



The FBI Oral History Project

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INTERVIEWS OF

Former Special Agent of the FBI

EARL CHARLES BEVELS

Years of FBI Service 1955 - 1976

Interviewed on June 5, 2004 and January 24, 2006

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These interviews have been heavily redacted.

**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
Earl Charles Bevels (1955-1976)**

**Interview by Brian R. Hollstein
On June 5, 2004**

Edited for spellings, repetitions, etc. by Sandra Robinette on February 21, 2005 Edited for corrections of Mr. Bevels and Mr. Hollstein by Sandra Robinette on March 31, 2005

BH: If you would state your name and date of birth and place of birth and that will get us started I'll be able to check my recording levels.

EB: My full name is Earl Charles Bevels. I was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. I go by Charlie. I was born in 1926.

BH: And you are currently residing?

EB: I am currently residing in North Charleston, South Carolina. Moved down there March 15, 2004.

BH: Today's date is the 5th of June, 2004. We are in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My name is Brian R. Hollstein, and I am conducting the interview.

Let's start off with just a little bit of warning cum background from me. We mentioned that the copyright is held for this interview by the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. The little ground rules. We ask that you do not mention the names of any informants or any currently classified information. Most of what we got to talk about is 20 or 25 years old at this point maybe a little bit longer.

EB: Longer.

BH: Yeah, well that's good.

EB: I retired in 1976.

BH: Oh, ok, well then we are entirely safe. We can go right straight up to the end. I mentioned that the information though will be reviewed by the Bureau at some point for currently classified information and sensitive information.

So you started off life in Little Rock, Arkansas. When did you enter the Bureau?

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EB: Entered the Bureau April 18, 1955.

BH: What was your first office?

EB: First office was Chicago.

BH: And from there you went to where?

EB: Washington Field Office.

BH: How long were you in Washington?

EB: Nineteen years until I retired in 1976. I was a second office agent when I retired.

BH: Found your niche and found the right place?

EB: I didn't want to move because I had children growing up, and I thought it better if we stayed in one place.

BH: You mentioned before we got started a couple of interesting matters that I would like to delve into a bit anyway just to get some sort of a feel for how things went.

First of all this was the Soviet Foreign Espionage type work. Did that start in your time in Washington Field?

EB: When I first came to Washington I was assigned to a surveillance squad.

on that for probably a little over a year and then came inside to work cases after that. I was

BH:

EB:

BH: Was that mainly surveillance work then?

EB: No, no, I had cases and surveillance. We worked them together but each one had three, four or five cases assigned, individuals.

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EB:

But one of the cases I had, it turned out that he was a lieutenant colonel . He was picked up servicing one of our established agents, double agents, at the time. So I got into that real quick.

BH: Sounds like it.

EB:

BH: He was doubled then.

EB: He was actually an employee and he was in the army reserve and he handled, I don't know , except he was probably responsible for reservist records . But since we are in Pittsburgh. He grew up in Pittsburgh originally. He had the attitude to carry out a double agent operation.

BH: How long was that carried on?

EB: Three or four years. I mean it was going on when I got it and we went on for several years till the Soviets dropped him but then we used him for some other things.

BH: How was he servicing? Were they actually making meets or drops?

EB: They were making meets and in drop areas.

BH: You would know when things were going to go down so you could keep an eye on things. What was the fate ?

EB: He stayed there his three years. It was interesting. He stayed there the three years and did a lot of different things. Very active. He was one of the first Soviets to buy a Volkswagen. He actually wound up with four of them before he left there in his three years.

BH: He liked cars?

EB: He liked cars. Before he left the United States, the night before he did, he called my home and wanted to meet with me, and we did.

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EB: I immediately called my supervisor, and we met for probably two hours over in back, then it was a Hot Shoppe over in Springfield.

BH: Roughly, when was this?

EB: This was 1962. And we met for a couple of hours. He was going to leave the next day. And we both felt each other out really as to whether, how we felt about whether we would work for somebody else.

I told him he did not have to go home. He said no, he did not want to talk about that at all. He wouldn't talk about that. He still had a teenage daughter back home so he was going home. It was kind of interesting.

BH: It didn't work out either way.

EB: Well.

BH: He didn't recruit and you didn't recruit.

EB: No, my supervisor arranged for about four other people to be watching us too, and I knew that but I didn't know where there were. So when we got ready to leave, he said, "My friend dropped me off here, would you drive me home?" So I did. He lived in Arlington right off of Columbia Pike, and I knew very well where he lived.

So I took him home, and we were sitting in the car talking before he got out and I see another Russian comes by that I recognized the car. What we did, I felt like that fellow was counter intelligence, I mean he was watching us, and we were able to identify him because we hadn't identified him as an intelligence officer before.

BH: Interesting one. Well you got into a long term operation at one point. Maybe we can.

EB:

BH:

EB:

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BH:

EB:

BH:

EB: "Cassidy's Run."

BH: "Cassidy's Run" is the name of the book.

EB: David Wise is the author.

BH: Did you work with Wise in doing the book?

EB: Yes, once he got clearance, I did. Once he got clearance to do it with the Bureau, I did.

BH: Any highlights you'd like to talk about right now in terms of Cassidy?

EB: No, most of those are in the book. There are probably other things that we could talk about that wouldn't have to be repeated all the time.

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BH: Ok, what would those be?

EB: Well, I worked on the Daniel Ellsberg Case, the Pentagon Papers.

BH: When was this now?

EB: 71, 72, 73. I found out I didn't know anything about him. I wasn't the case agent on that. Bernie Rachner was the case agent. I was just one of them recruited to carry out some things. It seemed like the Air Force officers, higher officers, felt like there was a real conspiracy among some young Jewish intellectuals to overthrow the government, and Daniel Ellsberg being one of them. Leslie Gelb being one, Morton Halperin being one.

They had all been in the Pentagon under the Secretary of Defense at the time. Ellsberg, not Elsberg, Leslie Gelb was the one responsible for writing the Pentagon Papers. He had a Ph.D. Later when I interviewed him several times, he was very cooperative with us. Was up at the Brookings Institute and Morton Halperin was there also. Turns out Ellsberg was not Jewish until he married Patricia Marks anyway. But in several of the interviews there, the highest ranking person I interviewed was the James Schlessinger.

BH: Interesting.

EB: At the time he knew Ellsberg. They all worked at RAND together. Schlessinger was probably the highest ranking person I ever interviewed. I called him up one day, and he was up at the old State building next to the Capitol at the time next to the White House. So when I called him I asked him if I could interview him. He said, "Where are you now?" I told him I was in the old Post Office Building where my office was. He said, "Well come on up."

When I got there, I took one other agent with me, he said, "What do you want?" So I told him about Ellsberg. What can you tell me about him? He said, "How far back do you want to go?" So I said, Well, I want to go from the beginning. So he spent about an hour and fifteen or twenty minutes telling me that they had all worked together with RAND and all the things. Then he said now put this in your report. He's got a real ego. Postpone the trial as long as you can and do not have the trial in Boston. Well that's where most of the evidence was. Anyway. He's got too many friends around the Harvard Campus that you don't want to do that. So I did.

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So when we did have the trial it was in Los Angeles. It turned out; I went out there as a rebuttal witness against Morton Halperin. Morton Halperin I guess had told the court one thing, and I had it written up in my report that he said something else.

BH: You had interviewed Halperin also.

EB: Yeah, interviewed Halperin also.

F

BH: Did you interview Ellsberg too?

EB: No.

BH: No.

EB: No. Halperin was also at Brookings Institute. In fact he was Gelb's boss when they were in the Department of Defense. Then in the change of the Administration. But going to that trial, this is just interesting. The Bureau said you are to go to a place to testify, then you are coming back the next day. So I think I went on a Wednesday, Dan Kiernan and I went together to Los Angeles. I packed about two pairs of underwear and told my wife I'd be back on Friday.

Well they weren't in a hurry out there I found out. The trial had been going on about six weeks, and I was a rebuttal witness. They had about five prosecutors.

Well as a rebuttal witness you could sit in the courtroom. Every day when we got into the courtroom there were 3 agents, Dan Kiernan and I and a fellow named Sullivan from the Los Angeles Office. The defense attorney would ask if there was anybody in the courtroom that shouldn't be there you know. They'd all get up and look around and we were sitting on the front row and there weren't too many people in there in the first place. And they would say, "Nope, not anybody." We got to watch for about, I was there two weeks, as they cross examined all the people.

Finally it became Easter, Good Friday they were off, the Monday they were off. I stayed out there over Easter. But eventually I did testify for about an hour. The fellow that cross examined me was Charlie Nesson. Didn't know him, young fellow, young lawyer. Later watching TV on one of these town hall things, the moderator, I looked at him one day, I know that guy. Well it was Charlie Nesson. He was a Yale Law Professor, I mean Harvard. But anyway I eventually did get home.

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BH: Was your rebuttal useful?

EB: I guess it was. The disposition of that case, the Judge's name was Byrne, not a very old man, fairly young, 45 year old judge, I guess. What happened was somewhere along that line they discovered that the plumbers, the White House plumbers, had been through Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office in Santa Monica.

BH: I remember that, yeah.

EB: And they threw the case out. But in the mean time I learned that Nixon, President Nixon, had promised Judge Byrne that if he got a conviction that he would be the next Director of the FBI. Now I don't know how true that was but that's the story I heard. But anyway the plumbers got the case thrown out.

BH: And we didn't have a new director.

EB: And we didn't have a new director.

