover: Yes.

Lofsvold: Anything particular there, as to the products that you worked on?

Schoonover: Not particularly, as I recall. There was considerable work sometimes on Italian tomato paste that came in. Tomatoes are notoriously items that go bad, hydrogen swells and so forth.

I remember one time they had a shipment of carloads and carloads the Army purchased, from Italy, that went down to Belle Meade, New Jersey, which was the depot down there, distribution for the Army and we went down and checked and sampled, checked and sampled and the stuff kept going bad all the time, the longer it stayed there the worst it would get. Finally, I guess they had to destroy the whole shipment.

Lofsvold: Stuart, as I remember there was a lot of work done on eggs around New York, too, because this was such a market, stuff was shipped in here from all over. Did you get involved in that?

Schoonover: Yes. There were quite a few warehouses in Jersey City, New York and I drilled a great many cans of frozen eggs to check for decomposition, your pineapple odor, etc. In those days, too, there wasn't the formal training on that kind of work that existed later. Later you had to go to Egg School, etc. Then you learned by actually working in the field, usually you went out with another inspector that was trained. However, there was a confirmation test on the basis of the sample that you took back to the laboratory, for decomposition, so that covered that end of it. That work was constant, it just went on and on.

On the shell egg work, I don't know that the District did too much with that. There was a period after the

second World War when eggs, stored, I understand stored in caves in Missouri. Car loads were brought into New York to the egg breakers and they would try to get by with eggs that were marginal. My job was to go out and learn how to candle eggs. I had a little bit of that in college in the courses I took in poultry work, etc., but B. B. Wright went out with me and we ordered so many cases down in the warehouse and flash candled, broke them, and noted the contents. Invariably, well you can tell from flash candling what the inside of the egg looks like. When the egg gets old it just sort of floats around, you give it a quick twist and you always get a mixed rot out of it.

Lofsvold: The yolk breaks down and spreads out through the white.

Schoonover: Yes. It is strange, depending upon the type of bacteria, some mixed rots don't smell. You can call them a rotten egg, but you could actually use them if you wanted to. We learned how to candle eggs by that method and on that basis we had quite a few seizures. When a car load of eggs was seized it was taken down under bond and recandled. They had professional candlers. I'd be there to supervise the operation, and I warned the professional candlers to take out those weak eggs because I am not going to pass them, I know what they are going to look like after you twist them. They wouldn't do it and I remember this

one time they had to recandle, again, the whole car. That is a job to recandle a whole car load of eggs, you know.

Lofsvold: It cost them a lot of money to have people sit there and candle a whole car load twice.

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: I know at various times there were problems with people buying up the incubator rejects, the eggs that didn't hatch.

Schoonover: "Inkies". Yes.

Lofsvold: And putting them into edible eggs.

Schoonover: Were you here that one time when they traileed "inkies" from Maine, down here, they used anthracene crayon to mark the lot, wasn't it? They wrote on the cases and on some of the eggs. The marks were invisible but showed up in ultra-violet light and on some of the eggs. With the help of the state police they followed the trucker. They had been taking them to the dump, previously from the hatchery, when they would find them bad. One operator from Newark, had been prosecuted before. He operated trucks roughly from Atlanta, clear north to the State of Maine. He said, "I'll give you \$2.00 per case if you put them into cases like normal eggs." "Inkie" rejects, OK. So this load was followed down and it landed in Newark and we were alerted and sat up all night keeping watch on this truck to see where it was going, etc. I think I went, like 2 days,

without sleeping, because you alone knew what the truck looked like.

Lofsvold: That's right.

Schoonover: Tommy Sciacca was in on that one deal. We followed it to...what was the name of that town? The Chief of Police must have been in with this deal, somehow or another, because I had phoned the state and they got an Inspector up right away to embargo the truck load. The police chief came there in a big important way, had a big Cadillac, but when he left he spun the wheels and threw dirt and everything all over everyone who was standing there on purpose you know. Anyway, the egg dealer's name was Cohen, I think. We got him to trial in Newark. That was one thing that surprised me in the development of that case. I had gone out to Rutgers and wanted to get someone from there to testify about the undesirable quality of "inkie" rejects. The head of the department there wouldn't agree that "inkie" rejects were not edible. He said, "Some of them don't smell, don't have an odor and they can be used." Well, our standard was that if the yolk, the yellow and white mixed together it is a mixed rot, if it deteriorates that far. His right hand man in the department disagreed with him and he spoke to me aside. Fortunately, he is the one that we got to testify in the case.

Lofsvold: Harry Cohen, wasn't it?

Schoonover: You're right.

Lofsvold: Wasn't that truck over at Carlstadt, New Jersey at the garage there. I remember that happened while I was here in New York. I think Sammy Columaria from Boston followed the truck all the way down here.

Schoonover: We almost lost it in the back alleys of Newark. Sitting there the police came along and found out who we were and went and got a pizza and brought it back to the car in the middle of the night.

There was another bit in Greenwich Village where we set up a couple of nights looking. Remember that fella from New Hampshire came down. Remember that box with the colored lights in it.

Lofsvold: Oh, the Dinshah Ghadiali case.

Schoonover: The fella from New York who was a doctor shot and killed himself afterwards, do you remember that?

