



# Oral History of **JACK DOWNS**

Interviewed by Jerry Grover



**Date of Interview:** May 4, 2016

**Location of Interview:** On the banks of the Rogue River, Grants Pass, Oregon

**Years worked for Fish and Wildlife Service:**  
26 years [1956 – 1982]

**Offices / Field Stations Worked, Positions Held:**

GS- 7 - Law enforcement in Seattle, WA.

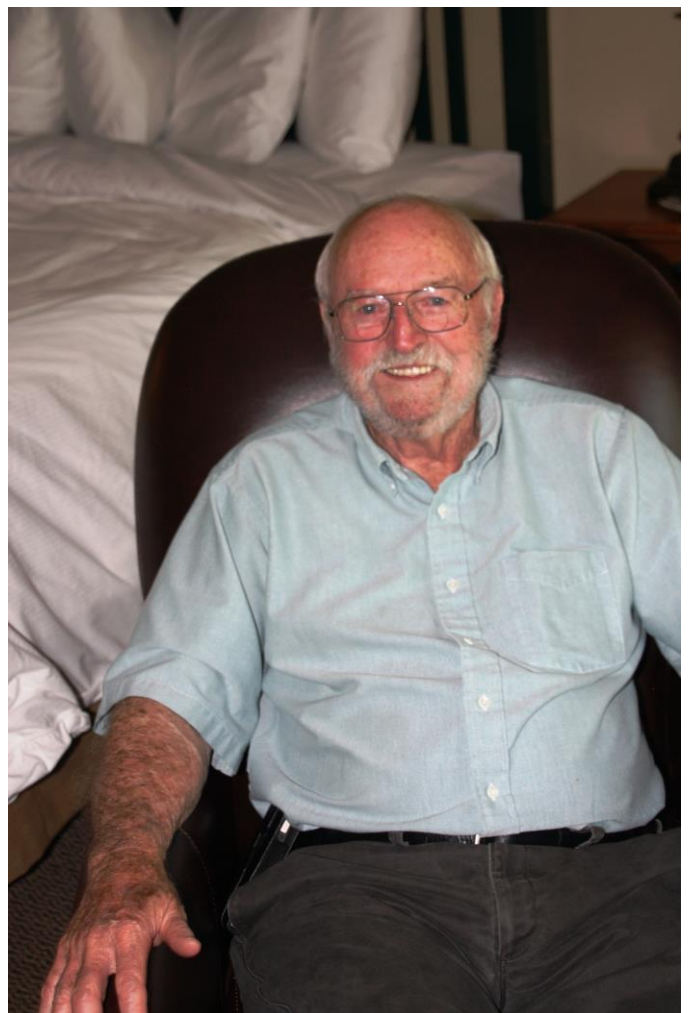
GS-9 - Special Agent in Charge in Sacramento, CA; - also flew as a pilot for seven summers in Alaska;

GS-12 - Special Agent in Charge, NY;

GS-14 - Special Agent in Charge in Portland, OR

**Most Important Issues:** Sockeye Salmon Treaty Act; commercialization of waterfowl and deer; Tule white-fronted goose; use of spotted cats for furs; operations at New York Port of Entry.

**Brief Summary of Interview:** Mr. Downs talks about how he got hired with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the different positions/offices he worked at, and his time with the Fish and Wildlife Service in general, his role in establishing Wildlife Inspectors at Ports of Entry. His supervision of 11 staff while at Sacramento as a GS-9 is unheard of in today's position classification. His use of undercover agents throughout his career led to several major take downs and convictions of long time, establish rings. He shares several stories, talks about his family, and how he feels about the direction the Service has taken. He feels completely satisfied with the work he did and felt he had a tremendous career.