BH: Other cases or trials you were involved with?

EB: No trials.

BH:

EB: You know that's what he did. I think he had another job too. But that was primarily, that was one of the things he did. He didn't live too far from there

the door was
locked or wasn't locked and they needed a key or something. So he went down, he recognized who called him, he went down there, and I don't remember if it was locked or whatever anyway he had the key so he secured whatever he needed to secure.

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He driving back home at 2:00 in the morning which would have been Sunday morning, all at once on one of those streets in Southeast Washington,

He pulled over and they got out and the only thing he told him, he said, "You know the next meeting we have is going to be June 15th" or whatever day it was, I've forgotten now. He said, "Yeah I know that." He said, "Ok" and got back in his car and drove home. That's all that was said.

When he told us that we said, "You are sure that was him?" He said, "Yeah, I wouldn't have stopped at that time, you know 2:00 in the morning, if I didn't know that." "You're sure it was Sunday morning?" "Yeah." Well, tell you what. Saturday morning,

He left on a flight from New York to Paris to go back . The word we get, his mother passed away and he had to go home. That was all he said. Go home for thirty days, mother passed away and then he would come back. But he was already gone; we check his I-94 or whatever form they turn in and sure enough somebody with his name got out of the country. But we never did figure that out. And in thirty days the guy did come back.

BH: Did show up.

EB: Did come back to the United States and they did pick up. Now in this case it was a black sergeant. He was pretty honest with us and straight forward. He went overseas and came back.

BH: You would work with OSI?

EB: Oh yeah. OSI, yes, all of them. The air force didn't want to use him anymore. They had their own reasons whatever it was.

There was an agent in the Washington Field Office, R.C. Claack was a black agent, one of the few we had at that time. We substituted him to meet with

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Then R.C. Claack resigned from the Bureau. He took a job with somebody in Dallas. I think it was Continental Bakery or something. Anyway he ended up Vice President or something. He got a real good job. But he came back every year. Every time we needed him we could get him to come back.

We had to use a car that would fit going in and out down there. We had to get a car that he could use that didn't have some sticker on it from some place else. So Jack Radigan was one of the agents I worked with. Jack lived in Vienna. Vienna, Virginia, at the time had the little metal plate. Didn't have a sticker on the windshield to show the county or something. So we could take that off. We got proper stickers to put on it on the bumper for where he worked. So every time he'd come back why we would use Jack Radigan's car.

BH: Lots of substitution and ...

EB: Yeah, we worked him for a couple of years like that.

BH: How successful do you think these penetrations were?

EB: I don't know, because in later years I found out because I'd go down to Norfolk and he was my contact there, set up whatever needed to be done and go over there and let the guy, give him a description of where he worked, how many desks were in there and where everybody was and everything else. It turned out later that

I don't know how successful that was.

BH: You were given chicken feed to pass along.

EB: Well it had to be approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the first place. As far as I know, we never gave them anything worth while.

They liked what we had.

BH: That was a little bit more reasonable maybe.

EB: Well it could have been.

BH: Yeah, when they get somebody really good in there. Other espionage cases or Russian cases?

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EB: I worked on a lot of, Herbie Baukenhaupt was one who was an air force sergeant that we followed for about 10 or 12 days when he finished school. Then after about the 10th day or so I remember he had an Avanti sports car. He took off from over in Southeast Washington area, over in that area, and I was trying to keep up with him and he was doing about 90 miles an hour across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. We had several, about 5 cars at the time, and one of them blew a tire and two or three other things and we lost him over in Arlington somewhere.

It was almost 9:00 at night. Seems like all the Russians started everything at 9:00 at night. Then all at once another, one of the other agents said, "I don't know where he went but he was on route 7 headed toward Seven Corners at the time. He said, "Hey, he's already at the stop light and there is somebody in the car with him."

It was one of
as an employee or something like that.

BH: How do we spell Baukenhaupt something like that?

EB: Yeah, yeah, I've forgotten now how it was. We made an arrest and he was tried and sentenced to 25 years or something like.

BH: Who was he with?

EB: He was with the air force.

BH: Air force?

EB: Yes.

BH: He was the real thing then?

EB: He was the real thing. Yeah. And what's the attorney's name that? Any way at one time he prosecuted one case earlier and was court appointed for this case, for Baukenhaupt. But then he did almost every major espionage case we had.

BH: On the opposition.

EB: No, Plato Cacharis. I don't know if you remember him or not.

BH: The name is very familiar.

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EB: Well, Plato was his defense attorney, Cacharis, I believe. He didn't call any witnesses. I asked him one time right after that, why didn't call any witnesses. He said, "Well all I could do was prove he was a good soldier." And in the background he did that.

BH: He was stuck with trying to find some sort of good defense.

EB: Yeah.

BH: You mentioned a little incident with Director Hoover that was kind of fun.

EB: When Drew Pearson (or whoever his successor is) - was it him or his son-in-law who use to write the *Washington Merry-go-Round*. One of the times they went through Mr. Hoover's trash back when they were trying to find all the dirt they could on him. They printed that in the paper, whatever he used. So they didn't want that to happen again so trash was picked up about twice a week. And when Mr. Hoover's chauffeur picked him up in the morning, before he would do that, he would sit the trash out in the alley and then about 8 or 9 o'clock the trash truck would come by.

Well they wanted to make sure that nobody bothered his trash again so I was picked along with about three or four others to make sure that nobody did that. So every trash day, Monday or Thursday, we would be out there early in the morning to make sure nobody bothered it.

Also, whatever his birthday was, back then during the protests they were kind of harassing him a lot. So we were out there several times. One morning another agent and I were sitting out there in front of his house. And his housekeeper came out, who was Annie Fields, I remember her name, and she asked if we wanted a cup of coffee. So I said, "Sure." So the other fellow said, "You go and I'll stay in the car so we can be in radio contact in case anything happens."

I went in and Annie Fields had a cup of coffee and Sara Lee donuts or coffee cake. I sat in Mr. Hoover's kitchen and had a cup of coffee which probably not too many other people did. Annie was very friendly. She was being harassed a lot. She said, I can't even walk to the grocery store without reporters following her and wanting to know what she was doing and all this

BH: Roughly when was this now, in the 60's?

EB: No this would have been in the 70's; 71, when did he die?

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BH: '72.

EB: '72. It was probably a year before that. '71 maybe.

BH: Yeah, I remember because I was on duty in the New York Office. Night duty officer when he died. That was in 72. Good. You have been very kind with your time and let's shut off.

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**Interview of Former Special Agent of the FBI
Earl Charles Bevels (1955 – 1976)
Interviewed by David G. Binney
on January 24, 2006**

*Edited for spelling, repetitions, etc. by Sandra Robinette on March 31, 2006 and May 5, 2006.
Edited with Mr. Bevels and Mr. Binney's corrections on June 12, 2006.*

David G. Binney: I want to remind you that this is being run by the Former Agents of the FBI Society; that it's an oral history of the FBI which will be kept at the University of Virginia after the Bureau reviews the contents of it, Earl, same as before.

Bevels: Call me Charlie.

Binney: Okay, let's start off. I'm not going to repeat everything you gave to Brian. Basically we want to concentrate on your time at WFO (Washington Field Office) with the work you did with FCI (Foreign Counter Intelligence). And, although I know in the interview, he kind of skimmed over the case...what was that...

Bevels: *Cassidy's Run*

Binney: *Cassidy's Run*. Maybe we could get a little more detail on that and if the Bureau's going to cut it, we'll cut it, but that's something that's of interest. Because what they really wanted to know is how you dealt with the other agencies, specifically, I guess, the Air Force or was it the Army? The Army and any other agencies that you had to deal with, such as the Agency. So, let's start off with that.

You, I understand, took over the case from...as case agent from?

Bevels: Jimmy Morrissey (James F. Morrissey).

Binney: And what year was that?

Bevels: I don't know...it would have been about the time, or right after he moved to Florida.

Binney: Okay.

Bevels: Jimmy Morrissey still had the case when he moved to Florida.

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Binney: Okay. I don't have the exact date down here either. In the sixties though, right?

Bevels: No, it would be in the seventies.

Binney: And did you handle, at that time, did you handle those two illegals that were handling the drop?

Bevels: They were assigned to me.

Binney: Okay. Could you explain a little about that? Did you have to go to Florida?

Bevels: I never did. When they finally arranged for a drop area to be serviced in the Tampa area, Joe Hall went down there from WFO. He had worked the _____ primarily for identification purposes and I think maybe somebody from the lab...I am not sure who else...went down there. But I didn't go down there.

Binney: There were a couple of drops, though.

Bevels: One of them...the main one...the first time the Lopez cleared one, and I talked to Agents later that were there. They were watching and nobody came up and then all at once, they saw a hand reach out from under the bushes in the back and that's when they discovered somebody had cleared it and they alerted all the surveillance team.

And apparently, this fellow Lopez had cleared the drop and from what I remember, he had a Volkswagen. He drove from St. Petersburg back to Miami. Then he caught a Greyhound bus and rode the Greyhound bus to Houston.

Binney: We put some people on that bus, didn't we?

Bevels: They were under surveillance all the time and, in Houston, I think he caught a plane and went to Mexico City. And so then they identified who he was. It turned out he was a graduate student, I believe, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and we never knew anything about it.

Binney: Working for _____ ?

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Bevels: Working for _____, Mexican citizens, married to, oh, I think she was a native Mexican, Aztec, or something like that. Anyway, then they started handing things out there in Sale Lake City.