Lofsvold: Oh, yes.

Schoonover: This is not directly related to that, but sitting there at night time everything would be quiet, so-called peaceful, but the bums would be sleeping in the doorways up and down and then it would get cool and you would see the things come alive. They would build a little bonfire in the gutter, to warm themselves and then go back to the doorways again.

While in Providence, Rhode Island, in canvassing for products that were misbranded, I found a big stack of cases

of bottles of Munyon's Remedy, which came from the Munyon Remedy Co. in Scranton, Pennsylvania. They were labelled with every wild claim you could think of, tuberculosis and everything else. They were finally seized, no contest, and destroyed. That type of item would have made a wonderful exhibit at the present time.

Another thing that I one time worked on in...out of Newark, and there was a trial on it. Dr. Carpentier in the Passaic area, as the story goes, he had some kind of a fatty preparation that was good for tuberculosis and they said that dogs were disappearing from certain areas, whether he was making it from dog fat or what I don't know, I had to make an investigation. One of the leads you could get was where he had gotten people to take their family members that were under tubercular treatment out of Bergen Pines, and then Glen Gardner was the name of another tubercular hospital out in western Jersey and we went there and Dr. Dobbs went with us one time to make a check, but to me that was a horrible miscarriage of whatever...he sold it for \$7.00 a jar. You would rub it on you and it was suppose to help you with your tubercular condition. He was tried in Newark, I don't know what the results of the case were.

Lofsvold: About what year would that have been?

Schoonover: The tuberculosis cure that I referred to before, when I worked in part with Dr. Dobbs, also checking

on a fellow named Carpentier who presumably made a fatty compound out of dogs or some such thing. Investigation was about 1943-44 and ended up in a prosecution in Newark, New Jersey court.

In later years, probably in the late 40's on, there was continuing over-the-counter drug work. There were two phases, one of course, drug work that was done through the sale of pills. Quantities were purchased by Inspectors working out of New York. As resident in New Jersey out of Newark, I had to check numbers of complaints, drug stores, etc., illegal sales which resulted in quite a few prosecution cases. The thing that always irked me was that if you go in like a local yokel you can make a buy, but Killingsworth insisted, and it may have been administrative policy, that you had to have two inspectors to make a buy or you couldn't substantiate a case in court. Well, I could make buys in practically any drug store that I wanted to. If you went in at odd hours and dressed a certain way, you sort of had an appeal that they couldn't turn down. There were about a half dozen cases where I knew that they were selling drugs illegally, but no one else could seem to make a buy. For instance, one of the...men that broadcast on the radio from New York his wife became addicted to Seconal that she got in a drug store in Plainfield, New Jersey. I went in there like late in the day, with my old painter's

uniform, with paint on it and a box of brushes under by arm, I conveniently dropped them on the floor in front of the counter when I was asking for a buy, etc. The druggist sold me, illegally all the Seconal I wanted. Another Inspector comes from New York, all dressed up, the minute you looked at him you knew he was an Inspector and you blew the whole case.

A number of others. One of the most interesting cases, was a priest called me from East Orange, a large Catholic church; I had once given a talk there on Food and Drug work for their organization. He told me about this family in..., I'll think of the name in a second, the fellow owned a flourishing diner, and he got on pills somehow or another and he sat in the back of the drug store with this one druggist and he would give him a few under the counter and he became addicted. It is not exactly an addiction, Sodium Seconal, etc., but anyway he got so that his children started leaving home; his wife told me when I went to the house to check that he beat his head on the radiators sometimes when he was just crazy from overdoses. They put him in a home. He lost his diner, and after a period of time they let him out and he went right back to this store again. Well, I went there and filed a prescription for six and pretty soon he was selling me all that I wanted on that. The fellow was so careful that you would

give a phoney address, like an apartment near there, etc., and he told me...he went out..."I checked on it and I didn't see your name on the mailbox in that apartment." Well, you would give some excuse and he would follow me out and you would see him look in the front of the store and I would go into some factory near there, in the door as if I were a noontime worker. In order to make buys, you had to do those things. So, we finally built a case against him.

The interesting part of it was that one of the New Jersey State Pharmacy Board members, his name was Vitale with whom I worked. Well, the violator was an old gentleman, lost his drug store, but Vitale gave him a job at his drug store in Rutherford. What happened the State Inspector was shopping around and went in and he sold him pills. So as a member of the Pharmacy Board he had to fine himself.

Lofsvold: His own store.

Schoonover: Another very interesting one was a complaint from Keyport, New Jersey. The drug store operater there was selling pills to kids. An investigation developed and he was pretty soon filling for various kinds of drugs from... One of the women from the New York office lived there and so I had her arrange that if the druggist called to check up on the address that I gave, which was her home, that everything would be kosher, I was a local

fellow. So it worked and he was prosecuted. It turned out that he was the local Post Master there. He ran the drug store on the side. But there are many interesting cases in closing out drug stores.

Lofsvold: Then after that we got more into the dealing with professional peddlers that didn't even have the front of a drug store.

Schoonover: Right, right.

Then ostensibly the state took over some of the work. I always had a uneasy feeling about the state, as nice as some of the officials were. Some of the men employed by them were just not to be trusted.