**Jack Downs, May 2016**

**Colleagues and Mentors:** Leo Childress, hired Case Vendel, Kenner Harrington, and Paul Gladdys.

# THE INTERVIEW

**Jerry:** This is Jerry Grover, a retired Ecological Services & Fishery supervisor in the Portland Regional Office and a Board member representing the *Association of Retired Fish & Wildlife Service Employees* and the Service's *Heritage Committee*. I am in Grants Pass, Oregon attending a gathering of retired Law Enforcement agents to do an oral history with Jack Downs on his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of this interview is part of a program to preserve the history, heritage and culture of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) through the eyes of its employees.

For the record, would you please state your full name, when and where you were born. Follow that please with when and where you retired.

**Jack:** My name is Jack Downs. I was born in Boise, Idaho, in 1927. I retired from Portland, Oregon, in 1982. I was the agent in charge for the Northwest District; I was a GS 14.

**Jerry:** For the Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Program?

**Jack:** Yes.

**Jerry:** And how in the world do you get into something like this as a young man?

**Jack:** I grew up in a small town in eastern Oregon, south eastern Oregon; Lakeview. And a small town, and that was a wildlife rich area of the county, Lake County, and I've been interested in hunting and fishing. I went into the Air Corps as an Air Cadet and when I received my discharge I went to work for my father, and he was a sawmill superintendent in Lakeview and I learned to grade lumber. I'd wake up in the morning sick and tired of the smell of sawdust. A friend of mine mentioned to me that the Oregon State Police were putting on additional game law enforcement officers and wanted to know if I'd go up with him and I said, "Sure." I went up and was accepted in the State Police to enforce the game laws in the state of Oregon.

**Jerry:** How old were you then, Jack?

**Jack:** I was 21 years old. I was assigned to Klamath Falls, Oregon, and I worked with the United States Game Management Agent. Then it was called Management and Enforcement at that time. And I worked with him quite a bit, and he recruited me more or less, talked me into taking an examination for entry into the Fish and Wildlife Service Game Management and Law Enforcement. And I did that. I was lucky enough to pass it, and was accepted by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1956; in December 1956, and my first assignment was in Seattle, Washington.

**Jerry:** What were you doing up there?

**Jack:** The Seattle office, primarily then, was waterfowl law enforcement and working with the state and Lacey Act, black bass cases, because of the commercial fishery there in Seattle. And then one day the agent in charge and I were in our office doing reports or something and a representative of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries came in and introduced himself and said, "Are you people ready to enforce the Sockeye Salmon Treaty Act?" I didn't even know what it was, but we became very familiar with it then because we were going to enforce provisions of the Act.

The State of Washington had been doing it and they got in an argument with Fisheries for some reason or another. "Okay, this is your baby, he said. It's a treaty between Canada and the United States and the fishery regulations; we're not going to do them anymore." And there we were.

**Jerry:** They were claiming federal responsibility, but unable to administer it as a federal agency - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries but they didn't have law enforcement.

**Jack:** No, not at that time. And so I was in Seattle for four years, and during all those four years we were responsible for it. And what we did then was use the state equipment and the state people. They would take us to enforce those Sockeye Treaty regulations, would take us to the boats if there's a violation and then we'd take it over and cite the violator into federal court.

One of the exciting things that happened to me on that was there was some really angry fishermen there. They were hard to get along with. And we caught this person in violation of a sockeye regulation, and the state guy pulled the boat up and told him we were coming aboard and he said, "He said you take care of this, Jack." I went up there and I could tell that the guy was a little angry, and I calmed him down as best I could and cited him, got

back on the boat, he says, "The State guy says, Jesus, that was easier than I thought it was going to be." And I go, "What are you talking about?" He said, "Well, this guy is on probation for beating his brother, who is another fisherman, over the head with a two by four, fighting over fish. And he said there was a warrant out for him in Ketchikan, Alaska, and the Federal Marshal Service was serving a warrant and the guy picked him up and threw him off the boat." And I said, "Why didn't you tell me that before I went aboard?" But we were able to cite him on those charges. That was the most highly, exciting thing I did in the Sockeye Salmon Treaty Act enforcement.

