

Ken Chamberlain and C. Howard Watkin Interview Transcript
Interviewed by Loren Webb

Date of Interview: May 24, 1994
Location of Interview: Richfield, Utah

Participants: Loren Webb
Ken Chamberlain
C. Howard Watkin

Note: The interviews were in reference to the Cyril Tom Holland murder trial in August 1954 in Kanab, Utah in connection with homicide victim Leroy Albert Wilson on May 18, 1954.

Webb: How you first got assigned to the case, to assist in the case.

Chamberlain: I was in the Attorney General's office. I was Assistant Attorney General.

Webb: Were you working in Salt Lake?

Chamberlain: Yeah, uh-huh, from January 1953 through January 1955.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And the County, Kane County, did not have a, did not have a practicing attorney.

Webb: The practicing county attorney. . .

Chamberlain: Kane County did not have a member of the Bar as a County Attorney.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: They had a lay, or a non-professional person who had been elected County Attorney.

Webb: Who was that?

Chamberlain: His name was Willard Mackelprang.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And I had been Kane County Attorney from 1951 to 1953. And—

Webb: Goll, that's incredible.

Chamberlain: And so when this murder occurred, Mason Meeks, M-e-e-k-s, Mason Meeks, who was the Kane County Sheriff, Kane County Sheriff, and he served as Kane County Sheriff while I was County Attorney.

Webb: County Attorney . . . He served as County Sheriff.

Chamberlain: Yeah, he was Sheriff while I was County Attorney.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And he remained County Attorney . . . I left the County Attorney's office to go in the Attorney General's office January the fifteenth.

Webb: M-hmm.

Chamberlain: Three—when this murder occurred in 1954, Mason Meeks called the Attorney General's office and asked if the Attorney General, who was E.R. Callister at the time, was assigned—the Attorney General to help try the case. Sterling Bossard. B-o-s-s-a-r-d, Sterling Bossard, was a . . .

Webb: He was a District Attorney, right?

Chamberlain: He was a District Attorney, uh-huh.

Webb: What was the . . . like Sixth District Attorney or . . .

Chamberlain: Yes, he was Sixth District Attorney.

Webb: Where was he out of . . . based out of?

Chamberlain: He, he was in Richfield.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And—

Webb: He was initially assigned to . . .

Chamberlain: What's that?

Webb: Was he initially assigned to the case . . . to prosecute the case, right?

Chamberlain: Yes, yes, this is the case that he would have tried. His—Mason Meeks' idea was to—would like to have somebody from the Attorney General's office help him try the case.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: So I came down and got into the case while it was being investigated, and so I helped Sterling Bossard handle the preliminary hearing. Back in those days, we had—they held preliminary hearings before a Justice of the Peace.

Webb: Really. Okay.

Chamberlain: And the Justice of the Peace . . . come on in, Howard.

Webb: How are you doing, Mr. Watkin?

Watkin: How are you?

Webb: Good to see you.

Watkin: Haven't seen you for a lot of years.

Webb: Oh, I know, it's been a lot of years.

Chamberlain: But the Justice of the Peace . . . I was—we were just talking about the preliminary hearing of this case . . . The Justice of the Peace was Edward Carroll.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: He was a man in his seventies.

Webb: Edward Carroll?

Chamberlain: Uh-huh.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: He was the Justice of the Peace in Orderville in Kane County. And the Justice of the Peace in Kanab wanted to disqualify himself, so.

Watkin: Who was that, Crosby?

Chamberlain: No, it was the one who called . . .

Webb: Okay. When Edward Carroll was—now he was in Kanab, or he was somewhere else?

Chamberlain: He was in Orderville.

Webb: He was in Orderville.

Chamberlain: He was in Orderville. He, he just—in Kanab, wanted to disqualify himself ‘cause he had just been recently appointed and hadn’t heard many cases.

Webb: Oh.

Chamberlain: And he hadn’t heard many investigators.

Webb: (Laughs) Let alone a first-degree murder case.

Chamberlain: And Ed Carroll had been a Justice of the Peace for, for a number of years.

Webb: Basically he was, this J. P. in Kanab was new and inexperienced.

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: I can’t think of the name right off--

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: We—I went down to a preliminary hearing. Howard here—

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: . . . court report because preliminary hearings had to be reported. And a transcript had to be the, the record that was transcribed.

Webb: Was it, was it transcribed at the preliminary hearing?

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah.

Watkin: It’s down in Kanab.

Webb: I can’t find it.

Chamberlain: It should be there. Clerk, have you talked to clerk?

Webb: Well, I’ve got . . . yeah, this is what I got.

Chamberlain: Yeah, it was, it was transcribed.

Webb: That’s the whole case, right there.

Chamberlain: It was transcribed.

Watkin: How about the minutes?

Webb: Well, here's, here's some more—there was no transcript, no transcription, which just blows me away.

Watkin: Well, you know, you called me sometime in the past about it.

Webb: Right.

Watkin: And I, course my notes are long gone, but I told you that a==

Webb: And I thought that—

Chamberlain: What about the transcript of the trial—

Webb: That was, it was never transcribed, apparently.

Chamberlain: Well---it would be in acquittal. There was no appeal.

Webb: Yeah.

Chamberlain: All right. Okay. Well.

Watkin: You know, I have to ask you—this preliminary hearing, or anything . . . where are the minutes?

Webb: I don't know.

Watkin: The—minutes.

Webb: I don't know.

Chamberlain: --

Webb: That's everything that I got out of that file.

Watkin: Did you ask . . .

Webb: Now I got this . . .

Watkin: I know, but the clerk's minutes would be in the file, probably.

Webb: I got this from Jim Scarth . . . Jim Scarth.

Chamberlain: Well this is the guy, Edward Carroll, he's a . . . was he Justice of the Peace?

Watkin: The clerk would have minutes, I know, it's in a minute book down there. See, he would know that you'd have to go . . .

Chamberlain: This is a . . . this is a, the Justice of the Peace's transcript . . . This is a . . . this is a . . . the . . .

Webb: What I was just . . .

Watkin: It isn't my transcript, though.

Chamberlain: No, no, no, no, this is the, this is the minute entry.

Webb: Right, right.

Chamberlain: This is a transcript of the—it isn't a transcript of the trial. It's a transcript of the--

Webb: Right. And what I was disappointed in is that I couldn't find any real . . .

Chamberlain: Transcript to the evidence.

Webb: No, no transcript to the evidence.

Watkin: Now see, I wouldn't have typed up the trial because it was an acquittal. But I would have done the preliminary hearing.

Webb: And I guess that's why I kind of wanted to see if I could help, uh, see if we can piece things together.

Watkin: Who was the County Attorney then, Ken?

Chamberlain: Willard Mackelprang.

Watkin: Oh, well.

Webb: What, um . . .

Chamberlain: Oh, oh, the Justice of the Peace, this is the name, the, the Justice of the Peace in Kane County disqualified himself was Tom Wakeling.

Webb: Okay. Tom Wakeling.

Chamberlain: Wakeling. W-a-k-e-l-i-n-g.

Webb: Okay . . . okay. So what was it that led the prosecution to find Tom Holland as a suspect?

Chamberlain: A man by the—name of . . .

Webb: Orville Robinson?

Chamberlain: Ronald Mace.

Webb: Okay, Ronald Mace.

Chamberlain: Ronald Mace was farming attractive land out south of Kanab. And a road went right next to his farm, out to the hills.

Webb: And this would be what is now known as Kanab Creek ranch--Is that right?

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah, well it would be, it would be a little bit south. It would be . . . it would be—within the Kanab—it would have been in the Kanab—area.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: But it was to the base of the, of the—and the—formations are, are geologic formations out there that were relatively well known for in southeastern Utah where—

Webb: Oh.