On this "inkie" egg work, we found the place back in Newark that had all the breaking equipment, etc. in there and they were actually using incubator rejects and selling them. So, I checked with the state and the state embargoed it and placed an Inspector, to guard the premises supposedly all night, until the equipment could be taken out the next day on a seizure basis. What happened, he claimed he was getting a cup of coffee, in a nearby diner, and when he went back everything was gone.

Lofsvold: Not very likely with the amount of equipment that they had.

In recent years we have spent a lot of time inspecting the manufacturers of pharmaceuticals. When you first were

around New York, did we do much of that, inspecting people like Squibb, and such firms?

Schoonover: Yes, inspections were made, but they were made on a little different basis, actually a lot different than they are made today. Inspections took much, much less time. Today sometimes the Inspectors are in the plant for a week or two. Then inspections consisted essentially, of checking their raw material section to make sure that everything was properly labelled and stored, that weighings were double checked, that the labels were counted out for a machine and properly placed, that the labelling machine itself, that prior labels had been cleared out so that there was no chance of a mixup there, but that was essentially it. It wasn't until later years that full fledged checking of formulations, etc. came into being.

Lofsvold: At that time didn't we depend a great deal on the analysis of the final product, whether it met the specifications, either theirs or the U.S.P. or something?

Schoonover: Definitely. Hundreds and hundreds of samples were so collected. The drug work that I did in Chicago, that was essentially that type of work. Once in a while you would have complaints, physicians and others. We did a lot of work checking on ether. We collected quarter pounds and half pounds, at hospitals and brought them in for analysis.

Lofsvold: Was that looking for decomposition in storage? Aldehydes? I remember that we still had quota samples of ether when I started. It stopped a few years after that. I guess we weren't finding enough wrong that justified the expense.

Schoonover: What was it we checked on then too... We had to put in so many hours in on project work, on what did they call it now, oleo, oleo project, remember?

Lofsvold: Yes.

Schoonover: So....

Lofsvold: That was after the tax law was changed, so that yellow oleo became legal.

Schoonover: That's it. If you approached the end of month and you didn't have the number of inspection hours that were required, the Chief Inspector would say you put down four hours, you put down six hours, etc.

Lofsvold: That was in order to meet the requirements.

Who were some of the early Drug Inspectors that you learned drug inspection from?

Schoonover: Well, of course, the main one was Charlie Hyak. He was known as Mr. Drug, but he was pretty closed-mouthed, he kept everything to himself and every bit he wanted to do by himself. You got little training from Charlie. Charlie Greenlee did considerable drug work. Of course, he was a pharmacist. So I would check with him on many occasions.

Lofsvold: Was Johny Cain involved too?

Schoonover: Not to any great extent. He was...

Stu Zeckendorf did quite a bit of drug inspection, but he was a fast operator. He didn't seem to spend much time. Then later he specialized on antibiotics and then later he quit and went into the nursing home business.

Lofsvold: About that time Charlie Wayne was coming to be the principal Drug Inspector, of the whole country.

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: Stu, I would like to talk with you now a little bit about the personalities of Commissioners and other top officials that you might have known, as to what kind of people they were and how they managed, etc. You were appointed, I guess, when Walter G. Campbell was Commissioner? Did you ever meet him?

Schoonover: Oh, yes. We had conferences for the Eastern District, at the New York District, each year. Representatives from the east coast would be there and Walter Campbell would be there and talk to the group and I met him a number of times. In later years, I met him at a District meeting in Cincinnati, I was called down when I was Resident Inspector in Cleveland, for conferences a couple of times a year. One little thing stands out, he was inquiring into the work itself and he wanted things done

properly. I remember one time, Billy Ford, one of his Chief Inspectors in Cincinnati when we were there, described, I think, it was Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, he had made an inspection of their drug plant. He had a file that was about a half a foot thick with a zillion labels, everything beautifully set up, and Billy told all about the inspection, going from department to department. Finally, Campbell listened quietly, then he said, "Billy, did you find anything wrong?" Billy said, "No, it was a beautiful plant." He made some comments. He thought, that usually, there is something wrong to be found in every plant if you work hard enough.

To get back to Mr. Wharton, in the New York District, he was quite a leader. He operated by assigning work projects to those that helped him in his official district work. One of his tricks was to get them...here is this problem, here is this letter, now you write a letter for me in reply. By so doing he could put his fingers on individuals who were coming up through the line, if they had any real ability to make sense out of it.

He would come down from his high position and go around with Inspectors, now and then. In fact, he came up to Boston and went around with me on some inspections. Lofsvold: He was rather autocratic, wasn't he?

Schoonover: Well, that is what I was getting to, yes. He, when the workload got pretty heavy and I think he had... Lowe was the name of one of the individuals there.

Lofsvold: Yes. Austin Lowe.

Schoonover: Austin Lowe. Stuart Postle, when I came there, was one of his right hand men. Then later, they each became Station Chiefs, but later when the load got heavy he would just say to those in the office, "You're staying tonight, and you're staying until we get this work done and that is it." So, they would have to clear their desk for the next day. Oh, they hated that. They would be there until 9 o'clock at night, with their families waiting, they had commitments, etc. It didn't make any difference, you were staying.

Lofsvold: That was hardly the way to make friends of your employees.