The SAC in Salt Lake City...I can't remember his name...but some of the technical people from the Bureau went out there, I know, and the SAC said they didn't need any help.

Well, one of the technical persons came back, that I knew, and he saw me out in the hall one day, and he said, "What do you got to do with Salt Lake City?" And I said, "Really nothing." He said, "They need some help." They were running...whatever they were doing out there...monitoring and everything else, they were doing it with the Salt Lake City cars. He said, "The cars with 19 antennas were coming in and out of a certain area. It's just not good."

And so...and I had nothing to do with that.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: One of the Agents I worked with, Bob Schamay (Robert J. Schamay), he and I were talking about it one day and he said, "Somebody needs to go to Salt Lake City." And he said, "Do you want to go?" Now he was just another agent there, but a lot younger than I was. And I said, "I don't want to go out there." And he said, "Well, I've looked at the census out there and I like the proportion of the population." And he said, "I think I'll go." And I said, "It's alright with me." So he arranged with the Bureau and was sent to Salt Lake City.

Binney: On a permanent?

Bevels: Yeah.

Binney: Wow!

Bevels: Well, as soon as he got there, shortly after he got there, Lopez changed schools. He went to Texas, the University of Texas. And so Schamay stayed in Salt Lake City. He wanted to be a police instructor and...

Binney: Yeah. Got himself a nice transfer.

Bevels: Later, I learned he worked the case more, in fact, eventually he went to Hawaii, but they called him back to work...after I got out of the Bureau. Wherever Lopez went...

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Binney: Now, Lopez never got prosecuted.

Bevels: No, and Phil Parker was the...he used to be my Supervisor, and I think he was when we started all this...Lopez was identified...Phil Parker kept waiting for the Department of Justice to make a decision to prosecute. Well, I guess, it would have been an embarrassment, or it would have been hard to prosecute because of the electronic and technical surveillances that we had done on him.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So they never did and Lopez went back and the last I heard, was serving in the Mexican House of Representatives, or something like that.

Binney: Really?

Bevels: Yeah, he's active in politics and, of course, he is not a friend of the United States.

Binney: No. As I read in the book, he was really anti-United States.

Bevels: And he came to Washington several times. The first time he came, I believe, it was on a train. I remember meeting him, you know, surveilling him. He and, I don't know, I guess his wife and his little kid, in Union Station. He came another time on a Greyhound bus. Because the bus was supposed to come in about six in the morning. I know I had to be at the bus station.

We knew where he was going to stay when he came in and we got a room next to him in the Holiday Inn. At the time it was at about 15th and Rhode Island, up there a couple of blocks north of the Embassy anyway...maybe a little more. And we didn't surveil him that night that he was there. We felt sure he had made contact with . He was out and he came in late and then he left early the next morning. In fact, I spent the night up there and I never did know when he left.

Binney: So you didn't ever observe him making contact with the Soviets?

Bevels: Never observed him making contact, no. Because there was too much at risk. I found out early you can do some physical surveillances but those would pick it up every time.

Binney: Oh yeah, yeah...especially a seasoned one like that. So we are still working Cassidy, but Cassidy is now in Florida.

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Bevels: Cassidy is in Florida.

Binney: So the Edgewood arsenal, the whole nerve gas thing and that's all done with.

Bevels: That's right.

Binney: Now it's the Air Force...

Bevels:

Binney: That's right. .

Bevels: And getting to find a place to transfer, he needed to be transferred and here he is at this time he was E-9, a Sergeant Major.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And you had to find a Commander who would take him.

Binney: And did you have to brief the Commander, or did the Air Force...

Bevels: You got to...

Binney: Army, yeah.

Bevels: You've got to brief him, and Tom O'Laughlin, who was an Agent who had been on our squad for years, resigned from the Bureau and went to work for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a slot as a Grade 16.

Tom, as far as I was concerned, was a brilliant guy.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: I mean, in fact, I've found files that he had written. When he left, I kept a record of them and when I needed something, I went back and looked at his and see how he presented it and it was usually accepted.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: It was worth more than I could ever learn, because he's just a great guy. But when the Bureau had their weight program, Tom had trouble making it.

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Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: He was a Harvard graduate with a thick little head of hair and just a wonderful guy. Had cancer and passed away real early.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So, most of the time people really didn't like to get involved with Intelligence.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Just as an aside, an Investigator from the 902nd ...Is that an Intelligence group?

Binney: Yeah, MI, yeah.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: But this fellow...this investigator...this was back probably early seventies, somewhere along there, had long hair.

Binney: Oh, really?

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Bevels: I mean...you know, you wouldn't think he was ever Army.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So he and I go there...but he did have a suit on. And we meet with the Colonel that's in charge of Edgewood. And we told him, "We've got something real sensitive we need to talk about." Well, his first comment was, "Well, I know if I ever get involved with you two guys, I will never make General."

So that's how people thought of counterintelligence. And so I don't know if he ever made General or not, but we didn't locate a suitable person at that time.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: But, anyway, getting back to . Tom O'Laughlin had to interview this General and they did accept him at , which turned out to be a pretty strategic thing.

Binney: Oh, yeah.

Bevels: Anything that's going to happen military-wise, it was going to happen right there from...what's the name of the base? Whatever it was down in Tampa.

Binney: I think they are still using that for the...now the gulf...

Bevels: Probably is.

Binney: I recall that Tommy Franks was stationed in Tampa and then had to go to...yeah...so...

Bevels: It was probably set up so. You've got so many things connected there, you could never change it

Binney: Yeah. And, okay, that was Lopez and that thing just kept playing out until you decided to pull the plug on the case, right?

Bevels: I don't know, I was out of the Bureau?

Binney: Who did you hand off to? Maybe I have it here.

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Bevels: I don't know. In fact, I don't think, in WFO, we didn't have anything else to do with it. Gene Peterson, the guy in headquarters, was running it and he was pretty active and I think by that time, Gene was a Section Chief.

Binney: Yeah, he was. I remember him as a Section Chief, because I got to WFO in 1985, yeah, '85.

Bevels: Well, Gene passed away. But anyway, Gene and I were good friends. In fact, our kids were good friends.

Binney; Yeah, you spend 20 years at WFO you get to know a lot of guys at headquarters.

Bevels: The strange thing is I was in a car pool for years when I first came inside to work cases. Living out in Springfield, you need to be in a car pool and the main thing was to have a parking place.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Well, one of the agents I got to know at headquarters by the name of Dick Young and it turned out he was in Special Inquiry Section. He did all the background on special inquiries, mostly from the White House. And Dick had a parking place in the...I guess the Plaza parking place there at 12th...right behind...you cut through the post office to get over to WFO.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And it was five dollars a month. And Dick said, "Don't ever ask me how I got this." But I rode with Dick for probably 12 or 14 years...

Binney: Wow!

Bevels: And it turned out, at one time, that his son and my son were dating sisters at school. So we had a lot in common, but going back and forth to work, every now and then, Dick would say what was going on and he knew everything that was going on at the Bureau and had an opinion about it. At different times we had five or six others in the car.

But one or two from Washington Field, but the rest were from over at headquarters. And it worked out real well.

Binney: Now you were still at the old post office?

Bevels: The old post office the whole time I was there.

Binney: Oh, really. You retired in seventy-seven?

Bevels: Six.

Binney: When did they move?

Bevels: The next year they moved.

Binney: Okay.

Bevels: Right before Joe Purvis left Washington Field...He was SAC, they resurfaced the parking lot down next to the old post office, right behind the side entrance. They had a lot of parking space and there were some poles there...we called them the barber poles...they were painted red and white and...but you couldn't go in on Pennsylvania Avenue, you came in on Twelfth Street, but the poles were removable.

And right before Purvis left, they had resurfaced everything and it wound up all the supervisors had a parking place down there. We wound up with two extra places and he found out that some people in the Bureau had been using them. And he said, "There's no reason for those Bureau people to be parking over here."

Binney: Because they had their spaces in the JEH Building.

Bevels: Wherever, or scrounge for themselves. He said if anybody is interested, put your name in and we will have a drawing. Well, when they had the drawing, I was one of them that got a parking place. The other one was John R. Borys, I believe.

Joe said, "Now I am giving it to you; there's no strings attached to it; just the luck of the draw. But," he said, "You need to remember, I can take it away anytime I want to." So for the next four years I had a parking place, and I guess it was about four years, which was great.

Binney: Oh, yeah. So you had to truck over to the WFO garage, that big parking garage, to get...

Bevels: Oh, to get a car, we had to walk up to 13th and New York Avenue, that was the contract garage. Capital Garage is what it was.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And all of our cars were kept up there on the top three floors.

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Binney: Yeah, I remember that.

Bevels: When I first arrived, it was all open. It was that way for a long time. Then one time the Bureau with some of the criminal cars, put scanners and a few other things in them and then one Monday or Tuesday, or one morning, we went up there and about six of them were stolen.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Well, there was no security up there except the guard, the guy in the parking lot down on the first floor and during the night, he was probably asleep. And so then they had to make it secure and they got a door that would go up and down that cut off everything else so you could get in and out. Yeah, but that was just open.

Binney: Of course, the knew that, I mean they knew where the cars were parked.

Bevels: Oh, yeah, sure, because you'd stand out there on the street and watch them all come in and out.

Binney: Yeah. They probably...

Bevels: You know, we didn't know any better. But that's the way they were.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. And then I guess when headquarters built the new building, they had the parking down below and probably changed a little bit, I guess.