Chamberlain: And the only way you could get to that area, the base of the, of this range, this mountainous range, was to go by the Ralph Mace farm. Ronald Mace, Ronald Mace farm. And a man came by there, and asked Ronald Mace if he had seen anyone go up in that vicinity. Ronald Mace told him “yes,” that he had, that he saw a man, and he thought was—

Watkin: --

Chamberlain: Well, yeah.

Webb: Seen a car or what?

Chamberlain: In a car, yeah.

Webb: He had seen a car go by?

Chamberlain: He had seen a car go by, and he thought it was a guy by the name of Wilson, who he didn't know, he was a polygamist. But he knew that he had been prospecting before—in that vicinity. But the man got out and saw and talked to Mace was later identified by Mace in a eye to eye, not, not, not, not a, uh, courtroom not a criminal lineup . . . just identified him face to face as Tom Holland.

Webb: Oh, interesting. So the man who had asked about whether some guy had gone up there earlier?

Chamberlain: Uh-huh.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And Ronald Mace said that there was no question in his mind that that was Tom Holland. And so after talking with Mace, the sheriff, the sheriff or Mason Meeks investigated a little further, of course this was all after he had found the body and found the shells and other—around the body . . .

Webb: Right, 45-caliber shell casings around the body and footprints going in—two footprints going in, one footprints cutting back.

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah.

Webb: And Orville Robinson, apparently, I'm not sure what his tie was, but apparently he was with Mason Meeks when they found the body.

Chamberlain: Yes. Orville Robinson had been out there. He he was with Mason Meeks when they found . . . Orville Robinson was out there, looking for cows and saw the body, and he called Mason Meeks and went out, and then they saw these footprints—two sets of footprints going in then, and one coming out.

Webb: Was the body face down or face or or . . .

Chamberlain: The body was face down and it was a heavy guy, heavy---

Webb: And five bullets to the back?

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah, he'd been shot in the back five times.

Webb: And Doctor Akin testified that they were all .45 caliber slugs?

Chamberlain: Yes, yes, yeah.

Webb: Did the . . .

Chamberlain: And one of the bullets hit the, one of the lower—that goes from the, it goes through the, the, the main part of the anatomy, the cerebral and it's—it's—bending the spleen or splitting the spleen because the hemorrhage was so sudden that it's virtual death, it's almost like hitting in the heart.

Webb: Wow.

Chamberlain: And Aiken, Dr. Aiken said that he'd have died within the few minutes after this 45 at close range. Its 45 bullet hit this large vascular system, his last blood—arter . . . it was an artery.

Webb: Did . . .

Chamberlain: That, that, there were, that, that was, that was the—cause of death at this point.

Webb: Okay. Were there any ballistics tests that matched the bullets with shell casings?

Chamberlain: Well, they never did, we never did find any bul . . . there were never any bullets found.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: They, they, they, they were never taken out of the body.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: They, they went completely through it, and they shot at close range.

Webb: Okay, so he was shot at close range and apparently shot from the back.

Chamberlain: Yeah. Uh-huh.

Webb: Okay. Tell me about Sterling Bossard and what, what was he like, I mean, as far as a prosecutor.

Chamberlain: Well, he, he was a nice fellow. He hadn't had a great deal of experience as a prosecutor. He had been, he had been a—

Watkin: Juvenile.

Chamberlain: No, he, he, he didn't become a juvenile judge until after.

Watkin: No, he was a juvenile judge in Manti before he came down.

Chamberlain: Oh, oh, that's right.

Watkin: I hate to interrupt.

Chamberlain: That's right, that's right.

Watkin: I know that.

Chamberlain: That's right. He was a juvenile judge in Manti . . . that's right.

Webb: In Manti before he came here . . .

Watkin: Before he came to Richfield.

Chamberlain: Then, then, then he practiced law here with a firm of Gustin Richards and Mattsson.

Webb: Okay. He practiced with whom?

Chamberlain: Firm of . . .

Watkin: G-u-s-t-i-n.

Webb: G-u-s-t-i-n.

Watkin: Richards . . .

Webb: M-hum

Chamberlain and Watkin: And Mattsson.

Chamberlain M a-t-t-s-s-o-n.

Webb: Mattsson. Okay.

Chamberlain: He, he started practicing in about the year 1950, about '49, about 1949.

Webb: And I assume this case was just so dramatic and such a major case for everybody involved . . . I mean, a murder case in southern Utah. I bet that was practically unheard of anywhere.

Watkin: We had one, we had one in 1947 in Kanab.

Webb: Oh, really? Okay.

Chamberlain: Yeah, there had been one in . . .

Watkin: What was the name of that case?

Chamberlain: That was—

Watkin: Butler . . .

Chamberlain: It was Cram . . .

Watkin: Butler . . . Cram was murdered, and Butler killed him . . . I have it in my first murder trial.

Webb: So there had been a homicide in, in Kane County in 1947 . . . And before that, probably unheard of, right?

Chamberlain: Well, that was the last one that was, the last one in the recollection of most people.

Webb: Most . . . okay. So when this thing came about, I guess the reason why this thing was, was, took off and became such a fascinating case was because supposedly, in Mr. Wilson's one hand was a scintillator? Or I'm not sure . . .

Chamberlain: Uh uh . . .

Webb: A Geiger counter.

Chamberlain: A Geiger counter, okay.

Webb: A Geiger counter, okay.

Chamberlain: A scintillator—S-c-i-n-t-i-l-l-a-t-o-r.

Webb: Yeah.

Chamberlain: A scintillator.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: A scintillator.

Webb: And that was found in one of his hands.

Chamberlain: And was found in one of his hands . . . Yeah.

Webb: And was there a piece of uranium rock in another hand or not?

Chamberlain: No, no, there was no uranium . . . There wasn't any uranium in the area.

Webb: One thing I found fascinating when I looked through here was that there apparently was a big bag. Mr. Wilson apparently had a lot of uranium documents and filings and stuff and that bag disappeared or . . . was never found.

Chamberlain: Well, the thing, the thing that, the thing that caused us to lose the case . . . I'm going to be tough on somebody here, Howard, the thing that caused us to lose the case was that John L. Sevy who was the j . . . the District Judge refused after two

hours of argument to introduce a fraudulent check which Tom Holland had written to—

Watkin: Wilson.

Chamberlain: Leroy Wilson.

Webb: K . . . it was a \$3,000 fraudulent check.

Chamberlain: Well, I'm not saying it's 3,000. I don't know.

Webb: I believe that was mentioned in the . . .

Chamberlain: Well, whatever it was. But Sevy, for reasons that I'll never understand, refused to admit that into evidence. If he had allowed that into evidence, they'd have convicted Holland in 15 minutes. But Sevy was afraid . . . scared to death of being reversed by Supreme Court, and he left the courtroom swearing, and, and you correct me if I'm wrong about this, Howard, but I think you told me that he said, "I will never stand up in Supreme Court."

Webb: Now wait a minute . . . why couldn't they produce a check that was written . . .

Chamberlain: Because John L. Sevy was the judge, and he decided that he just didn't---evidence.

Webb: Okay. What were the reasons?

Chamberlain: He, he didn't have, Jeff Sevy didn't have to have reasons.

Webb: Wow. No reasons . . .

Chamberlain: He just didn't have to have reason.

Webb: Huh.

Chamberlain: John L. Sevy was . . .

Webb: Tell, tell me about one other . . . there's one other aspect of this murder trial that, that, that I heard indirectly through the Picketts, and that was the famous plaster paris cast of the footprints. And apparently the footprints didn't match Tom Holland . . .

Chamberlain: They did match, they did match.

Webb: Oh, they did match.

Watkin: Yes, they did.

Chamberlain: Yes, they matched.

Webb: Cause, oh, shoot, I didn't know if I can find this or not . . . one place in here they did talk about the footprints.