Schoonover: Right. But somehow, he had a hold on industry, when he could call industry on some specialized problems and they would bring the information right over. They respected the man, the way he conducted the District work, the Station work.

J. O. Clarke, well I've talked about him before. He was quite a Director.

Lofsvold: He was here in New York when you started and then went to the Central District?

Schoonover: That's right. He was the Chief of the New York Station.

Lofsvold: Then went out there as Chief of the Central District.

Schoonover: Right. Chief of the Central District.

Lofsvold: Before you went to Chicago?

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: He was kind of a different individual than Mr. Wharton, wasn't he?

Schoonover: Oh, as much difference as night and day. Wharton was, well he was a studious type but it is hard to describe. J. O. Clarke was a chemist, to begin with, and all business. Wharton liked his good times and he could relent and we had a number of district get togethers and he was always interested in a party. Of course, as I indicated before, on Saturday afternoons when they got in the back laboratory well he enjoyed that a great deal.

Lofsvold: He joined the poker game too?

Schoonover: He and, what was his name, the Import Division...I can still see him.

It was about that time too, remember the import wine from Portugal, particularly, that had glass in the wine.

Lofsvold: Oh, yes. The glass splinters.

Schoonover: Yes. After it was tested that was available and some of it seemed to disappear, sometimes.

Lofsvold: Was J. O. a card player while he was here?

Schoonover: I never was too close to that end of things. He always seemed to be just businesslike and that was it.

Lofsvold: Did you have much contact with him when you were in Chicago?

Schoonover: Yes, I would go into the office to talk with him on different problems. He would call you in and if you went off on a trip or just an assignment, sometimes he... you would get a call to go in and he would talk over the area of what you were going to do, etc. Showed that he had an interest and his finger on everything that was going on. He called me in, he got a letter in French and asked me... I had French in high school and I could make sense out of it. Then once in a while he would talk about things that happened in New York.

Lofsvold: Did you see much of McKinnon, when he was here in the Eastern District, working as Chief of New York?

Schoonover: Oh, yes. Mac handed me a number of assignments to report to him. Like the project on the soldier gift packages we were talking about.

Working up one case, he wanted a price comparison, too. So I got all the figures on the cost of the ingredients in the package to show that the price that they asked for them was outrageous, compared with what went in. Soda crackers, prunes, a few figs...

Lofsvold: Now, these were the packages that companies made up for people to send to soldiers during World War II?

Schoonover: Right. In the department stores, you looked at a sample of it and it looked beautiful.

Lofsvold: But the package that they sent wasn't the same as the sample that you saw?

Schoonover. Right. I remember Judge Goddard in the Southern District of New York, a prosecution case there. He took the package, one of our official samples, on the bench and the lower layer was held up by soda crackers over a prune in four corners and then they had expensive macaroons and stuff on top. He took the package and chewing out the defendant, he slammed the package on his bench and the stuff went flying all over the room.

Lofsvold: I remember collecting a sample of one of those packages, on an assignment from New York when I was a Resident at Spokane and the shipment had been made to a sailor at Farragut Naval Base, in Idaho.

Lofsvold: Stu, you have given us a lot of good information here about what it was like to be an inspector in the 1930's and the kind of work that you did. Is there anything else that you can say about that?

Schoonover: The work that I did... At one time Mr. Wharton requested that I send him a report of my activities in... while Resident at Providence, Rhode Island and

summarize the work that could be done in the territory. I thereafter addressed a three page letter to him, dated December 18, 1936, setting forth all the work accomplished and that which could be accomplished in the Rhode Island, Cape Cod area. A good part of the work there, at that time, since there was no really large manufacturers consisted of surveillance and picking up leads on items that were misbranded, adulterated, etc. Many of the requests were received from other districts around the country, to check on products shipped. I noticed on the copy that I have that there were seizures and many samples of tea seed oil collected. Drugs, samples of canned salmon, macaroni, tomato paste, and in those days there were a lot more wild claims on drug items, patent medicines, a number of which came from small towns in other areas of the New England states. It seemed like each little county had its own remedy for some particular home cure and they weren't too careful about what claims they made for it.

There were cold storages in Providence and in New Bedford and Fall River. Later during the depression Providence and Fall River they almost looked like war torn towns because they had huge brick walled storages that in order to save taxes they just blew them up and tore them down because the business was so poor that the products didn't come for storage in many areas.

I worked very closely with Charlie Hopkins, who was the head of the Rhode Island State Food and Drug Administration.

Lofsvold: We can take that memorandum that you wrote, append a copy for the transcript of this interview so that whoever is interested in it can read the whole story as to what was going on. At that time, that was a new Resident Inspection post, wasn't it? You were the first one to go there? Was there anyone, other Resident post under Boston over in Connecticut at that time or was Connecticut then divided with New York?

Schoonover: No. At that time, Hartford must have been under the Boston District at that time, because I know I went over there a number of times.

Lofsvold: But there was no Resident post at Hartford?

Schoonover: No.

Lofsvold: New York used to have somebody up there at Waterbury. I wonder if they...

Schoonover: There was a Resident post there.

Lofsvold: That was under the New York office?