**Jerry:** Jack, you said you were accepted, hired in by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Did you have any training, I mean they just strapped a gun on you, gave you badge; what was your qualifications?

**Jack:** The state police did have training. I went through that, actually I was one of the first Oregon State policemen hired and because of that training, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Chief of Enforcement in Washington and the Regional Director saw that we were pretty well trained. So we recruited several other Oregon State police officers, about a half of a dozen, in fact, because of that training. The Fish and Wildlife Service at that time, what was Management Enforcement, didn't have a training program. They relied on hiring experienced wildlife law enforcement officers.

**Jerry:** What grade were you hired in at, what was the entry level?

**Jack:** The entry was a GS; went to Seattle as a GS-7.

**Jerry:** Did it require a college education or anything?

**Jack:** Not at that time, experience was a weighted factor and not college experience, I had about two years at Oregon State, which didn't amount to much. I got married out of the Service, but it was not a requirement like it is now.

**Jerry:** When you talk about the Service, and you were in the military, what did you do there; was any of that qualifying?

**Jack:** I entered, while in high school. The recruiters come along and we took examinations. I took an examination to become an air cadet in the U.S. Army Air Cadet Program. I was successful and was accepted and because of that they graduated us early. So I left in 1944

for the Air Cadet Program and went to Gulfport, Mississippi, as an air cadet.

**Jerry:** But had you done any law enforcement?

**Jack:** Had no law enforcement but I learned to fly, which proved valuable later on.

**Jerry:** Okay, four years in Seattle and Sockeye Salmon Treaty work, then what happened to you?

**Jack:** I got promoted as the agent in charge, GS-9, in Sacramento, California.

**Jerry:** GS-9 in Sacramento, that's a big area down there.

**Jack:** Big area, big important area. It was one of the biggest management enforcement offices in the country. I had more people working for me than most any agent in the country.

**Jerry:** How many people were working in that office approximately?

**Jack:** Well, we had two out of the office and one biologist. We hired a biologist that worked under me because we had so much depredation in those years in the 1960's. They hired a biologist to try to help us solve some of the problems we were having with depredations. And so we had that and we had agents then in Stockton, Fairfield, two in Sacramento, one in Colusa, one in Chico, and then one up on the coast, Eureka. There were 11 of us in all!

**Jerry:** Okay, so just basically the northern part of California.

**Jack:** All of northern California.

**Jerry:** Bay area north. You say depredations were big, were there other issues?

**Jack:** Well, at that time, waterfowl enforcement was very important. It was probably the more influential people hunting waterfowl in California than any place I am familiar with in the rest of the country. And there was commercialization taking waterfowl at that time. During my time there, we made several commercial waterfowl cases.

Lacey Act was a big enforcement issue and we made one of the biggest deer cases in the history of that area down there. It was commercialization on wild deer killed in Oregon and transported to California and sold in a couple

of restaurants in San Francisco. And in cases like that there were several, one of the biggest ones and one that I became famous for, I guess you might say, was the big horn sheep case where a fellow by the name of George Gamble, who was an heir to the Proctor & Gamble people, was assisting in hunters taking desert big horn sheep illegally in the desert of California. We convicted him in federal court in San Francisco. He lost an airplane, eventually lost his wife, and all his trophies.

**Jerry:** That sounds like a pretty harsh punishment.

**Jack:** Oh, he deserved every bit of it.

**Jerry:** When you say commercialization of waterfowl, were they selling ducks in the restaurant?

**Jack:** Oh yes. One of the cases that I enjoyed making was a commercial case involving a hotel and the Chinese Tong from San Francisco. But what we would do in enforcing the regulations, the hunters that would participate in this commercial hunting, shot all the waterfowl at night. They'd go in the night, the ducks feeding in the rice fields and shoot, sometimes there'd be as many as 100 ducks killed in one hunt like that. Then they would bring them in and they had sources that would bring them. And one case that's a favorite of mine was that we caught these hunters and there was a young fellow and I told him that they'd be going to jail. And he came to me and said, "Well, why aren't you catching the people these ducks are going to?" And I said, "Well, we need a little help here." And he was a young man, just started a family and he became an informant for me, and as a result of that, I made several big commercial cases of people selling. There was a hotel, the Chinese Tong, restaurants in the area, all buying ducks from these people.