Chamberlain: They did match. They didn't match precisely, but, but they weren't taken with any, with any skillful precision.

Webb: Okay. Well, 'cause I had heard that when they were taken that the wind came up the night before or something and blew some of the sand around, and so the . . .

Chamberlain: Well, sand, well, sand, the sand drifted drifts down there just like water drifts on the surface so they, oh, they laid in a heavy, heavy wind.

Webb: So, it did match Holland's footprint, huh?

Chamberlain: Yeah, it was, it, the, the dimensions fit . . .

Webb: The dimensions.

Chamberlain: Dimensions were identical. It, it didn't match them but the sand didn't show any tread there. There was no tread showing.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: The, the . . .

Watkin: Size.

Chamberlain: You know, nature . . . yeah, go ahead, Howard.

Watkin: No, that's all right.

Webb: Yeah.

Chamberlain: Nature—a vacuum . . . and any blowing sand would fill in tread marks, but the dimensions of the plaster paris cast were the same, and also, we, we could never find . . . there was never a murder weapon found . . . never a weapon found.

Webb: No murder weapon was found? Now there was a 32 caliber rifle found that Holland admitted that he had in his, in his car.

Chamberlain: Oh, yeah, oh, yeah, Holland admitted that, yea . . . and, but he said that that was the only, the only, the only weapon that he ever owned.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And, but the thing that I wanted, the point I want to make is that, is that Leroy Wilson had in his possession, not, not, not at the murder scene, but he had in his possession a fraudulent check. I don't know if it was 3,000. I don't know what the record says about that. It was a fraudulent check that Holland had given to Wilson, and it had bounced, and it was in, it was in the victim's possession.

Webb: I mean . . . Ho. . . Holland's defense claims that he had told Wilson not to, not to cash it until certain claims were followed through, or something to that effect, that, that it wasn't good until he did certain things or that . . .

Chamberlain: Well, I don't remember anything about that. That may have been one of the claims that he made, but that, that enough would have been sufficient grounds for me to convict him.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: But, but the judge not only wouldn't let the check in, he wouldn't, Sevy would not even let us discuss the check before the jury. He dismissed the jury and would not even let us discuss the check.

Webb: Tell me about the **Zirkers**.

Chamberlain: **Zirkers** were some people who, who lived close to where Tom Holland was staying.

Webb: At the Purple, Purple Sage Motel?

Chamberlain: Yeah. They, they may have been his landlords. He may have stayed with them occasionally when he came over there to prospect. Loren [Lawrence] Zurker was his name.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And it was in his, it was in **Zirker's** interest to see that Holland got acquitted.

Webb: That's what I want to know. Why was it in his interest to see that he got acquitted?

Chamberlain: He, **Zirker . . . Zirker** was a man of about any strong social convictions about seeing justice done . . . and he, he believed Holland's story and did everything he could to, to.

Watkin: Kind of an alibi, wasn't it?

Chamberlain: Yeah, well . . .

Webb: His alibi was that, that apparently he said that that, that afternoon, okay, here we go . . . Let's see, when he was in Kanab they testified that Holland . . . well, okay . . . the defense alibi was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Loren [Lawrence] Zirker, propriet . . . proprietors of the Purple Sage Motel where Holland lived when he was in Kanab, and their teenage daughters Vicki and LL . . . Lali . . . Lili . . . Lilli Page . . . they all testified that Holland was at the motel during the time the State charged the crime was committed . . . well, they also had stated that they'd gone out . . .

Chamberlain: Remember that guy, Howard?

Watkin: Huh?

Chamberlain: Remember that guy?

Webb: That they'd gone out and to dancing later that afternoon or something . . . and that they were with a Bauer, a Mrs. Bauer.

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah, yeah. **Zirkers** were awfully anxious to give Holland that alibi until they found out that Holland was stepping out on his wife with this woman, and then they suddenly withdrew their story.

Webb: Oh, really.

Chamberlain: Uh-huh.

Watkin: I'd forgotten about that.

Chamberlain: Yeah. They, **Zirkers**, did a complete about-face . . . discredited themselves.

Webb: First they said what?

Chamberlain: They said that—

Watkin: That he was out.

Chamberlain: That, that he had been out . . . that they'd been out for the evening and had dinner and—

Webb: That they'd been out with Tom Holland and this Bauer woman.

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah, and they thought, and they did not know that, that Hol . . . they didn't know at the time that Holland was married.

Webb: Oh.

Chamberlain: But soon as they found out that Holland was stepping out on his wife, the **Zirkers** recanted their story that Holland was with them.

Webb: Really?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: In the presence of the jury?

Chamberlain: Yes. But let me tell you a little bit about the jury.

Webb: Well, apparently the jury had several housewives, four housewives, five farmer stockmen, a carpenter, an electrician, and a motel operator.

Chamberlain: Well, let me tell you about two of the, two of the, two of the jurors. One of them was, was LeGrande, no, it was Grandin Holgate.

Webb: And I've got the names on that.

Chamberlain: Grandin Holgate—it was Grandin Holgate.

Webb: M-hum.

Chamberlain: And the, another one of them was Henry Carroll.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: I don't care whether you put it in your book or not. Henry Carroll's still alive, but you can put it in your book if you want to.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: The day after the trial, Henry Carroll and Grandin Holgate tried to get the jury back together and have them reconsider the case because they . . . because they decided that they'd made a mistake.

Webb: Wow . . . how come that's not in the . . . I couldn't find that in the court record.

Watkin: You would never find that.

Chamberlain: No, you won't find that in the court record.

Webb: Okay. Now who is it again?

Watkin: Henry Carroll . . .

Chamberlain: Henry Carroll.

Webb: Henry Carroll.

Chamberlain: And, and M. G. Holgate.

Webb: M. G. Holgate . . . they tried to get the . . .

Chamberlain: They got together the morning after the acquittal.

Watkin: Holgate still alive? Is Holgate still alive?

Chamberlain: No, he unfortunately got killed by a truck up in Boise. . . He's a relative of mine, too. . . He married a cousin. . . but . . .

Webb: Okay. They got together.

Chamberlain: They got together the morning after.

Webb: M-hum. . . and they tried to get the judge?

Chamberlain: They tried to get the judge to see if they could reconvene the jury to, to—because they, they were determined that they'd made a mistake. They acquitted a guilty man.

Watkin: Was LaNard on this jury?

Chamberlain: Yeah, LaNard Johnson who later became sheriff of Kane County was convinced that he was guilty and refused, all the rest of them gave in to Holgate and, and Carroll . . . all the rest of them just caved in . . . they were all weaklings . . . they caved in to Holgate and Carroll, and when LeNard Johnson held out, and Holgate somehow got hold of LeNard Johnson, who was a little smaller man, LeNard Johnson could have knocked the hell out of him if he'd wanted to . . . but.

Webb: We're talking about some, some—

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: Arm twisting?

Chamberlain: Yeah . . . physically twisted his arm.

Webb: Who physically twisted his arm?

Chamberlain: LeGrande . . . Grandin Holgate with the help of a couple of the others.

Webb: Physically twisted Johnson's arm?

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah.

Webb: This is during the—scenes? To deliberations?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Watkin: This is deliberations.

Webb: Goll. This is unreal.

Chamberlain: You can print it if you want.

Webb: Well, if it's true, you know that's what I'm . . .

Chamberlain: The rest of them were just—the other jur . . . the other jury members were . . .

Watkin: They would have swung either way.

Chamberlain: They, yeah. The judge, Sevy, allowed the defense attorney, Ellis Pickett, to badger, and I mean badger, prospective jurors for as long as an hour a person until they finally, until he finally got them to say that they didn't think that they'd want to be on the jury, and Sevy sat there and tolerated it. And it took us several days . . . I don't know how many days it took us. . .