Schoonover: Right. At that time I don't think that there was any Resident post, other than the initial one started at Providence. Of course, out of Boston you would prepare a trip and usually you would go to, over to Springfield, Massachusetts and keep on and stay overnight maybe at North

Adams, and then up to Vermont and swing back through White River Junction and stop, if it was the proper time of the year, at the canning plants in Fryeburg, Maine and then swing up to the East Coast and then back down to Boston. Of course, Boston had a great deal of work in the sardine canneries on up to Lubec, Maine across from the Canadian border.

Lofsvold: Was there much doing in maple sugar and maple syrup, in New England at that time.

Schoonover: Yes, but not to extensive.

There was one store particularly in Boston that specialized in handling maple syrup, from many areas around the New England states. A good part of the work consisted of collecting samples from there for analysis to see whether the sugar was adulterated or not.

While working out of New York, one area produced some maple syrup, it was around Cortland, New York. One way of checking was to go to the local farmers supply place and strike up a conversation with them and in the course of which you would try to find out which farmer, or maple syrup producer had bought 100 pounds bags of sugar from them. If you were successful you could trace it back, not necessarily questioning the producer too much because he wouldn't tell you in the first place. But to check to see if he had made any interstate shipments, any trucking lines, or freight offices, etc.

Lofsvold: Was lead in maple syrup a problem at that time?

Schoonover: Yes, there was in the early days lead in maple syrup. That was...I should have mentioned that before.

That was the main problem other than the adulteration that was investigated. Again, it was based on samples that were picked up and checked for lead content.

Lofsvold: There was no way you could tell from....

Schoonover: Whether the buckets were soldered, or what.

Lofsvold: Is that where the lead came from, mostly from solder?

Schoonover: That's my understanding, plus, collecting buckets painted with white lead paint.

Lofsvold: Stuart, at the start of this interview you mentioned that in the later years, before you retired, you were working as an industry liaison officer with the New York District. Could you tell me a little bit about that work?

Schoonover: I think, according to what Weems Clevenger told me when he appointed me, that I was the first Industry Relations Officer in the country, working from a District in the field. I went into it, you might say cold, and you prepared the program yourself. I had a feeling to begin with that I would get some help from the inspection end of it, in areas that they considered most violative on the basis of food, drugs, etc. That didn't seem to

eventuate, so I started myself. The first one I held was one for Chinese noodles. It was evident that they had been having trouble with these manufacturers. So I found out who was the main Chinese noodle manufacturer that had control to sway over the others and went to see him. We had a very nice discussion and after several visits he said, "I'll help you with the seminar, workshop, and don't worry I'll get them all there", which he did. So we had every manufacturer in the whole area come, I think there were about 20 or something like that. We held it in the District office. That was the only one held in a District office. I had the Department of Agriculture there to talk about the handling of eggs, candling, etc., and a speaker from private industry having to do with sanitation, which was the big problem with Chinese noodle places. Sanitation was just awful in some places. They would get up with their shoes on and sweep the bin out that had noodles coming out dry, it didn't make any difference to them. So, from that it led into quite a few other seminars, the fish industry, cosmetics, a number on drugs, several of which tied into Puerto Rico and their operations down there, the food industry and the drug industry. Puerto Rico, at that time, had a sad performance in the food industry, but I guess since then they have worked up into better sanitation.

Lofsvold: This would have been along about 1966, 67?

Schoonover: Right.

Lofsvold: About the time that Commissioner Goddard came from C.D.C. and started emphasizing voluntary compliance?

Schoonover: Right, right.

One of the most interesting ones that I held, or prepared, or planned was the one for the Foreign Consulates, its briefing relative to FDA laws and import requirements. A program was prepared and I had arranged to use, or permission had been given to me to use a large room in the new U.S. Court House in the Southern District in Manhattan. Two days before, I found that some Congressman had requisitioned that courtroom and I couldn't use it after all the plans had been made, which caused no end of consternation. I immediately had to set the program going and they permitted the use of a smaller courtroom, but we had to take the front tables out and then I had to phone and get rental chairs to put in and they delivered them on time and finally got everything set up. Even a simple little thing like the cards that I made with the names on for the speakers and placement wouldn't fit on the benches the way that I had planned for the other one. So, I had to change that in a hurry. I think that morning I got up and went into the office about 4:00 A.M. to make sure that everything was set. It went off all right.

Lofsvold: This was attended by the representatives of foreign governments?

Schoonover: That is right. We had quite a few representatives of foreign governments and from Communist nations.

To work into a further aspect to it, I found that for future such programs it worked out very well to have the speeches printed and... The Navy had a printing office, and a commissary, commissary in the Appraisers Store Building. They had a complete set up for their printing. I contacted them and they said that they ran out of work every once in awhile and were glad to have something to do to keep their people busy. So, at a nominal charge, you wrote up the program and some of which, particularly a drug program in Puerto Rico, was accompanied by pictures in the program, etc., and then they printed it up. A copy was thereafter sent to the attendees at the conference, and it created a lot of interest and they had something concrete in their hands to remember the program with.

Lofsvold: Is that that you are holding a copy of the briefing program.

Schoonover: Yes.

Lofsvold: It is entitled, Speeches From The Foreign Consultate Briefing To Further Understanding of FDA Laws and Import Requirements, New York, New York, October 22, 1968.