Bevels: Yeah, they did, yeah, getting in and out there. But, you know, if you were really into intelligence work, you could stand up there and watch, or get up somewhere else and see how many cars came in and get their license numbers.

Binney:

Bevels:

Binney: , okay. That was his name.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: I had to come up with that. The guy knows nothing. I couldn't help it

Binney: So who initiated the...in the book I read, there was some effort to get this guy to do something so that they could find out if were interested.

Bevels: I don't know what they did.

Binney: The New York office did that?

Bevels: Yeah, okay.

Binney: To kind of see what he was going to do.

Bevels: I don't think he...they tried to work, you know, you always tried to see what would happen if you generated something.

Binney: Yeah.

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Bevels: Yeah, oh yeah, they did have an alert down at Ft. McDill and everyone on stand-by. At one time

Binney: Were those the only...if you count XXXXX and his wife and this guy...

Bevels: You mean Lopez. I call him Lopez.

Binney; Well, yes. You've got Lopez and then you've got... Okay, Lopez and his wife and then this guy up in New York...were they the three illegals that Cassidy...Okay.

What did you do before you took over as case agent of the Cassidy case?
Did you have other FCI?

Bevels: Oh, yeah, I had a lot of other cases.

Binney: Anything that you, you know, worthy of...

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Binney: So you had to work with the other agencies. You had to work with Air Force or Army.

Bevels: Navy. Yeah, we worked... Jack Radican was a former Navy pilot and he had been in the Bureau a month longer than I had. So he had made contacts with ONI and so one day about ten o'clock, he said, "I'm going over to ONI. Do you want to go with me?" I said, "Yeah, I'll go." I had no idea. I'd been over there before and so I'd met everybody.

So we go. The headquarters over in Arlington at the time, and we met with the guy in charge and Jack said, and they said, "Okay, it's time to talk." And I didn't say anything and so we walked through the room. We walked out and we are on the platform and there's 50 guys sitting out there in front of us and they're all SAC's from every ONI office in the world, I guess.

And Jack had never, didn't say a word to me about what we are going to do. And here it is, we are the program.

Binney: And they are watching you guys?

Bevels: Yes, we were on the platform, we were in the auditorium. And so.

Binney: So they liked the program, I guess.

Bevels: Yeah, yeah. But I was, you know, with Jack and that was Jack's way of doing things. He says, "Do you want to go?" and I say, "Yeah." But he didn't tell me what until we walked out there.

Binney: I'll be darned. Well, he obviously...the same experience with the Army and the Air Force with developing these...

Bevels: Yeah, worked with them...

Binney: Marines?

Bevels: No, ONI handled that.

Binney: Okay, okay, yeah, yeah.

Bevels: In one of the cases I had, [redacted] subject contacted an [redacted], who happened to work with him and they both turned out, you know, both pretty good drinkers, and this is over in Alexandria. And this worked for something called [redacted]. And, anyway, I think [redacted] knew it. He probably knew a lot more about it than we did.

But anyway, he didn't have any real access to... [redacted] got interested in him and they drank a lot and one time, he said told him, "I need some information for a friend of mine to write"...some school...they had a scenario...the guy always had a friend who was in graduate school and needed more information.

About the second time he asked that, he said, "You've got a bunch of manuals back there in your closet."

And the Agent that was handling it was from over in Alexandria. Alexandria had a big Resident Agency, so they were handling it. But I went over there and talked with them and I said, "Do you need any help with this?" And I remember the agent telling me, he said, "No, we don't need any help."

So he wrote a little memo and sent it in and the next thing you knew, Peterson got it and he called me. He said, "What's the matter with those guys over there?" He said, "You go over there and straighten them out."

So I don't know, I went over there and told him what I needed to do, or what needed to be done. How to write for dissemination.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Finally, the agent said, "Well, you know, if you can do all that, there's no need for me to be involved." Seemed to me a good idea.

Binney: Yeah. Did that present a problem...that WFO, Alexandria, or WFO, Baltimore thing?

Bevels: No.

Binney: No.

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Bevels: Not with anything I did.

Binney: You didn't have to go through Alexandria SACs?

Bevels: No. In fact, they didn't want to get involved.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: It was better if we just, and the same way in Baltimore. But we had some drops in Prince George County and some in Montgomery County that were pretty far out.

Binney: Yeah, that would have been kind of confusing to get another field office involved. I remember when WFO, when the Bureau finally decided to incorporate Alexandria Division into WFO, it was basically for criminal, because, as you said, the FCI was working fine; it wasn't a problem.

Bevels: But we worked...you remember things...what happened...where you were when a certain incident...when Kennedy was shot,

It was an
over there we felt like had been approached by
of doing something he shouldn't.

Bevels: So there was a and it was developed all around. The people who owned let us have a room and we were there and a relative who was from out of town. And we did get a car... every time to That was another thing...you had to . And, of course, the thing about it really was you were watched, I'd go in there and I'm six foot one and the next guy would be ...

Binney: Five nine

Bevels: He'd be five ten. So we tried to under the cover of darkness. But that is where...when Kennedy was shot...I was in...we called it And my supervisor called me and told me what had happened. But we went in there, and that was in darkness, so we had to get in there before daybreak and you had to stay until after dark at night.

Binney: Wow. That could be 12-14 hour shifts.

Bevels: Well, that's just one of, you know, that's the way it was.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. Did they have relatives? I mean, there were no question; no eyebrows raised? The people were...

Bevels: No, they had, no, the family that was there, the two adults, older people who lived there were very cooperative, you know, fine, yeah you use this. There were no questions asked.

Binney: Yeah. Well, that's great, yeah.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So...

Binney; Well , that would be a major case for the Bureau.

Bevels: Oh, yeah.

Binney: Yeah. So everything, I mean if there was any kind of conflict, that would be the...

Bevels: ...still limited just to the very few there in WFO who knew what was going on.

Binney: ...who knew about it. Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: You know, if you were the case agent, or maybe there would be four or five and the supervisor...This is what we've got to do and you'd go out, you know, weeks ahead of time and survey the area and make sure of what you can do.

Binney: Yeah. You didn't have a Special Operations surveillance group then, I guess. They didn't create that until later.

Bevels: Not 'til later.

Binney: So you did everything...you did surveillances, you did...

Bevels: Yeah. I remember that early in my career, I used some infrared camera, just to test it, over in Georgetown. Another Agent and I. It was about eleven o'clock at night. We were going to take pictures of this...we wanted to find out where the Rive Gauche Restaurant right in the middle of Georgetown...,a pretty high class restaurant.

Binney: So, yes it is. Yeah.

Bevels: So their hostess, we thought, was in touch with the Russians and so we set up. Across the street, there was a rooming house. It is a high-dollar area now, but this was a rooming house with the rest room down at the end of the hall was just a hook inside to lock the door.

Well, Don Brummitt and I set up there one night with our camera and with our infrared and we went in there and locked the door and nobody could get in. We set up our tri-pod in the bathtub and, you know, where we could use the window and they closed about eleven o'clock. Jeannine was her name, and she'd come out. We wanted to see who she was leaving with. So we were going to test that. So each one...when it got dark--- each one went down and stood on it and tried it with the infrared flash.

Well, apparently, Don was looking straight at us when it went off because when I developed the pictures, his eyes were about that big around and he said, "It looked like the sun was coming up".

Well, from then on I wouldn't use infrared.

Binney: Because of that flash.

Bevels: Yeah. They used to tell me over at the Bureau, "Well you can't see, you got to use infrared." I said, "I'm not doing it." So I never would. Because from my experiences, it just wouldn't work. Now they may have improved it, I don't know.

Binney: I don't know.

Bevels: I don't know whether they did or not, but I still wouldn't use it.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Because you'd, you know, you'd blow a case...very easily.

Binney: Oh yeah, yeah.

Bevels: Another case we had we tried to use closed circuit TV. And this was in the early days of that and, I guess, we burned the image on the screen. I don't know, sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't, but man, I put them through the test anyway. What would work and...

Binney: The tech people were going crazy.

Bevels: Well, they were all willing to work. It gave them an opportunity to do this.

Binney: To try it out.

Bevels: A couple of times it was buried in the wall someplace in Montgomery County.

Binney: Yeah. Do you think that the overall program, and that would include technical surveillance, guidance from headquarters, do you think that the overall FCI program was as good as it could be?

Bevels: I don't think it stopped

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Before, I mentioned we substituted the black case. Well, we fixed a slot for that guy to work down in Norfolk in a place where they destroyed documents. And I'd go down there and look at the place because I needed to know who else was working there. How they worked. would ask, "Where's your desk?" you know, "Where's the diagram?" you know, "Where do you work?" and all this stuff and so it wasn't but a few years later I found out that's where...

Binney: Walker?

Bevels: That guy Walker was and he was giving everything that came down the road. And so the control thing and then with Hanssen, you know. I don't know how in the world that he got away with doing what he did. I know in WFO, in the first place, they wouldn't let us copy documents, I mean, the clerk could do that.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: But now in headquarters, apparently things changed. Not that headquarters is any smarter than anyone else.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. I guess, maybe you don't agree, but I think things just kind of get lax over the years. The programs are set up.

Bevels: You realize the consequences, though.

Let me relate something else to you and you'll see the consequences of these things. This is another story. When we first moved to Springfield, this was 1957, 1958 and '59. We had gone to the Methodist Church there and friends right down the street also went to church there and they had...our son was fourth or fifth grade by this time, and they had a son the same age. They were the best of friends, in Cub Scouts together.