Webb: About three days at least.

Chamberlain: Huh?

Webb: It looks like it was three . . . apparently three days before you were able to see [seat?] the jury.

Chamberlain: Yeah. Well, we had these . . . we had this . . . we had, we had to send out and get several—

Watkin: We had—our age didn't they?

Chamberlain: Yeah, because Sevy was afraid to pass the questions, the—questions himself, so he left it up to counsel, and Pickett took advantage of that and badgered each one of them. We made . . . we made objection to it. Sevy overruled our objection and let, let, let him ask questions such as, if you were being tried, would you want, let's see . . . Sevy let him ask questions about this, if you were being tried for first degree murder, would you want the threat of death hanging over you if you were certain that you were going to be executed. And with all certainty they'd be

executed. If that happened to anybody—in the State of Utah. But Sevy allowed them to . . . Sevy allowed Pickett to, to ask some questions like that.

Webb: Hmm. Tell me a little about Sevy. What was his background?

Chamberlain: He was a, a law school graduate who could not make a living practicing law who came to Richfield and became a postmaster. He was a wonderful old man. He was an old man when he was a young man. He was generous, gentle, and would not swat a fly or allow a person to be convicted . . . would not allow a person to be convicted of a felony under any circumstances unless it was a sexual offense. Because a sexual offense, he went straight to prison.

Watkin: Boy, he would like to execute them.

Chamberlain: He went straight to prison.

Watkin: Yeah, or he . . .

Chamberlain: He could never make a living practicing law.

Watkin: Then he became a rancher and he owned a big ranch south of Marysville.

Chamberlain: --He failed . . .

Watkin: He lost that completely, he—

Chamberlain: He failed at that.

Webb: How long was he a judge?

Chamberlain: Three terms, probably.

Watkin: Oh, let's see, I was with him 15 years.

Webb: How many was three terms?

Chamberlain: Well, two terms . . . twelve years.

Webb: Twelve years, at least.

Watkin: Well, more than that because I was with him for 15 years.

Chamberlain: Yeah, that's right.

Webb: How . . .

Watkin: And see . . .

Chamberlain: Ferg, Ferg succeeded him.

Watkin: Yeah, but I had him 15 years, and he was a repor . . . he was a judge before I came in.

Chamberlain: Okay. So he would have, he would have taken office in '42.

Webb: Okay.

Watkin: Yeah, and I came in '44.

Chamberlain: So he, he had been a district judge for 10 or 12 years when this . . . fias . . . fias . . . when this fiasco happened.

Watkin: Yeah.

Webb: Well, what was your impression of him? You worked under him . . .

Watkin: For 15 years.

Webb: What was your impression of him as a judge?

Watkin: Wha . . . what are you doing? You gonna get me killed?

Webb: Well, this has been a long time. I assume that . . .

Chamberlain: He was . . . he was . . . IIIII . . . IIIII . . . I'll answer . . . IIIII I'll . . .

Webb: I want to hear from Howard.

Watkin: He was a terrible driver . . . One day Ken rode home with us from Kanab and he called me up, and he said, Howard . . .

Chamberlain: He, he, he was a wonderful man . . . he was a . . .

Watkin: Kind.

Chamberlain: . . . Gentleman . . . kind, thoughtful, generous to the point that he could not inflict punishment or penalty on anyone. However, he had a heterophobia and a homophobia both. He had a hetero and a homo . . . he didn't know what a homosexual was, but he knew what a heterosexual was . . . and any kind of . . . any kind of . . . any kind of sexual activity was, any carnal offense was a capital offense—John L. Sevy.

Watkin: Because he had 9 kids . . . so he . . .

Webb: Do you agree with that assessment, Howard?

Watkin: Yeah.

Chamberlain: He was, he presided in a case that was tried as a homicide case in 1945 against Butler . . . What was his, what was his first name?

Watkin: Jack.

Chamberlain: Jack Butler.

Watkin: No, that was '46 because, see, I came in '45 . . . that was my first murder trial.

Webb: Was that guy acqu . . . was that guy acquitted?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Watkin: Yeah.

Webb: That guy was acquitted, too?

Watkin: Yeah. He, he got acquitted . . .

Webb: In the 1947 case . . . homicide?

Chamberlain: Forty-si. . . forty-six.

Chamberlain: Forty-six.

Webb: Forty-six homicide case in, in Kane County.

Chamberlain: In Kane . . .

Watkin: In Kanab.

Chamberlain: He, Jack Butler knifed—

Watkin: Don Cram.

Chamberlain: Don Cram and I talked to one . . . I was interested in the case because I was in law school at the time, and, and I talked to a witness by the name of Dav . . . a juror by the name of Dave Foote, and, and they . . . Foot said, "Hell, Jack Butler was guilty, but we were so . . . obstructed so many times by Sevy, that we couldn't convict him. We couldn't, we, we were unable to come back with a guilty verdict." He,

he . . . Sevy could not get through a sentence with saying, without saying a reasonable doubt. If they had a reasonable doubt, that, that the Bible was true . . . literally, that was a reasonable doubt that it was against the ten commandments to commit murder. Now, he just over-emphasized the term . . . I heard reasonable doubt in this case so—many times that, that if he'd have been my father, rather than the ju . . . I wouldn't dare do it from the judge . . . to a judge . . . if he'd been my dad I'd have kicked his ass. But he, he just overworked the term reasonable cause.

Webb: In a Wils . . . particularly in a Wilson case, right?

Chamberlain: Well, any case . . . every . . . any kind.

Webb: Every case including Wilson case?

Watkin: We had . . . we had . . . we had four murders in the last part of forty-fi . . . from forty-si . . . let's see . . . '46, '47, '48 . . . We had four murder trials. We had one here, two in Kanab. We had the Woods brothers here . . . were you here with that one?

Chamberlain: No, I wasn't here.

Watkin: That was the Woods case . . . they killed somebody around-- . . . there was the Woods case, the Butlers case, the Holland case, what was the other one?

Chamberlain: It was the Myra case . . . the guy from . . .

Watkin: Oh, that killed the guy over . . . the café, hit him and, yeah, okay. We had four murder trials in my early days here. I mean, I came in '45, and this is between '45 and '50 when we had four first-degree murder trials.

Chamberlain: Every one of them was acquitted . . .

Watkin: Except for Woods.

Webb: Four murder cases, and every one of those were . . .

Chamberlain: No, three of them were . . . Woods . . .

Chamberlain: No, Morgan Pierson saw to it that the Woods guys didn't get anything.

Watkin: Oh, they went to the Pen.

Chamberlain: But not for . . . it was for . . . something like driving a car on a flat tire.

Watkin: It was reduced down to, to . . .

Chamberlain: Simple assault.

Webb: So, three of the four murder cases before Sevy, in which you know, during that twelve . . . twelve-year term or whatever, they were all acquitted.

Watkin: Well, then there was one before I came here called the Burg case. . . Dipsey Burg you know.

Chamberlain: Yeah, uh-huh.

Watkin: That was another . . .

Chamberlain: I don't think Sevy tried that.

Chamberlain: Oh, didn't he? You see, that was before my day.

Watkin: No, I don't think Sevy tried that.

Webb: Okay, tell me about Pickett. What were your, what were your impressions of Pickett?

Watkin: See, Pickett was just a common, ordinary, just a common, ordinary country lawyer.

Chamberlain: He has a good reputation because he had won so many cases. . . he was, he was—to be noble . . . well, this is why I picked that . . .—

Watkin: I never knew of a civil case that he won. I tried a number . . . I tried a number of civil cases against him, and I won every one of them that I tried.

Chamberlain: Yeah, defense, I'm talking about . . . defense of a murder trial or—

Watkin: No, he prosecuted . . . he, he was a District Attorney. He, he, he, he was a prosecutor.