Stuart, do you have any other anecdotes about odd things that happened during your career?

Schoonover: I recall a trial in the Southern District of New York, at which I had to testify. We had found some short weight, quarter pound cheese shipped by Kraft-Phenix Cheese Co. up to Connecticut. I collected several samples, short weight was proven in our lab check which resulted in prosecution. Hank Cragin had charge of the running of the trial then, for FDA, and I was on the witness stand, I testified in part and I was handed sample sheets to identify, collection reports, etc., and I had already mentioned sample numbers on the stand and he gave me those sheets to identify, but somehow into the record he gave me the wrong sheets, the wrong numbers. I said to myself, if I admit that he is incorrect in handing the wrong sample numbers, it will cast a bad impression to the jury. So, I went right on and testified about this sample number and it wasn't the one that I had in my hand and it got by.

Lofsvold: Nobody noticed?

Schoonover: But boy, do you sweat for a second like that. I was dead wrong. I was under oath on the stand.

Lofsvold: If the defense counsel had picked that up, it would have been rather damaging.

Schoonover: Right. I was right in one sense but wrong in another.

Lofsvold: You were testifying about what you actually did, but not the piece of paper that they were offering for entry in the evidence.

Schoonover: Right.

Oh, a lot of little silly things happened. There was a drug trial, I think it was Fort Wayne, Indiana one time, I was working out of Chicago. The State Inspector, I can't remember the exact product, but the State Inspector had given some help, but he happened to be an individual whose natural facial expression looked like he was smiling all of the time. I can see him sitting in the courtroom, the judge up front, and the judge kept looking at this man and he must have got the feeling that this individual was making fun of him. Finally, he ordered him out of the courtroom. He just had a natural expression.

The judges, the way they act, Judge Meaney, in Newark, he was a Jersey City politician before he was made a judge, I guess. There was a drug case against Premo Pharmaceutical Co., the other day I noticed in the paper that they are still in trouble. They had a number of prosecutions.

I was sitting with a Postal Inspector, and he pronounced sentence in this case and I thought it was altogether outlandish, for the violation, and I turned my head to the Postal Inspector he was in on the case too, maybe I whispered a word or something but anyway the case

that was it and we went out and just got out the door and the judge yelled from the front, "Young man, young man", did you have anything to say about sentence I just imposed?

Lofsvold: Oh, no.

Schoonover: I felt like saying, I sure as hell did your honor. Anyway, finally he said, "Skip it", and I went on out. He was a...you couldn't agree with the Judge. You would schedule the cases, he would call you in for a pre-sentencing discussion. Before he went into court that morning he would know what his sentence was going to be, he would have everything lined up and it went off like clock-work. Why, that wasn't fair. Just ran them right off and that was it. You have to listen to a little testimony, extenuating circumstances, etc..

Lofsvold: Yes.

Schoonover: It didn't make any difference to him, boom, he got through his cases in a hurry and he would go play golf or something in the afternoons.

Another Judge is Judge Goddard in New York. We had two filth cases. One against this big candy firm, what was the name of it, in New York? They since built a huge plant, they were near our office on Varick Street... Williams was the Inspector and he found mice in the second or third floor and they were very honest in that...they

were honest. They asked for the government photographs, they allowed them to take pictures and they enlarged them and they put them in the different departments with some such expression, never let this happen again. It was an example to their employees. About that time, too, there was a Silverstein in the Bronx, a distributor of candy, small lots. He was only a peanut compared with this big candy firm who dealt in millions and shipped around the world. He had gotten hold of some phenolphthalein laxative gum, and he put some new wrappers on and sold it for regular gum. Well, there were complaints from parents in Connecticut...

In connection with that, he had candy manufactured in like a garage in the back of his place, and there was some filth found. Well, he was brought into court for sentencing the same day as...I don't know why I can't remember the name of that big candy firm... He was fined \$1,000, the small one. The large manufacturer, the judge waited until the third call, the reporters had left to go back to their papers, etc. and then when he came up, "This is the firm on Hudson Street?" "Oh, yes." A \$50.00 fine and that was it. Well, they were just as bad as the other guy. It shows the difference between one with...

Lofsvold: Yes.

Schoonover: Another case that I had to do with, was the use of benzene hexachloride to control wire worms in

potato production in Monmouth County. There were several phases. The benzene hex, imparted a very musty odor, or rather taste to potatoes. They had a mini riot in Rahway Prison, one time, the prisoners said the potatoes are rotten and started throwing them around the table, etc. and I was sent down to investigate.

Then there was a carload shipped from Freehold to Atlanta, and it was seized down there. I had to go down to testify. So, I testified at the trial. I got half way through the testimony about checking on the place, and samples of the dirt underneath the potato in the field that I had collected and the crop itself for analysis in the New York laboratory, and it was a seizure contest. The judge asked, "What happened to the potatoes?" Well, I stopped my testimony and the U.S. Attorney said, "Well, they have since spoiled and were thrown out". The judge said "what are we arguing about, it is a moot question." The case was dismissed. Here I had made a trip all the way down here to testify.

Lofsvold: That was in that period when the new organic pesticides were coming out one after the other, right after World War II. Some of these were used and nobody knew what was going to happen when you used them.