Well, the Scout leader was this this boy's father and he turned out to be an Air Force Colonel. We went to church together. And his last name was Windsor and we call him Duke.

During a visit at his house, he was listening to a language record and then he turned it off. But it was language. He was getting ready to be sent to Moscow. **(Unintel)** As Assistant Air Attaché.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So they went on to Moscow, you know. **(Unintel)** But he and I had worked together. He was the Cub Scout leader and I was the assistant and I always had to buy all the emblems and the badges and everything 'because the Scout headquarters was up there close on Connecticut Avenue, where I visited.

So, anyway, he went on to Moscow. Well, about a year later,

Binney: Okay, Side B. Thank you.

Bevels: Anyway, this week, went over to the Department of the Interior to meet a man named Alexander Gakner. Well, he worked for the Department of the Interior, but he was originally from Latvia and during World War II, they had, , had recruited him to, he played the guitar. He wasn't military age yet, but, anyway, they recruited him and he traveled around and he joined a troupe like the USO, entertaining troops.

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Bevels: So he was getting ready to go with a delegation. Now this was back before they had very many of them, but there was some particular delegation he was going over there with and he spoke the language.

So before he left, I said, "Well, if you are in Moscow, I've got a friend, Duke Windsor, in the Air Force, Air Attaché's Office. Just tell him I said, 'Hi'." Okay.

Well, he went on and while he was gone, you know, there was nothing significant about it. I came in one afternoon about four o'clock in the afternoon, four thirty, and the next thing I know my Security Coordinator Ludwig Obeandorf ... I don't know if you've ever heard of him or not.

Binney: No.

Bevels: But he was the chief of all the Security things in WFO. I was coming in to put my three card in and he said, "Charlie, come in here!" He said, "Who do you know in Moscow?" And I said, "I don't know." And he said, "Do you know Dave Windsor?" And I said, "Yeah, I know him." He said, "How do you know him?" And I said, "He used to be a neighbor, we were Cub Scout leaders together." He said, "Well, what else?" I said, "That's all."

He said, "What about Alexander Gakner?" And I said, "I talked to him before going to Moscow." He said, "Well, Gakner has been arrested." I guess in Moscow, I don't know.

Now all of this came out that they let Gakner go and he had come out, for some reason, through Italy, through Rome. This whole thing came out in the Russian newspaper *Izvestia*. It was the headlines in the Rome edition, that Dave Windsor, you know, the liaison man with the FBI and Alexander Gakner...the whole story about Alexander Gakner exposing himself, you know, from the hotel balcony and all.

Well, probably all trumped up.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Well, Windsor was from Atlanta...I saw him later...and he was from Atlanta. I got pictures of the, copies of the *Atlanta Constitution* with his picture on the front page of the *Atlanta Constitution*.

But things like that kind of get blown out of proportion.

Binney: Oh, yeah, yeah. And the Russians would seize on any kind of opportunity.

Bevels: Yeah and he told me later, he said, "You know, after that, I couldn't go anywhere. I mean, if I made plans to go anywhere," he said, "That morning, I would look out the window and the whole squad of 12 would be assembled waiting to follow me around."

Binney: Well, it kept them busy. I mean, you know, it kept them off real cases.

Bevels: He told me, he said, "You know, when I am traveling over there" (and, you know, they made a lot of trips), their Attaché got to travel over there, you know, it was tit for tat."

Binney: Right.

Bevels: With reciprocal agreement. But, he said, many times on the train, when he traveled by train, if we were going through a certain region, or area, or even in some particular town, they'd stop the car. He said a couple of times, he knew they switched it and reversed it and then they'd spray the outside with water which would freeze. And then he couldn't see... So anyway...

Binney: That paranoia must have been great...especially with
were super paranoid.

Bevels: But then, later on, he got to be, after coming back and serving in the military, he got to be Air Attaché to Warsaw, so I don't think it affected his career.

Binney: Yeah. But that is an interesting insight. Yeah. They were paranoid. Now did you work strictly GRU, or did you work both KGB, GRU?

Bevels: It was all GRU. We had separate squads for GRU. Of course, a lot of them you didn't know what they were when you first came over.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: I know when I first came inside to work, we had little groups, all on the same squad.

But they had about six people to work Air Force Attaches, Navy Attaches and then the same group, we had the commercial group and the press people and they worked out of a different office. Well, the group I was on worked in the commercial office. It was up on 18th Street, it wasn't in the military, but we were still on the same squad.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: The first one that was mine was assigned

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: But they, then we had different . So if you worked in the commercial office section, we had our . It wasn't in a good

Binney: This was in the right?

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And referred to it as the "yellow house". It was a yellow brick building up

Binney: Okay, yeah. That's not a bad area. It was then?

Bevels: It wasn't too good.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Borderline, I guess, and you went right on up 18th Street and you'd come right in to Columbia. Well, that intersection (18th and Columbia Road) that was kind of...when I first got there the Bluebell Restaurant was the convenient cafe. That's where we bought all of our coffee to take out.

And back then, there were buses and streetcars. It was a big intersection.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels Activity of a lot of traffic and a lot of other things, big newsstand there. And right before...if you went on down one way to **(unintel)**

Binney: Big bridge over Rock Creek, yes, yeah.

Bevels: And then you came on up Columbia, I guess, you'd come in to, come in to Connecticut Avenue?

Binney; I am not that familiar with it. But that's up...

Bevels: The military office was in, on around off of Connecticut, back, or it's off Massachusetts at Belmont. The mosque, I don't know if you remember the mosque here. Military office was really just a block back from the mosque. Senator Fulbright lived across the street from the military office. He used to walk up there a lot. A lot of people didn't like us hanging around. Kalorama Circle back there we had a place where we could get back off of Rock Creek. And it had a chain across it, but we always took it down. But it was a place where we could have two or three cars meeting back there and be out of the way. If the lookout called a car out, we could move right away.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. You said it didn't prevent from doing what they were going to do. But they also knew that the Bureau was out there.

Bevels: And as a result, they made most of their drops on holiday weekends. And the last three or four years I was there, I worked most holidays, several of them, had good cases that...well, we thought they were good... **(unintel)**

Binney: Did you ever "flip" ?

Bevels: No.

Binney: No...try? Did you ever try?

Bevels: Yeah.

Binney: How did that go? I mean, how did...?

Bevels: I met with this one subject and the day before he was going home...and he wouldn't talk about it and he said, "I gotta go home".

Binney: Well, he had a daughter, I think. Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: One of the other...right before I left the Bureau...I always felt like I was gonna get one...I really did.

So they said, "How about you?" **(Unintel)**

First he was going to _____, I mean that's where _____ was going...
_____. And so they got me a ticket and I had been up to the
_____...and I had been debriefed and everything else and this
is what you're going to do. I brought my bags in to travel _____. The
next morning.

Well, all _____ numbered about twelve people. We had about
four Special Employees on our squad. Both of them female. I didn't tell
anybody where I was going, but I brought my bags into the office and
somebody was going to take me to the airport. I had my ticket and this
one girl came up to me and she said, "Mr. Bevels, are you going to
_____?" I said, "Yeah." She said, "To see" and she named whoever. And
she said, "He's not going to be there." And I said, "Where's he going?"
and she said, "He's going to New York,"

Binney: Oh, really?

Bevels: Yeah, so, but it was going to be about three or four days later.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So...

Binney: **(Unintel)**

Bevels: **(Unintel)** So we, you know, we don't have many secrets in the Bureau.

Binney: Yeah. Now would she have picked that _____, or something like
that?

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Bevels: No, no.

Binney: Just general...

Bevels: Yeah. It came through the State Department...and she just
said, "He's not going to be there." So I said,
"Okay." But I went to New York three or four days later. I had never met
and one of
the New York Office agents met me and they arranged for me to be in
some particular hotel.

So, back then the Bureau paid \$25.00 a day per diem.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: We got a special rate at this hotel for about twenty-eight.

Binney: So you were going to...and before food.

Bevels: And, but anyway, I was staying a couple of days and
I return to Washington, D.C.

Binney: Okay. All right, all right. Well, let me see. We were still talking on the
effectiveness of the Bureau program, I think and, what you thought of...I
mean, the Bureau really...what kind...did they ever define goals, I mean,
was it just to keep identifying any spies?

Bevels: Well, that, yeah, you had about four of them, (**unintel**).
. The main thing, if you could, and you had to find weaknesses
in the people that were over here. If they had a weakness, or an affinity
for the American style of life, would they . You really
wanted

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: You didn't necessarily want

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: ... got some. I can't remember names, but one of them they got and
didn't trust them but somebody from the FBI did and it really caused
some controversy.

Binney: Yeah.

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Bevels: And, you know, to get _____, you got somebody that's not one hundred per cent. They are not a boy scout.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: And the same way in the Army. When I was...you'd go in to look for somebody that you were going to use, you didn't want
You wanted somebody that you could still trust,

.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And find out your target.

Binney:

Bevels:

Binney: Well, why? Why would that be?

Bevels:

Binney: I

Bevels: Well, we did, you know, we'd probably do the same thing, but not necessarily...it would be better if we put somebody else there in contact with them

Binney:

Bevels: I don't know.

Binney: Do you think that was as effective as it could have been, or do you think...? It certainly made your job harder to try to find that then would contact...

Bevels: **(Unintel)**...the way I understood it, if you are on a surveillance, they referred to it as a "goon", a "goon", if you were a "goon", if you were on a surveillance, you were the lowest rung on the ladder, I mean,...nobody...**(unintel)** You couldn't be very important if you had to be out there on the street.