Chamberlain: Yeah, that's right, that's right.

Webb: Yes, he was a prosecutor.

Watkin: Yeah, I'm sorry.

Chamberlain: He, he, he had been a prosecutor, and he didn't try the Bryson Sullivan case. They, they brought in a bunch of other lawyers to try the Bryson Sullivan case . . .

Watkin: I was thinking that . . .

Webb: Were you aware that, that Mr. Picket prosecuted Leroy Wilson in, in, in a major assault case in Iron County?

Watkin: No, I didn't know it. I, I, it wouldn't surprise me. I, I wouldn't know.

Webb: Um, when Mr. Wilson was, was initially convicted . . . well, what happened is they tried the case initially in Washington County. They got a change of venue, they went to Iron County, and Pickett got him convicted, but then . . . Wilson . . . Wilson appealed it to the Utah State Supreme Court—

Watkin: You mean Holland or Wilson?

Webb: Wilson. Wilson is still alive. This was an assault with a deadly weapon case against a Mr. Holt. In fact, it's Jack Holt . . .

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah. Leroy Wilson was tried . . . he, he was tried.

Webb: This was 1940 . . . 1941.

Watkin: See, that's before my day.

Webb: And anyway, the Utah Supreme Court reversed and acquitted him . . . acquitted Wilson.

Watkin: I don't remember this.

Webb: Well, and that was, that was in Washington and Iron County, but I was just curious because . . .

Chamberlain: Se . . . Sevy . . . Sevy admitted into evidence, Sevy allowed into evidence the fact that Wilson was a polygamist.

Webb: Now tell me about that.

Watkin: And he had his wives . . . some of his wives came into court.

Chamberlain: Yeah . . . yes . . . yeah . . . yeah.

Watkin: That was an awful—

Chamberlain: Sevy . . . Sevy allowed all kinds of disparaging evidence about the proceeding.

Webb: Really.

Chamberlain: Yes.

Webb: Now tell me . . .

Chamberlain: He . . . he . . . he . . . he . . . allowed any evidence that, that Pickett offered to disparage the character, worthiness to stay alive.

Watkin: For a while, we tried Wilson as the—

Chamberlain: Yeah . . . yeah . . . yeah.

Webb: Really?

Watkin: Wouldn't you say that, Ken?

Chamberlain: Yeah . . . yeah . . . yeah . . .

Watkin: Yeah, I mean, gee whiz, it's all coming back to me . . . I, I'm much older than Ken, so I can remember . . .

Chamberlain: And Sevy allowed Holland to testify that he'd been a Cub Scout leader.

Watkin: . . . Church goer . . .

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Watkin: . . . He was Mayor over there at some time in one of those towns . . .

Chamberlain: . . . Beryl . . .

Watkin: Beryl, yep, Beryl.

Chamberlain: And, and helped the Boy Scouts on occasion and . . .

Watkin: Oh, yeah, he . . .

Chamberlain: And, and Sevy allowed him to go on and on . . . he allowed us to say nothing whatsoever about his character—

Webb: Oh, my heck.

Chamberlain: Sevy was just . . . Sevy just did not have a spine.

Webb: What about Wilson's being a polygamist? Did he specify who his wives were?

Chamberlain: That didn't help him . . . that didn't help us any.

Webb: Didn't help you any.

Chamberlain: No.

Watkin: No.

Chamberlain: Se, Se . . . Sevy allowed . . . Sevy allowed them to discuss that . . .

Watkin: --

Chamberlain: Indiscriminately . . . He allowed evidence in about Wilson the polygamist. He, he allowed all kinds of dis . . . demeaning evidence . . . anything that demeaned the character of Wilson allowed into evidence.

Webb: Such as, possibility of . . . what about . . . one, one of his associates was Leland Rasmussen . . . as you probably . . . Leland Rasmussen . . . do you recall him?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: Okay. Well, the question was—there was a question that on the minds of several people whether a man by the name of Aaron Rasmussen was Leland's son or whether he was Leroy Wilson's son. Did that ever come out at all?

Chamberlain: No, no . . .

Watkin I don't recall anything about that.

Chamberlain: It didn't . . . didn't show up.

Webb: Okay, just the fact that Leroy was a polygamist, right?

Chamberlain: Yeah, uh-huh.

Webb: With how many wives or just . . .

Watkin: Well, I remember that different women strolled in with terrible looking clothes on, you know, into the court room, and everybody just—(whispered something) that's one of his wives, you know.

Webb: M-hum.

Watkin: Probably Pickett paid them to come in.

Webb: Okay.

Watkin: I have no idea how many wives.

Webb: Well, okay, so Pickett was a common, ordinary country lawyer. How . . . how did he . . . what did he do in the . . .

Chamberlain: Sevy just let him run wild. Se . . . Sevy just allowed him to say anything that he wanted. . . .

Watkin: Pickett was a very domineering type lawyer. I mean he was loud and boisterous . . .

Chamberlain: Well, he, he, he would have been in anybody's court . . . but he would not have been in anybody's court except Sevy's.

Webb: Really.

Watkin: Well . . .

Chamberlain: In, in Will Hoyt's court . . .

Watkin: . . . He never would have, never got away . . .

Chamberlain: Yeah . . . yeah . . .

Webb: In Hoyt's court, he basically lost . . . well, I wouldn't say lost, but there . . .

Chamberlain: Well, he didn't have any prior successes in Hoyt's court.

Webb: Okay.

Watkin: But . . .

Chamberlain: Pickett was just an ordinary, run-of-the-mill, country lawyer that had been District Attorney for a few years.

Watkin: He—with Vernon Erickson, Lew Larson, that type of stuff.

Webb: Well, how did he do in the trial? Other than the fact that Sevy let him run wild, how did he present his case, and do you think he presented his case effectively or, or ineffectively, or just that he . . .

Chamberlain: Well, he just threw, he just threw everything in that he just threw everything in that he, that was demeaning of Holland . . . I mean demeaning of Wilson, and everything that was, that added to, to, to that discredited Wilson and added to the dignity of Holland, and . . . course the thing that I'll never, that I'll never exonerate him for is for the ridiculous error he made in not allowing that check to be entered into evidence.

Webb: Okay, so what was Holland's motive in killing Wilson?

Chamberlain: Because he had given Wilson . . .

Watkin: Bad check . . .

Chamberlain: . . . A bad check.

Webb: So?

Chamberlain: And he was afraid that he would go to jail for, for, for issuing a bad, a fraudulent check.

Webb: Okay, but still, I don't see what, what, why would he want to kill Wilson for that? Oh, just because he thought he'd go to jail.

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah. And he, and he thought he could get away with it.

Watkin: Well, it seems like he bought some uranium claims or something . . .

Chamberlain; Oh, they, they had . . .

Watkin: They had some trouble over . . .

Chamberlain: None of them had any uranium in them.

Watkin: No, but they were alleged, he thought . . .

Webb: Okay, so in addition to the check, the State's case was mostly circumstantial in placing Holland at the scene of the crime?

Chamberlain: What's that?

Webb: In addition to the fraudulent check, the bad check, would you say that the state's . . . would you say that the state's case was mostly circumstantial in placing Holland at the scene of the crime?

Chamberlain: Oh, hell, no. No. This, Ron, this Mace guy saw him . . . saw him go out there within . . .

Webb: Within minutes of Wilson's . . .

Chamberlain: Within ninety, within ninety minutes, within an hour, at least within an hour before, before he was murdered.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: And, and Mace was there.

Webb: Ronald . . . now, what did you say his name was . . . Ronald Mace?

Watkin: Rolland . . .

Webb: Rolland or . . .

Chamberlain: Ronald . . . Ronald Mace.