Schoonover: To carry that story further. A boat load of coffee sunk in New York harbor. It was taken out and sent

down to Milhurst Milling, West Freehold, they had a big commercial drying operation in connection with a lumber yard operation. They dried, so many hundred bags of coffee there, and FDA tested it afterwards and found it was still unfit because there was no coffee taste left in it after soaking in salt water. So, the result was to get it under seizure, it had to be gotten rid of and we were to supervise the destruction of it. How to arrange for it. Well, I called the...no local garbage dump would take it. So, I called the State Department of Health and they couldn't come up with any name that would take it. So, finally I thought of this same man, the farmer that we had seized the carload of potatoes on, he kept beef cattle in part to furnish fertilizer for his potato fields, etc. and he was a redhead with a big temper, redheaded. Well, there was nothing to lose, he could use it for fertilizer. So, I went over, and he looked me over first, "You had the nerve to come back here?" So after we talked for awhile, he said, "Yes, bring it over, I'll mix it with the manure". It turned out we dragged 27 truck loads of coffee out there.

Lofsvold: Oh, no.

Schoonover: So, he got good use of it for fertilizer.

Lofsvold: Paid him back for his potatoes.

Schoonover: Right.

One time in Boston, following a freeze in Florida, a load of oranges up there in the market. We were checking, and you would cut them in half and then use an indelible pencil to check the dry areas and if it is over a certain percentage, why it would be a seizure.

Lofsvold: If it freezes, those oranges that are frozen have no juice in them?

Schoonover: That is right, they are dry. I was going around with Jack Lenahan, from the Boston Department of Health. We hit one lot that was just borderline. I said to Jack, "We can't take a chance on this because it would be unfair". Jack said, "I don't know about you, but I will, let's destroy the evidence." He called the city dump truck and took the whole load out, threw it on a scow, and went out to sea and that was the end of it. He said, "Now let them howl."

Lofsvold: He didn't have to worry about going to trial.

Schoonover: We can talk about all the flood work up there that I worked on. A flood in the New England states, I've got a booklet showing all of items in the Central areas, a trolley car underwater and...

Lofsvold: You know, I remember while I was here at New York we had two hurricanes in Connecticut, just about a week apart. I remember that you were up there on that. I think you and some others took a crew of inspectors up

there, and while you were there the second one came through.

Schoonover: Providence, that was a big one.

Lofsvold: Yes.

Schoonover: They pulled us back to Woonsocket and we sat there. They had just finished putting a window in the store across the street. We were peeking out the window, with the wind howling there, and out comes the oranges and everything again, rolling out in the street.

Lofsvold: For the second time.

Schoonover: From one Saturday to the next.

Lofsvold: I think you came to some town where they were having an awful fly problem?

Schoonover: Webster. Webster, Massachusetts. Oh, your memory serves you well, doesn't it.

Lofsvold: Yes.

Schoonover: Yes, that was very interesting there. In other words you went into town to check and sort of help supervise and some of the areas, like the gas station, well you had some pipes sticking up out of the ground, that's all. They were dumping the stuff from the stores, the food, etc. in the open fields at one end of town. Presumably had somebody to double check on it, but people were coming from another area and stealing the canned goods right and left that had been dumped in the field. So, we

had a meeting every night of the town fathers, to go over what had been done. You know you call attention to these things...

But the big problem, as you mentioned was flies. Boy, you had to fight your way into the restaurants with the flies all the way around you. That is when I asked them if there wasn't a fruit grower with a high pressure rig, and so forth. So they got some malathion and went out in the middle of night, after midnight, and sprayed and it really controlled them.

Lofsvold: Sprayed the whole town.

Schoonover: Well, especially in the areas where the river was and the water came through.

Lofsvold: Yes. I think that was the same flood work when Bill Conway was with you and he contracted polio and was off work for several months, as a result. I think he made a very good recovery and he is still working in Philadelphia.

Schoonover: Part of that same flood work I was assigned to in the south end of Providence. There was a huge warehouse, and items that were inundated with flood waters, food products, etc. in the warehouse. These were taken care of for destruction, in part, they dug a...bulldozers you could almost bury a house in the hole that they dug there. Those items were taken care of.

I remember one big lot for the A and P, carloads of jellies and jams, sealed you know. Well, the silt gets up underneath that cap and there is not much you can do, even if you clean and sterilize it. So, Leo Lusby who had retired as Chief Inspector at New York District, was then working for Underwriters Insurance Co. and the group was off to the side, I could see them talking, well I was working in another section and finally Leo came over said to me, "We could sanitize these and use them again in the stores", and I looked at him and said, "Leo, that is not the way that you taught me". He turned around and went right back.

Those little things you just never forget.
Lofsvold: I'll just close it off, Stu, by saying thank you very much for taking the time to record with me today. These anecdotes that you have brought up will certainly be handy material for whoever wants to read about the early days of the Food and Drug Administration. Thank you very much.



December 18, 1936.

MR. W. R. M. WHARTON,
CHIEF, EASTERN DISTRICT.

Dear Mr. Wharton:

In accordance with your personal request I am submitting herewith a brief report of the work at the Providence Sub-Station from October 1935 to December 1936.