Binney: Oh.

Bevels: And **(unintel)**, I don't know. I know one of our supervisors, he...it used to put him out because, you know, you had two experienced Grade 13s working . You know, what a waste of manpower and talent. And it...no matter what the guy was doing, I found out later that guys who had the menial jobs, they had to be done...somebody had to do it. But man, some of them, they were really talented agents if they had had the opportunity. And they did, I mean, you know, they may not have liked what they were doing, they complained about it and many of them did go to other jobs.

Binney: Yeah. Did you volunteer to go to FCI when you came to WFO?

Bevels: No. I was assigned...

Binney: Just assigned, yeah. What did you do in Chicago?

Bevels: Well, the first six months I was on Selective Service and deserters.

Binney: Oh, gosh...AWOLs.

Bevels: It was good work; made a lot of arrests and didn't have to go to court.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Deserters and I had some Selective Service. But back then, if somebody moved and didn't tell their draft board, they'd send them a letter and it came back and about the second time, they'd call them up for service.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Sometimes they'd just take them straight to the induction. We weren't supposed to. But then the next 18 months...a lot of first office agents ended up on the applicant squad. It was pretty regular work.

Binney: Certainly a lot of interviews.

Bevels: A lot of interview, uh, and we did have one criminal classification, I think, Ascertaining Financial Ability...trace down people that owed fines or something. But, anyway, applicant work. So there were a lot of deadlines, usually fairly short, and a lot of interviews.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So I got to WFO and they put me on the surveillance squad and I thought I was...no cases, no deadlines...

Binney: No paperwork.

Bevels: No paperwork...the greatest job in the world. All you do is go out there and drive around in your car.

Binney: Yeah. Now, they had a group, though, they had a group of agents that participated in that?

Bevels: That's all we did.

Binney: So that was the start of, I guess, this special ops...

Bevels: It had been going on and the guys could tell the ones who had been there a long time, they had it figured out. How many months you stayed on surveillance, when you were coming inside, how long you'd stay inside and where you'd work.

Binney: Oh, okay, okay. But it was all FCI work?

Bevels: Yeah. (**Unintel**) but you would stay on the same squad, but switch back and forth because they had one supervisor who handled surveillances and the lookouts and he came inside and he worked for another supervisor, but he was still on the same level.

Binney: Oh, okay, okay. Well, that would be a good way to learn the players anyway.

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Bevels: Oh yeah. When I first got there, we had to go to identification school for a long time because had a code name that we used.

Binney: So you had to visually be able to recognize these guys.

Bevels: Recognize them and...

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: You know where they lived.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And what car they drove.

Binney: So they didn't...there wasn't a compound then. They lived...they lived...Out in D. C.

Bevels: They lived everywhere. Except when I first got there, they all lived in the District.

Binney: Okay.

Bevels: None of them had moved out to Virginia, or anyplace else. In fact I think one of the subjects I had was one of the first ones to move over to Arlington, he moved over to Columbia Pike...had a nice apartment...very close to the Pentagon.

Binney: Probably purposely.

Bevels: I don't know. In fact, one time he had an accident going home for lunch. He drove like a mad man anyway. And he hit a car with six Marines in it. They were going to lunch, too. So I had to interview the...I got the ranking...some Colonel and he told me all about it.

Binney: Yeah. And you were there...how long was the surveillance squad assignment?

Bevels: Oh, a little over a year and then they brought nearly everybody inside...in Virginia.

Binney: They bring in new guys, or just rotate?

Bevels: They just changed the whole system. They left three or four cars out on the street and, I guess, they actually volunteered for those.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: I wasn't around to volunteer for those. And so we came inside and I know at one time, I think Bill Cregar told me, he said, "I've got too many people here." And it wasn't my problem, I didn't want to go anywhere. So one of the other...I remember Jim Miller was one of them that was in our group doing commercial work in the commercial office working and he volunteered to go to "lookout pat."

Binney: What was _____ ? What would they be doing?
Were they...?

Bevels: They were _____ and they had all of these assistants. And some of them were listed as "Employees", which were not in the Blue Book, they were in the White Book, but they still had diplomatic immunity.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And, in fact, my major one that I had was listed as an Employee, but he identified himself as .

Binney: Oh, okay.

Bevels: But they would go...uh...American Association of Automotive Engineers...Electrical Engineers...all those people. They'd go and show up at those places. And they had all kinds of contacts.

Binney: Now, they have authorization to travel outside the 25? Would they have to...?

Bevels: They were restricted just like...

Binney: So these are just conventions that are inside the zones?

Bevels: Yeah, the monthly meetings.

Binney: Oh, oh!

Bevels: Right...I was telling someone the other day, one of my subjects was going there and one of the...and I don't remember which...some type of engineering, and then this Army Colonel from Ft. Belvoir (**unintel**) and they...for some reason, we found out they were having quite a conversation and had met several times before, but not necessarily away from there.

But, anyway, I made an appointment to go down to Ft. Belvoir to see this guy. And I go down there and his secretary said ... and he wasn't in his office and she said, "He's right down the hall; he'll be back shortly." So I waited and I waited and I waited. I waited about forty minutes and I finally, at one time, said, "Does he know I'm here?" And he said, "Yeah, he knows." So I said, "I'm leaving...I'll come back."

So I left and then I kind of got other things arranged and made arrangements with the Commanding Officer at Ft. Belvoir, whoever the General was, and I told him that this fellow was in touch with _____ and hadn't reported it to anybody and was in violation and I had him all (**unintel**). And I said, "You need to confront him with that." So he said, "Okay." And he said, (**unintel**)

And the next time we went there, there were about 25 of us in the room, and we called him in and wanted to know what the story was. I don't think there was anything significant about it, but it was...he never had reported it.

Binney: And then he blew you off on the interview.

Bevels: (**Unintel**)

Binney: Yeah. But these guys now, purportedly, they are civilians, but still most of them were

Bevels: Yeah. One of them was (**unintel**) was assigned to me and another one came over at the same time he did and later met with...identified him in the night, a clandestine night meeting that he had with an Air Force Sergeant. And I mentioned that in the other interview before. We did get a conviction on the Air Force Sergeant.

Binney: Was that ?

Bevels: No...a fellow named Herbert W. Boeckenhaupt.

Binney: Oh, yeah. I did...

Bevels: was a code name of one of the cases. It wasn't that one.

Binney: Yeah. Okay. Well, they kept you hopping. Did you...

Bevels: We had a lot to do. But when the Inspectors came over, and they would...every year...and they wanted to know what you'd done. And I remember one year, I don't know what it took to make an Inspector, but this one sat down with me and he said, "Now, in a criminal case you've got certain objectives." He said, "Now, here you are with this

And one of them I had just inherited from somebody else...a young fellow who was written up a tremendous amount of data and speculation. And he had him all set to defect. Well, I had looked him at couple of times and I thought, "This guy is no different than anybody else. He's not about to defect."

Bevels: But, this Inspector got that and he said, "When are you going to do this, this and this?" I don't know, I don't have any idea. You know, I had to speak to him about an hour in circles so he didn't know what I was talking about.

Binney: Because it was sensitive information that he wasn't...he shouldn't have been privy to?

Bevels: It was just a dumb question.

Binney: Well, you know the inspection process better than anybody. I mean, they take a guy who could have been a supervisor out in Iowa somewhere and then put him on the Inspection Staff and if he has never even... doesn't even know how to spell FCI or GRU, he's totally out of the water. He has no idea.

Bevels: One of the things...we had cases and we were supposed to do surveillance also and do our own and, you know, you do first things first. One Inspector, I can't remember who it was, but he said, one year, "It looks to me like you go on surveillance when you don't have anything else to do."

Bevels: And, I said, "Well, if you're smart." I didn't tell him that. So we, you know, we schedule these things... Well, that was about the truth, because if you had a deadline on something, you did it. But if you didn't have something to do, you'd go out there and sit down.

Binney: What were some of the Bureau's impediments that, really, you felt like stymied your case? It's like...

Bevels: We had...one thing...they had a rule at one time that you weren't supposed to go on Capitol Hill. **(Unintel)** And for some reason, somebody got embarrassed up there...you know...they embarrassed the Bureau and that was the rule...you didn't go up there. You could follow somebody and if that's where they went, you could quit; you could discontinue it for one reason, or whatever reason.

Later they changed it...I'm pretty sure they did...because right before they left, I had two or three people assigned to me and I can't remember what their title was, but that's what they did. I found out. They went around every, almost every committee office and they had their press releases and they just picked them up. And all of the people in the office knew exactly who they were. I mean they were .

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: This is Boris. Oh, yeah, he comes up here every Tuesday. And they were well known. And, of course, if you keep up with the budget process, you know what the United States is spending its money on. You know more than what the average person does.

Binney: Isn't that something? What timeframe was that rule, do you think? Was that...

Bevels: When I first got there, you couldn't do that. I don't know if they ever changed it.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: But it...

Binney: So...I think you're right. I mean, if you embarrassed the Bureau, that was a new rule.

Bevels: Oh yeah, you didn't do that. And that's one of the things you didn't, you know, you didn't want to...

Binney: I remember they had a hijacking out at...it must have been National, and one of the agents escorted the guy down the ramp. Had his picture in "Time" magazine and he had sideburns. And Hoover shipped him out to...this was 1971, 70 or 71 somewhere in that timeframe...he shipped him out to Indianapolis and his nickname became "Sideburns Mullin" because he was the agent with the sideburns. But the thing was, he had these sideburns and he appeared on the front cover of "Time" magazine.