Webb: Ronald Mace . . . saw, saw Holland within.

Chamberlain: Holland go into the vicinity where . . .

Watkin: Wilson . . .

Chamberlain: . . . Wilson was, and Mace saw both of them go out there, and saw only one come back.

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: Now, if that's circumstantial evidence, then I got . . . I went to the wrong law school.

Webb: Well, I just have a couple of other questions. What do you recall most about Tom Holland?

Chamberlain: Oh, he was an ordinary guy . . . he was trying to run a successful farm out at Beryl in Iron County and . . .

Watkin: Wasn't it called Beryl Junction?

Chamberlain: Well, it was the town of Beryl.

Watkin: It seemed like there was . . .

Webb: Well, there's Beryl and there's Beryl Junction, so . . .

Watkin: Oh, okay . . . okay. . .

Chamberlain: And Beryl . . . in Beryl . . .

Webb: Right.

Chamberlain: And they had to pump water to irrigate their crops. And there was kind of an agricultural recession at that time. And Holland decided that, that he kick over into Kane County and prospect for . . . and mine uranium and, and get enough money to bring his farm back out of debt and, and to keep his farm on a economic—

Watkin: Is Holland still living?

Webb: No, he's not. No, he died several years ago. I did talk to his son. His son believes that Tom Holland was capable of killing Wilson, but he doesn't believe that he did . . . but he never did ask . . . none of the sons directly asked their father, "Did you in fact kill LeRoy Wilson?"

Chamberlain: Oh, you talked to his sons, have you?

Webb: I've only talked to one, the one that's named after him, too. His name is Tom Holland, Jr.

Chamberlain: What does he do?

Webb: He's a school teacher, and he teaches down in California, but he lives in Beryl. He still lives in Beryl on the farm.

Watkin: I forget that you're related to Shirley Christensen.

Webb: Yes, yes . . . that's right.

Watkin: His wife.

Webb: She's my aunt.

Chamberlain: Oh, is that right? Oh.

Webb: Yes . . .

Watkin: See, I knew you years ago, you came, you were a reporter in Kanab, weren't you?

Webb: Yes. Well, I was a reporter up here, too.

Watkin: Yeah, I know. In the first place, you came to me once and asked me to give kind of a history of my life.

Webb: I did an article on you.

Watkin: Yeah. Okay.

Webb: I think I did an article on you at the, for the Kanab . . .

[End of Side A]

[Beginning Side B]

Chamberlain: 1942, '43; '41, '42, '42 and 43.

Webb: Oh, my heck. Yeah, he's a, he's a neat guy.

Chamberlain: Where is he now?

Webb: He's [Dean Webb] up in Oregon . . . he's still a dentist . . . I mean, he's kind of retired, but he's still doing a little bit of dentist work.

Watkin: Now, do you still live in St. George?

Webb: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Watkin: Well, it seemed to me, didn't you call us years ago about doing this?

Webb: I called you about, oh, four months ago.

Watkin: Oh, is that all?

Webb: Four to six months ago.

Watkin: It seemed to me that I remember talking to you . . .

Chamberlain: Were you related to Clark Webb from over to Hurricane?

Webb: Um. . . I don't know Clark Webb. . . We are related to some Webbs over there, but I don't know.

Chamberlain: I played in the band with Clark Webb. He was a very good drum player . . . very good drum player . . . nice guy, real nice guy.

Webb: Murray Webb is my father.

Chamberlain: Murray.

Webb: And Dean . . . Dean is his brother, younger . . . youngest brother.

Chamberlain: Dean. Dean Webb and I went to school together.

Watkin: And Shirley named one of her boys Dean.

Webb: And Shirley is a sister to my dad.

Chamberlain: And then she named one of her boys Dean.

Webb: Yeah, that's right. Dean Christensen.

Watkin: See, they lived—

Chamberlain: Your dad was Dean's brother?

Webb: Yes.

Chamberlain: Who, who was your mother?

Webb: Uh, Doris Tobler Webb. She was from Washington.

Chamberlain: Oh, from Washington . . . oh. What relation would she be to Gil Tobler, the football player?

Webb: She's related to all Toblers, but I don't know how direct . . . what was his name?

Chamberlain: Gil Tobler. Gilbert Tobler.

Webb: Gil? Gilbert Tobler? I don't know. I'll ask her. She knows everything about . . .

Chamberlain: Gilbert Tobler, yeah. Well, I knew, I, there were many, many Toblers that went to Dixie College.

Webb: I'll ask.

Watkin: I'll tell you what you could do.

Webb: Let me, let me just ask a couple . . . I got to ask you just a couple more questions. Who there from the media that you remember?

Chamberlain: Well, Ted—I remember him very well . . . he was a nice guy . . . very nice guy.

Webb: And he was from the *Deseret News*.

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: Who was there from the *Tribune*? Do you recall?

Chamberlain: Uh . . .

Webb: 'Cause there's no bylines on any of the *Tribune* articles.

Chamberlain: Uh, from the *Tribune* . . . a guy, oh, geez, a real nice guy. . . He was a political reporter. He covered the . . .

Webb: --Lonquist?

Chamberlain: No, it wasn't—he was, he was, Lonquist was a political reporter, but, but the reporter covered the State Capitol while I was in the Attorney General's office.

Webb: Okay, so the *Salt Lake Tribune* was the guy, the reporter who had covered . . .

Chamberlain: He covered the . . . he covered the . . . the . . . the

Watkin: Legislature.

Chamberlain Yeah . . .

Webb: Legislature while you were in the . . .

Chamberlain: Well, no, no, the whole Capitol building. He, he . . .

Webb: Okay, while you were at the A. G.'s office. Okay. Now I understand. *Life* magazine was there, and *Time* magazine.

Chamberlain: Yeah. Yeah. That was because it was a uranium—

Watkin: Hey, remember they had pictures of Mason Meeks and a whole bunch of stuff.

Webb: Do you remember Sam or **Raymond** Taylor there?

Chamberlain: Oh, Sam Taylor was an—

Webb: Okay.

Chamberlain: What about him?

Webb: Well, they wrote a book . . . they wrote a book called . . .

Watkin: *Uranium Fever*?

Webb: *Uranium Fever* or *No Talk under One Million Dollars*, and they, they talked about the trial and also had apparently interviewed Leroy Wilson prior to his death. He was really something else. I was just curious. Now, the trial was held in the old court house that's now no longer there . . . right?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: Now looking back over the case, were there . . . I guess the key point the prosecution tried to make was the check, the fraudulent check, and weren't able to do that. In your, in your assessment . . . looking back at that, is there any doubt in your mind that Tom Holland was guilty of that crime?

Chamberlain: No, no doubt whatsoever. Nobody else could have done it. It was, it was, it was impossible for anybody else to have done it. And it was, and it . . . the evidence was not only . . . was not circumstantial . . . the evidence was actual. And he had a motive for doing it. Capable . . . capable of doing it, like his son said, he was capable of doing it. He was a man, he was not a man, he was not immoral, he was amoral. He just didn't have any. He was not . . .

Watkin: I'm going to tell you this, and I've told you this before. The—doesn't have the minutes in, go to the clerk and ask her to look up the minutes that she took of the trial. Not that she took . . . whoever was clerking.

Webb: Ask for the minutes of the trial.

Watkin: What's her name . . . what's his name that was the clerk . . .

Chamberlain: Merrill Tietjen. D. M. Tietjen.

Watkin: Tell them to look up Merrill Tietjen.

Chamberlain: D. M. Tietjen.

Watkin: D. M. . . . D. M.

Webb: Excuse me . . . D. M.

Watkin: T-i-e-t-j-e-n . . . And he . . . I know that, see that wouldn't be in the file, that would be in a minute book. You'd have to find an old minute book that had the minutes in it. It had to have the minutes of the trial.