Providence is the second largest city in New England, having over a half-million people living within a distance of fifteen miles around the city. The Providence Station presents a three-way source of interstate samples such being obtainable within an hour's, or less, driving time with the possible exception of the territory about East Hartford, Connecticut.

The territory contains four wholesale drug houses and some fifty wholesale grocery firms.

Since the establishment of the branch station a little over a year ago some four hundred fifty-six official samples have been collected and forty-five seizure actions accomplished covering a wide range of foods, drugs and insecticides. These seizure actions necessitated close cooperation with the offices of the United States Attorney and the United States Marshal. I am now keeping in touch with the following cases:

M. De Robbio & Sons, Providence, R.I.

Seized olive oil adulterated with tea seed oil being dumped for sale in drums.

International Importing Co., Providence, R.I.

Prosecution on charges of misbranding and adulterating oils.

First National Stores, Inc., Providence, R.I.

Separation of codes in 1,000 case lot canned salmon.

Standard Wholesale Grocery Co., Providence, R.I.

Seized lot of shrimp now moved to Cole Teaming Warehouse. Similar lot being held at Driscoll, Church & Hall Grocery Co., New Bedford, Mass.

Semolina Macaroni Co., Providence, R.I.

Seizure of 30 cases canned tomato paste to be made.

The Browns Pharmacy, New Bedford, Mass.

Seizure of Silver Crown Hair-Scalp Tonic to be made.

During this period considerable time has been spent on designated project and survey work relative to preserves, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, tea seed and olive oil, balcerics, insecticides, etc. Twenty-two factory inspections covering these items have been made. Surveillance work has resulted in the seizure of some five lots of sub-standard peas, four lots of rubbing alcohol, three S.A. preparations, two lots of misbranded olive oil and one lot of adulterated olive-oil.

Inspection of cold storages in Providence, R. I., New Bedford, Mass., and Fall River, Mass., these being the only cold storages in the territory, has disclosed no unfit lots of meats. Three lots of decomposed turkeys were found unfit and destroyed.

Friendly concerns have notified me from time to time of suspected items such as:

Use of B. Carotens in macaroni products.

Tomato juice being sold in milk bottles.

Sub-standard peas.

Morphine sulphate tablets. (Dr. Maery Pelletier, Providence, R.I.)

Hexamethylenamine Tablets shipped by Blackman & Blackman Co.,
New York City, N.Y.

Various of the large insecticide firms have branch distributing houses in or near Providence which have been reported on a surveillance basis and samples collected. Continued surveillance is necessary to cover these firms.

Concerning drugs other than those handled through the wholesale houses, various out-of-state manufacturers have been reported to the home stations with request for samples, such as:

Standard Pharmaceutical Co., Newark, N.J.

Zenith Drug Co., New York, N.Y.

Blackman & Blackman, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Otis Clapp & Co., Boston, Mass.
Boston Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.
Diamond Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.
Petroline Laboratories, Inc., New York, N.Y.
American Pharmaceutical Co., New York City, N.Y.
Tonawanda Drug Co., North Tonawanda, New York.
Direct Sales Co., Buffalo, N.Y.
McKesson & Robbins, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

There are approximately fifteen small jobbers handling drugs mainly cut-rate type supplies on a wholesale basis.

Visits have been made to doctors in outlying districts and numerous drug samples collected. Many doctors in southern Rhode Island and northeastern Connecticut dispense their own drugs. Collections from such sources were made during May and June when Boston instructed me to remain on full-time drug work.

Numerous assignments are received regularly from Boston and from other stations.

The following surveillance operations will be carried along with routine assignments for the next few months:

Continued survey through Italian olive oil districts.
Inspection of approximately ten small insecticide manufacturers, also visits to various greenhouses to report stock of insecticides on surveillance basis.
Check of apples in storage at Merchants Cold Storage Refrigerating Company.

Complete S.A. survey at wholesale drug houses, including continued work on small manufacturers from whom samples are desired, such as:

J.R. Brownell & Son, Little Compton, R.I.
Roche-Renard Co., Fairhaven, Mass.
Hazeloch Medicine Co., Providence, R.I.
The Northeastern Magnesia Products Co., Providence, R.I.
Boss & Seiffert Co., Inc., Providence, R.I.
Daggett & Miller Co., Providence, R.I.
Earnshaw Drug Co., Greenwich, R.I.

Complete inspections of macaroni firms.

Check wholesale grocers, bakers, etc., to learn of firms handling bad canned goods, etc. Certain retail stores reported

selling so-called cheap re-processed canned goods.

Submission of two samples per week of low-grade butter. Survey thus far has disclosed no packing stock butter.

Factory inspections of two firms manufacturing fruit juices.

Instructions from Boston Station now call for 25% of time applied to drug work.

It is definitely believed that this work can best be carried on by a resident inspector who is known throughout the assigned territory and who "can be on the spot" so to speak to handle the work.

It is true that there are relatively few manufacturers of food products, yet the station presents a very fertile field for sample collections of all kinds and more especially for surveillance due to the concentration of products. In the collection of these samples and subsequent shipment it is frequently necessary to work at such hours that it would not be suitable for an inspector having to travel from an outside point.

Respectfully,

STUART E. SCHEDONOVIER,
Resident Inspector, Providence, R.I.