Bevels: I did that, you know, everybody had some kind of facial hair. When I left the Bureau, I had sideburns way down. So I went to work for the State Police as an Investigator in that county, in Blacksburg. My Sergeant, at the time, was in Salem, in the Roanoke Office, so that's where I reported every day or wherever they sent me.

So, I was there about a month (**unintel**). Well, the State Police...the Virginia State Police...is great organization, but they were about 30 years behind the Bureau. And when I first got to Salem, I remember one time I said, "Where's the suggestion box?" And the comment was, "If you don't like it, quit."

Binney: Yeah, yeah. These are the rules. Were there any other impediments that stick out in your mind...I mean, that really made your job, other than...and the one that really kind of surprises me is they didn't want you contacting the guys directly. You had to use a double agent. Anything else that you really...? The car situation, I mean, just getting a car had to be a hassle.

Bevels: Well, you learn...you learn how to do it. If you're going on surveillance and your partner...and... When I got there, we had six units, maybe, up on the military office working three to midnight, or something like that. And the same way down at the Embassy. So there's a lot of them and you learn...uh...if one person had his own personal car up at...we'd park

Up at Kalorama Circle, or someplace else. And then later, when it would be dark, you could move it down to the mall, or you could move it into the old post office lot there. There was some space there.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So you learned to work those things so you weren't stuck out there with only one car at a time.

Binney: Yeah, yeah

Bevels: But getting a car, you know, you learned to live with it and that's what you...

Binney: Those "take-home" cars didn't really come into existence...

Bevels: "Take Home" cars...you could not take a car home. And it wasn't until a few years later, that one of my started living over in Virginia and then the others started (**unintel**) and then all at once, we discovered that way out in Fairfax County, out around Burke Lake and out Centreville and all those other places, that's where the drop areas were. So I spent a lot of time out there.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Driving around, learning the territory.

Binney: So, come in to get your car and then go right back out to where you lived.

Bevels: Yeah. And I guess two or three times, I had a system where I could use, develop and use . It worked two or three times. You bought yourself a tripod and your camera. And you didn't really want them there 'cause you weren't too sure when it was going to take place and how it was going to take place, so I found out if I got about \$25.00 I could give them to the people and they could all go out to dinner or a movie or something and then, you know, come back later.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: So I could do that, and I did. A couple of things happened. One of them, somewhere out around Sterling Virginia, in the neighborhood---pretty nice neighborhood---and the drop was across the street from this house. The fellow worked for the post office and he was very cooperative. And I gave him some money and they went out to dinner and the drop was created at the right time and we got pictures.

Bevels: The fellow I was with, we folded everything up at the time and got up and left. And the guy called me the next day. He said, "What happened?" And I said, "Well, everything went fine." And he said, "I don't know what happened, but somebody stole my car. It was parked in front of my house."

Binney: Is that right? Oh, jeez.

Bevels: It had nothing to do with us. But the unexpected happens so many times.

Binney: Yeah. I can imagine, especially with drops, you know, remote drops. Tell me a little bit...they describe the rock that they had, that this...

Bevels: I made several rocks, depending on the case. One of them, uh, I can't remember if this or not, or another one. One of them, they wanted to use modeling clay. The package looked like a big square...not a square...a rectangle, long thing and you roll it up flat and it's now a flat piecrust. And then you...whatever you're going to put in there...your camera had little cassettes and each one of those cassettes would take about 64 pages of material.

So, depending on how many you had, you put those in there and whatever else you may have been asked (**unintel**) to send the camera back, or something like that. Or even 35 mm, you know, too. We used a lot of that. They packed their own, the Russians did and some of them you'd get 20, you'd get 200 shots out of one little cassette on a 35 mm. camera.

So you put all of that in there and then roll it up...put it in some type of baggie first to keep it waterproof. And then you roll it up in that and maybe it would be kind of damp and stuff would stick to it. And then you'd go out there and roll it in the dirt.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And sticks and dirt and stuff would stick to it and, you know, it would look like a piece of trash.

Binney: Yeah. And then, and then...

Bevels: One-lane bridge signs in Fairfax County--lots of one-lane bridge signs. The Russians used those a lot. You'd go out this way and follow the one-lane bridge signs.

Binney: at the foot of the one-lane bridge signs...

Bevels: Yeah, in fact, when I retired, one of the agents made a sign for me. A big pole and it said, "One-Lane Bridge" sign.

Binney: Now what about the flag...that would be...?

Bevels: You mean a signal?

Binney: A signal.

Bevels: Well, some of them used one thing, some another. One of them used a phone booth. He put a piece of tape...mark...I think he used tape...he put a piece of horizontal tape (**unintel**) and the
Another one, I don't know, it may have been a crayon mark, or magic mark.

Binney: They would they pick out a prominent item...

Bevels: Yeah, they'd drive by...

Binney: They could drive by it...

Bevels: in the meantime, you know, and they'd go...and most of them went home for lunch.

Binney: Un-huh

Bevels: If they lived over in Fairfax County or out around Shirlington used to be where a lot of them...in fact, there was one development right past Shirlington down 95 where a lot of them lived. In fact, a restaurant manager there was one of my best sources.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And...he had to learn all of the neighbors and interview them to tell what was going on and some of them turned out to be good, some not. (**Unintel**)

Binney: You mean you were interviewing ?

Bevels: Neighbors, yeah.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: Most of them, you know, were government employees.

Binney: Oh, yeah, sure, yeah.

Bevels: One of them was real friendly with _____, I don't know how friendly, but some others said, "Yeah, they barbeque together, things like that." The guy works for the Smithsonian and he was a graduate of Oberlin College. So I go to the Smithsonian and the guy in charge of security there was a retired Air Force General. And I, you know, present my case. Generally, we want to cooperate. Yeah, we want to cooperate to the Bureau and everything.

I said, "Well, I need to talk to be able to talk to this fellow and I would like to have your permission to use him in counterintelligence." I didn't tell him that, but I just wanted his permission to use him for whatever it was and all at once somebody else then said, "Well, you know we are not a government agency." And that's the first time I knew he didn't know that. I said, "The same guy that pays him pays me. I get my check every two weeks." "No, we are endowed in such a way that we are not supposed to be political."

Well, I had all I could do to not to punch him out.

Bevels: And, of course, the guy being from **(inaudible)**, I found out... I didn't know whether to trust him or not.

Binney: So, none of those types of things stick out in your mind as anything out of the ordinary, though. I mean, it was a routine for the signal and for the drop.

Bevels: And you didn't know _____ were doing it, I mean, it might be ...

Binney: To pick up the item at the drop?

Bevels: No, not to pick it up but just to go by there and see if, you know, if there is a signal.

Binney: So, who were the women? Were they employees of the...

Bevels: They would be the wives of some of the **(inaudible)** there, or some of
...right
Right across from the Justice Building, where the Hoover Building is now, there used to be a bunch of shops.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: And I remember...

Binney: Yeah. She was , but wasn't involved in the case.

Bevels: Yeah, as far as we knew.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. Interesting. Well, let me see if I've got everything covered here that they wanted. Make sure, you know, that I get back and talk about the things we talked about. Because Brian did not have a chance to do that.

Bevels: And probably nobody else in here except me. I know some of the people I worked with in ...they were very much involved and when David Wise wanted to talk to them, they didn't want to talk to him. They didn't want to talk to anyone about the Bureau. They said, "You go see the Bureau."

Binney: Oh, really, really. You see, I think the intent of this is to really, you know, get down the people who were down there doing the stuff themselves, not, as you well know, the Bureau guys who just were reading reports.

Bevels: Yeah. I found out later... ...Court Jones squad...I don't know if you are familiar.

Binney: His son became an agent.

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Bevels: I had a lot of respect for Court. A lot of people over there on his squad would come over there on a temporary basis. I didn't know that at the time, you know, I was working and all at once, you know, somebody from the Bureau and I'd think, well, he must have done something wrong and they sent him over here. He'd be over there for about six months and go back to headquarters; probably training him to be the Legat somewhere, you know, and just give him some idea what goes on, but they did a lot of that.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: As far as I know, on our own squad, I mean , we didn't have any of those, but one or two. But what I started to say. One time one fellow had been on our squad a short time but I noticed he read every report he could. He was always reading every report on something and there was not that much going on that you need to be reading that stuff all the time.

One day I asked him if he wanted to go with me on something and he said, "What are you going to do?" and I said, "Well, I just want to look at...and I named about three things." He called and he said, "I don't think I want to get involved." I said, "Okay."

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: I mean and later, he became an ASAC.

Binney: Yeah, good point. But, you really, yeah, I mean you take into account fact that

Bevels: We used to have squad...big conferences. Guys from New York would come down and they would chew the fat.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: We didn't have that. It wasn't good. And Joe Sullivan...

Binney: I love him, love him.

Bevels: would come over...

Binney: One of my favorites.

Bevels: And he didn't know anybody, but he had a list of about 45 of us and I always got included because one of my subjects was an intelligence officer that they found out real early. And, gosh, he would start looking and he would have a question and just spit the name out.

Bevels: I remember one time he called on the guy, "What do you think about this?" Well, I remember one time he called on a guy, this guy worked back there in the hole all the time (inaudible) most of the time (inaudible). Sullivan, would...and then (inaudible) every three or months, we would have a big conference and a couple of guys from New York would come down (inaudible)

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: As far as we knew, Doug McDougal...Does that sound good?