Webb: I'll look for that.

Chamberlain: And that would be, that would tell you all of the witnesses and what exhibits were introduced and what were disallowed and all that . . . That would give you . . .

Webb: Yeah. Okay.

Chamberlain: See, I threw my transcripts away after ten years, so I didn't type it up.

Webb: Okay, well you know, some people had surmised that, that maybe there were some, some figures in Wilson's past . . . you know, he was an inventor, and there were some people that had, you know—that maybe somebody from down in Las Vegas had come up and tried to get rid of Wilson because he wouldn't sell any of his patents . . .

Chamberlain: Wilson never did anything important enough that would make them want to kill him.

Webb: Okay. Anything else? Any other highlights?

Chamberlain: In fact, I don't have any against Tom Holland, either.

Webb: What were these two guys like? What was Wilson like? Did you . . . did you ever know him or . . . probably didn't know . . .

Chamberlain: Oh, he was a low-class guy. He was a guy . . . he was immoral . . . he was immoral . . . he, he was in polygamy strictly for the immorality of it.

Watkin: --

Webb: Okay. . . And Tom Holland? Did he . . . I assume he never did acknowledge one way or another . . .

Chamberlain: Tom was a farmer that just wanted to get along. He, he would do anything that needed to be done. He had no, he had no scruples . . . no compunctions. He was, as I say, he was a guy without, without moral standards.

Webb: What impact did this have, if any, on Kane County people like Sheriff Meeks, um Bossard . . .

Chamberlain: It made **them** madder than hell that . . .

Watkin: Ken, wouldn't you portray him as, wasn't he kind of cocky?

Chamberlain: Who?

Watkin: Holland.

Chamberlain: Oh . . . well, he wasn't during these proceedings . . .

Watkin: Oh, no, no . . . He was humble as hell, but if you'd see him out on the street, he was waving at people and shaking hands, you know . . . kind of . . .

Chamberlain: Well, he was, he was kind of outgoing, yeah. He was, he was kind of--.

Webb: It was quite the case . . . I mean it was quite the trial of the . . . I wouldn't say trial of the century, but . . . it was interesting, and then to have an acquittal was pretty dramatic I would think. What do you recall, Howard?

Watkin: Well, I . . .

Webb: What stands out in your mind?

Watkin: Oh . . . number one, I was . . . I couldn't believe when he was acquitted. That's just my opinion from—all the proceedings. It was hard to believe that he was acquitted. I thought that even though Judge Sevy didn't allow the check or that part in, but I still thought that the prosecution put out a darn good case.

Chamberlain: Oh, we didn't put on a darn good case because it didn't take a hell of a lot to convict him. We just didn't know what, what . . .

Watkin: Well, I did get the opinion that they were trying Wilson rather than Holland, you know. They turned it around and made Wilson look like a son of a gun, and Holland, I mean, you know, it's sort of a . . . you never told me . . . are you writing a book or something?

Webb: Yeah, I'm trying . . . I'm . . . That's what I'm working towards. I don't know if it will ever happen, but that's what I'm working towards.

Watkin: Now who are you working for down there?

Webb: I'm working for a utility company down there. I left the newspaper about three months ago. I was working for them until . . .

Chamberlain: Which, which paper did you work for?

Webb: For the *Daily Spectrum*. I worked there for 11½ years, and then I quit.

Chamberlain: Here's Mary Webb, is she related to you?

[Pause in tape.]

[Tape resumes.]

Webb: Who was . . . who was a drunk?

Chamberlain: Hubert Bunting.

Webb: Hubert Bunting?

Watkin: Hubert? Heber?

Chamberlain: Hubert.

Webb: Hubert.

Chamberlain: Hubert Bunting.

Webb: Hubert Bunting.

Watkin: Come on . . . this was funny.

Webb: Okay. . . Let's go back, do you know . . . do you remember anything about Beatrice Workman?

Chamberlain: Yes, she was . . . she was just ballast.

Webb: Ballast?

Chamberlain: Ballast . . . ballast. She was just . . . she was just . . . she was just one of those leftovers they just . . .

Watkin: They just put her on just to shove her in.

Webb: She was a leftover? Okay. M. G. Holgate.

Chamberlain: He, he, he was a . . . he was a . . . a paranoid neurotic. He was a sheep man, cattle man . . . he thought everybody was out to get him, everybody hated him . . . married to my cousin.

Webb: Okay. Married to your cousin?

Chamberlain: An all . . . an all . . . an all around son of a bitch.

Watkin: Oh, this is funny to think about these people.

Webb: Okay. Bert [Birt] Gardner?

Chamberlain: Yeah, he was a fat postmaster from Mount Carmel who had no guts. He had a lot of guts, but none . . . nothing into . . .

Watkin: Remember, somebody in his family committed suicide, Ken? Who was it?

Chamberlain: Who?

Watkin: Who was it? His brother or his father or who . . .

Chamberlain: Well, no. Bert Gardner was one of . . . there were four of them that were killed in that automobile crash when they were on their way up there to--.

Watkin: Oh, that. I knew something tragic happened.

Chamberlain: . . . And the Slaws. There was Bert Gardner and his wife and the Slaws . . . there were four of them. They were all killed in . . .

Watkin: A head-on collision.

Chamberlain: Yeah, okay.

Webb: Okay. Hubert Bunting?

Chamberlain: Yeah, he was . . . he was . . . he was the alcoholic . . . he was the drunk.

Webb: Okay. . . Let's see . . . Effie Sorenson.

Chamberlain: Oh, Ethie Sorenson. She was . . . that was ballast . . . she was just ballast. When I say ballast, I mean just, just had to have some . . .

Watkin: . . . Had to have somebody on there.

Webb: Okay. She didn't . . . you don't remember anything . . .

Chamberlain: No, she didn't, no, no. She'd just go along.

Webb: Okay. How about Grace Schoppman.

Chamberlain: Same thing with her.

Watkin: Oh, yeah.

Chamberlain: She was, she was a conservative whore.

Webb: What? What do you mean . . .

Chamberlain: Conservatively a whore . . . she . . .

Watkin: She wasn't a . . . she didn't charge for it, but she . . .

Chamberlain: Well, sometimes she did. Sometimes she did.

Watkin: Did she? I thought that was against the Word of Wisdom.

Chamberlain: Go ahead.

Webb: Well, Verna . . . Verna Holgate. My golly, was she related to M. G. Holgate?

Chamberlain: Yeah, that's M. G.'s wife. Yeah, she was my cousin.

Webb: Are you serious?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: They put a husband and wife on there?

Chamberlain: Well, that's all there was left.

Watkin: We . . . we . . . we . . . it took us days . . . we had jurors . . . we went out to bars looking for jurors.

Chamberlain: That's all there was left.

Watkin: Two of them came from the Buckskin [Tavern in Fredonia, Arizona].

Webb: . . . were husband and wife, and they allowed them to be on the jury?

Chamberlain: Yeah. Oh, listen, they were in des . . . destitute [desperate?] circumstances.

Watkin: You know what was hilarious . . .

Webb: Okay. How about Rex Bauer?

Watkin: Oh, Rex Bauer.

Chamberlain: He was a guy who was always in financial trouble. He, he, he would go this way or that way, or that way if; if the rest of them wanted to convict him, he just as soon convict him.

Watkin: He was being sued all the time. He was either sue . . . he was either a suer or a suee.

Webb: Well, how about Clair Ford?

Chamberlain: Clair Ford . . . well, he, he, he raised . . .

Watkin: He had a store.

Chamberlain: . . . he raised, yeah, he had . . . he raised pigs and had a store.

Watkin: He was the—

Chamberlain: And it was hard to tell which . . . which place you were in.

Watkin: He had a store right down by the courthouse.

Webb: He had a store next to the courthouse?