Binney: No, it doesn't.

Bevels: But anyway, he got one of those guys TOP HAT and later I was talking...I think he was the one. 'Cause they had a group that would make the approach to them and he said the way this one worked out...he wasn't our target. The wrong guy came out and we were going to target somebody else and he said this guy came out and so we just strung along with him and stopped for a pizza someplace and he said, "I just went up and started talking to him" and he flipped over.

Now I don't know if that's the story you've heard or not.

Binney: Well, well, yeah, but then the Bureau didn't want us to do that, so what were they...they just did it because they were in New York?

Bevels: Well, you know, that New York attitude.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: Yeah. If you had the opportunity, I think.

Binney: Oh, okay.

Bevels: It wasn't the fact. The Bureau didn't want to get a protest and the State Department would protest. Every now and then, I don't know if you have seen it or not, but I remember one time they had about eighteen incidents, or incidences, and they had license numbers and everything else.

Binney: Yeah. It was a constant battle with State.

Bevels: I am not even, you know, we didn't know really whether the State Department was for us or against us. Right before I left, I know, there was two or three times...at that time there was a policy that if anybody wanted to defect, they had the opportunity to go to the front of their former government officials and they'd do it over at the State Department.

And two times, I can remember specifically, that I surveilled a guy who was over at State. And they had a confrontation and he came out and he went home with I mean they didn't stay. And I felt sure that, you know, that that was their last ride.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: And, you know, I just didn't agree with that at all.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. So, really then, to get back to that, New York and WFO were really the only areas that an agent could pick up the experience that he needed to be a headquarters supervisor in that type of work, in FCI.

Bevels: Unless San Francisco had a Consulate.

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: I guess Chicago may have had some satellite Consulates, Polish or something.

Binney: I think they did, I think...Polish...because there are more Poles in Chicago than there are in Warsaw. So maybe, yeah, and we haven't even talked about the satellite countries. I mean all your work was strictly . Yeah.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah.

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Bevels: Okay, well I was kind of on my own. I mean, not a whole lot of activity. So another Agent and I went there and we'd sit in the park and watch him come out. Well, I think for about three weeks, we followed the wrong guy. There was another guy there looked just like him. But anyway, I got the Surete from France involved in it and they interviewed him.
(Inaudible)

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels: A terrible pattern, you know, the write-up was lousy to start with, but anyway, for a long time I had that case, to follow him around.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. Would you say that _____ was your most favorite...most exciting case?

Bevels: Oh, yeah, but I didn't have it...it wasn't for a long...I was just on...

Binney; The tail end, yeah.

Bevels: ...for a long time. I did work look-outs and, you know, some of the drops and like that, but wasn't involved with the interviews. I hadn't met him. I had others that were real good sources and I enjoyed that very much.

Binney: Yeah, yeah. Well, I think we'll wrap that up, if that's okay with you. I've taken enough of your time. I think we got a great interview.

Bevels:

Binney: Yeah, yeah.

Bevels:

Binney:

Bevels: Naturalized...I think.

Binney: Yeah, okay.

Bevels:

And he was supposed to take over as
Manager, but still alive. The Naval Attaché got to be
friendly with her and she called me one day. He had drugged her and
raped her. She lived out in Potomac Hills, a very exclusive type, two-
story brick house.

So Phil Parker and I went out there and talked and she said he had also
left a little handgun for her protection. Well, we talked for a long time and
then we didn't know what to do and we decided to ask her if she would
call him back and say, 'the goons were out there'. Jim Whalen and I went
out there. I don't know if you ever knew Jim Whalen or not, but Jim
Whalen had also been a Russian language trainee. But we were out there
when she called this guy back and told him how she was embarrassed at
all that and what he had done. used words Whalen had never heard
before.

But, anyway, we took the gun went on a tour with all the
Naval Attaches, U. S. Navy as host took them on a plane on a four-week
tour around the country. There were about 40 Naval Attaches. The
Russian went too. And one of the stops was going to be Minneapolis. So
we figured we'd go up in Minneapolis and make a defection approach
against this guy. We didn't tell the Navy; didn't tell anybody.

And so we get out there on Saturday afternoon and Minneapolis Agents
meet us at the plane. He and another young fellow—he kept telling us he
was a Relief Supervisor. And the older fellow...I think Fox was his name,
he says, "Boy, something must be important for you to get me out here on
a Saturday afternoon." And we generally told him what it was and I said,
"We need to stay someplace where it is very secure", because we knew
where all these people were going to stay. And he says, "Okay," and so he
takes us over to the big hotel...Marriot I believe, and the first thing he
does is walk in to the manager and he says, "These guys are here on a very
sensitive intelligence and they want to stay someplace where nobody
knows where they are." And he says, "Okay." He said, "Western Airlines
attorneys are all here for some kind of union contract. They are all over in
that wing right there." He said, "You can stay over there; they are not
here right now."

So we went over there and he said, "We will not make a record that you're
here." I said, "Okay." So we did, we stayed there, and on Sunday night
about midnight, we made our approach to the guy and he didn't take to it
at all. He said, "Is that my gun?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Can I have
it?" And I said, "No, you can't."

Bevels: He said, "Well, you're trying to blackmail me." I said "Well, you call it whatever you want to." He said, "Well, one thing you want to remember, you have a Naval Attaché on our staff too." And I thought, he's not to see the light of day.

But, anyway. So it turns out he got up early the next morning and he said, "I've got to leave."

Binney: He's gone. So he reported the contact.

Bevels: Oh yeah, he reported the contact. He was gone within about four or five days. Yeah, he beat us back to Washington. When we got back there, the Navy got mad at us and the Bureau got mad at us and we thought we'd done a good job.

And coming back on the plane, though, we got on the plane at 10:30 or 11:00 o'clock that morning, Monday morning, in Minneapolis and we got there and the plane backs away from the dock and then it stops. We're way in the back of the plane and the back door goes down. And a big, black car drives up and here comes Hubert Humphrey...he gets on the plane.

Binney: Really!

Bevels: Probably does it every Monday morning.

Binney: Yeah, well I guess he... How 'bout that?

Bevels: And so he comes in and when he gets on, he gets his hair combed and he waves and talks to everybody all up and down all the way to first class.

Binney: Isn't that funny? Was he Vice President or Senator?

Bevels: I guess he was Senator.

Binney: Senator then, yeah, yeah. Well, that's a baffling issue and I've got to get to the bottom of why the Bureau would not allow those direct contacts, other than the embarrassment situation and State Department, I suppose.

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Bevels: State, yeah, 'cause if you had access, you'd be out there...I mean the agents running the surveillances...I remember, I don't know if you know this agent or not, John Denton, did you ever hear of him? He wound up in Knoxville. John was a former Marine Captain and he came over to our squad after being on the criminal squad. And Phil Parker said, "Charlie, you watch him." You know, that's all I did. But I said, "Let's go out on surveillance and you'll learn the territory." We followed a guy home from lunch, or something like that. And John said, "Now what are we going to do?" And I said, "Well, we'll wait until he comes out." And he said, "What do mean we'll wait until he comes out, let's go get him." I said, "Well, you can't do that." "He's the enemy, let's go get him."

But John acclimated himself and within a year he got the Most Valuable Player Award on the squad.

Binney: Good, good, good.

Bevels: He was a good agent. And I found out later, I said, "John, where did you go to school?" And he told me he went to school in upstate New York. I said, "What did you major in?" And he said, "Well, don't tell anybody." He said, "Drama."

I saw him on TV one night, one of those police shows where he was back in Knoxville. In fact, I remember it well 'cause the guy held himself hostage and put a gun to his own chest and held it there and one of the Deputies shot the gun out of his hand. He said, "Yeah, the guy also shot a hole in my coat."

Binney: So he wanted to make the contacts, too?

Bevels: He'd been on the criminal squad and you know, you do this and you do that and then you go take them into custody. And I said, "Well, you don't do that. And he said, "He'll get away". And I said, "He'll be here tomorrow".

Binney: Interesting, very interesting. That is an interesting thing. I guess I never realized that the Bureau had that issue. Because I remember in later years, they had a whole squad that would come up with all kinds of ideas on how to approach.

Bevels: Well, we tried to do that too.

Binney: Yeah.

Bevels: Now I say it was against the policy. We had other things. I recall now where we had an agent on one of my cases. We passed him off as a businessman and he had a hotel room and all this and called the guy at the commercial office and told him he was selling something from Indianapolis. Because the guy was, the agent was from Indiana.

Binney: Yeah

Bevels:

Binney: Oh, yeah.

Bevels: It didn't work. I mean, we tried things like that.

Binney: And the State Department...if they ever made the complaint. Of course, if the guy reports a contact, do they automatically ship him out, most of the time?

Bevels: Not necessarily.

Binney: Yeah...I mean he probably liked it in the United States.

Bevels: You know, I always looked at this way. The guys over here, are sending them over here, he's the best they have. The system has worked for him. The Communist system has worked for him...No matter what he will do...buy a five and ten-cent store here, buy blue jeans somewhere, or...

I remember one of them, before he went home, he was buying locks.

Binney: Padlocks?

Bevels: Yeah. I said "Man, why are you buying that stuff?" "You can't get them in the Soviet Union and you got some stuff you want to lock up."

Binney: Is that right, yeah?

Bevels: Yeah.

Binney: But you're right. I guess they have their doctors and their, you know, all their different privileges.

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