Watkin: In the street by the courthouse—that's bringing back memories today.

Webb: Well, what was he like? I mean, was . . . was he . . . was he an asset on the jury?

Chamberlain: No.

Watkin: Oh, no.

Chamberlain: Hell, no—LaNard Johnson . . . LaNard Johnson was the only . . .

Watkin: He was the only decent person we had up there. He was a congressman.

Webb: Okay. How about . . . how about Charlotte Hoyt?

Chamberlain: She was . . .

Watkin: She's related to you, isn't she?

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah. She's related to me . . . yeah. Yeah. She was related to me, too.
Yeah.

Watkin: She turned against her cousin.

Chamberlain: Well, she was just . . . just whoever . . .

Watkin: --

Webb: She wasn't strong one way or the other?

Chamberlain: No.

Watkin: No.

Chamberlain: --

Webb: Okay. . . . Henry Carroll?

Watkin: Oh, Henry. Is he dead now?

Chamberlain: Well . . .

Watkin: He should be.

Chamberlain: I'm afraid he isn't yet. He's going to be before too long.

Webb: What was he like on the jury?

Watkin: He lived in Orderville.

Chamberlain: He, he was an ornery, opinionated . . .

Watkin: He's our bishop's unc . . .

Chamberlain: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah . . . who, who . . .

Watkin: Our bishop is Paul Carroll, and that's his uncle.

Chamberlain: Who, who never met a person that he liked.

Watkin: Including his relatives.

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Watkin: Didn't he . . . wasn't he tied in with you somehow--?

Chamberlain: Oh, hell, no . . . absolutely not . . .

Watkin: Eleanor Cross is his niece . . . Eleanor Cross is his niece, I know.

Webb: How about Orson Young?

Chamberlain: Oh, I don't think . . . I think Orson must have been an alternate. I don't think Orson presided in that case.

Webb: He was an alternate?

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Webb: Okay. I cannot find LaNard Johnson on here. Let's see . . . let me go back down.

Watkin: Well, he was on there. L-a-N-a-r—

Webb: Oh, Joel H. Johnson . . . No, he was scratched off. Lanard's not on here . . . not on that list.

Watkin: Oh, he's got to be on there.

Webb: Well, he wasn't on that list.

Watkin: What's this? Oh, this is the, one of . . .

Chamberlain: . . . has challenges on that . . . let's see that.

Watkin: Let me see that.

Chamberlain: That has the challenges on it.

Watkin: Yeah, now this is interesting.

Webb: I don't see LaNard Johnson.

Watkin: Adeline R. Egbert was knocked out . . . probably knocked up, too.

Chamberlain: Yeah, yeah.

Webb: Good night! I can't believe all of these people here. I cannot find LaNard Johnson . . . oh, here's LaNard Johnson right here.

Watkin: Who's Sally Chamberlain:

Chamberlain: Oh, that's Mark Chamberlain's wife.

Watkin: Oh, Mark's . . .

Chamberlain: She, she, she was dismissed . . .

Watkin: Knocked off . . .

Chamberlain: . . . Because she was a relative of mine.

Webb: What were your opinions on the instructions?

Chamberlain: Lousy. Very poor. Very poor.

Watkin: Have you read them?

Webb: No, I haven't . . . Well, I read them initially, but I've forgotten . . .

Chamberlain: They had the words *reasonable doubt* in every other . . . in every other . . .

Webb: Instruction?

Watkin: Even in the charge they had reasonable doubt.

Chamberlain: Not every other . . . in every other phrase, not every other paragraph.

Watkin: Oh, I got to get home. I have a meeting in an hour, and I'm not dressed.

Webb: Okay. Well, I better let you go, too.

Watkin: No, it's okay.

Chamberlain: Let me see the rest of that jury list.

[Break in the tape . . . taping resumes.]

Webb: And Norm Jackson's father would have been on the jury . . . initially was on the jury . . .

Watkin: He, Ken tried to get him on, but he was knocked off.

Webb: Pickett . . . Pickett knocked him off?

Watkin: Mostly because he was the brother-in-law of Mason Meeks because he married Mason's sister. What was his name . . . what was old Norm's father's name?

Chamberlain: Elmer.

Watkin: Elmer Hanson [?].

Webb: Okay.

Watkin: That's another character . . .

[Break in the tape . . . taping resumes.]

Chamberlain: Sevy allowed, let, let Pickett . . .

Watkin: Oh, Pickett knocked off any decent person . . .

Chamberlain: Yeah. I mean, he just let Pickett argue with him and argue with him, and then he'd finally look up at Sevy and say, well, maybe he should be excused.

Watkin: Oh, yeah. It was a mess. Well, see you later.

Webb: And that's really sad.

Chamberlain: Yeah.

Watkin: Where was the girl Sunday night, Ken . . . the guitarist?

Chamberlain: Oh, she was at the high school playing . . .

[Break in the tape . . . taping resumes.]

Webb: If you could have picked a third . . .

Chamberlain: If I, if I, if I had my choice . . . there were 30 people out of there, and any twel . . .
any combination of twelve of them would have convicted him in 15 minutes.

Webb: Tom Holland.

Chamberlain: M-hum.

Webb: Okay.

Names of People Referred To
In Ken Chamberlain and C. Howard Watkin Interview Transcript
Interviewed by Loren Webb on May 24, 1944, in Richfield, Utah

Aaron Rasmussen [son of Willis Leland Rasmussen.]
Adeline R. Egbert [summoned for jury duty]
Beatrice Workman [juror]
Birt Gardner [also listed in court records as “Bert Gardner” and jury foreman]
Clair Ford [juror]
Dave Foote [juror in 1946 Butler murder case in Kane County, Utah]
Dipse Burg [murder case in Kane County, Utah]
Don Cram [homicide victim in 1946 in Kane County, Utah]
E. R. Callister [Utah Attorney General’s office]
Edward Carroll [Justice of the Peace, Orderville Precinct]
Effie Sorenson [juror]
Ellis Pickett [defense attorney]
George R. Aiken [Kanab, Utah physician and prosecution witness]
Grace Schoppman [juror]
[M.G.] Grandin Holgate [juror]
Gustin Richards [attorney with Richfield law firm of Mattsson and Richards]
Henry Carroll [juror]
Howard Watkin [6th District Court reporter in the criminal trial of State of Utah versus Cyril Tom Holland]
Hubert Bunting [juror]
Jack Butler [defendant in a 1946 Kane County homicide case]
John L. Sevy [6th District judge]
Ken Chamberlain [Assistant Attorney General (and former Kane County Attorney) prosecuting Tom Holland]
LaNard Johnson [summoned for jury duty and a juror according to Court Reporter Howard Watkin]
Lawrence Zirker [Purple Sage Motel owner]
Leland Rasmussen [associate of Leroy Wilson and a prosecution witness]
Leroy Wilson [homicide victim in 1954]
Lonquist [political reporter]
Mason Meeks [Kane County Sheriff and prosecution witness]
Mattsson [attorney with Richfield law firm of Mattsson and Richards]
Merrill Tietjen [District Court clerk]
Norm Jackson [brother-in-law to Sheriff Mason Meeks]
Orson T. Young [juror]
Orville Robinson [prosecution witness]
Raymond Taylor [co-author of Uranium Fever or No Talk Under One Million Dollars]
Rex Bauer [juror]
Ronald Mace [prosecution witness]
Sam Taylor [co-author of Uranium Fever or No Talk Under One Million Dollars]
Sterling Bossard [District Attorney, 6th Judicial District]
Tom Holland [defendant in State vs Holland murder case]

Tom Wakeling [Justice of the Peace]

Verna C. Holgate [juror]

Will Hoyt [a judge but his jurisdiction was not stated in the interview]

Willard Mackelprang [Kane County Attorney]