**Jerry:** And the people buying these ducks didn't mind a lead pellet or two?

**Jack:** No. They knew where they came from and how they were killed.

**Jerry:** At that time, I too worked for the State of California about that time, and I was thinking that there was some issues on duck hunting clubs, particularly in the upper Sacramento?

**Jack:** Oh yeah. Our technique then was, and nobody had worked that prior to my time, the way that I decided it to be worked. We'd go in there by boat, these big clubs in the Butte Sink is the famous. Probably the best duck clubs in the whole country for success. I became

acquainted with some of the people, I kind of curried favor with some of the caretakers and told them they wouldn't be named or anything and they kept me informed of what was going on. So we'd go in there by boat and hide and count drops, as the people killed the ducks. We'd count and we'd make over limits quite regularly. And they had several ways to try to hide the fact that they were killing too many ducks. Three or four of the clubs, I called them poor boxes, they would go out in channels, it was all deep water duck clubs and had to go by boat to their blinds and then they all gather and there'd be one channel back to the duck club. Well, where that channel began to go back to the club, was a big box and they'd throw their surplus ducks in that box. And the caretaker would have to get it; they never wasted any, I never found any wastage but the caretaker would have to come and take care of those things. Well, I don't think they sold any, but they distributed them in one way or another to the other hunters. Those people loved ducks and they didn't waste any, but they would shoot too many.

**Jerry:** Any particular duck?

**Jack:** Mostly pintail, they loved pintail; a rice fat pintail was a delicacy to those folks.

**Jerry:** Okay, poor old mallards were second.

**Jack:** Yeah, well the deep water clubs got probably more mallards in that area, but the market hunters would go after the pintail feeding in rice fields.

**Jerry:** Did you have depredation issues with ducks on rice fields?

**Jack:** Not so much, a little bit at the beginning of the season, before the harvest. We would have all kinds of materials from flash bombs, cracker shells, this sort of thing and even rocket grenades, flash and sound type things and issue them to the ranchers or the farmers around there to frighten the waterfowl off the rice before they harvested it.

**Jerry:** And were you ever involved in California's effort, at the time, to harvest coots, white bill? I can remember working with Fish and Game and they came out with a campaign, "white bill are good eating."

**Jack:** Yeah, that was done and recipes created by the biologist I mentioned earlier.

**Jerry:** That you hired?

**Jack:** Yes. And what I'd do, in Sacramento, I issued kill permits in the spring to kill the coots or the white bills and organized hunts. Some of the Italian folks from San Francisco loved that, they'd go down and have a big coot feed. Coots were a big problem, in the Central Valley area especially.

**Jerry:** What kind of big problem, what was the issue there, Jack?

**Jack:** Eating all the winter wheat and alfalfa, young alfalfa and greens like that, and golf courses. They would descend on golf courses that had big water areas and just; I think the worst thing was the poop the golfers had to wade through.

**Jerry:** But there were plenty of coots in California?

**Jack:** Oh, there was a surplus of coots at that time. But some of the animal preservation people got pretty adamant about my kill permits and I had to satisfy them by not issuing blanket permits; it had to be individual and controlled, and it worked out ok.

**Jerry:** And still got done what had to be done.

**Jack:** Yes.

**Jerry:** So how long were you in Sacramento doing that?

**Jack:** I was in Sacramento 14 years.

**Jerry:** When does your flying come in?

**Jack:** During that time I had a commercial pilot's license and got an airplane. I was assigned an airplane and a pilot agent. So I applied for flight authority through the Fish and Wildlife Service and gained it and did some of the flying.

There was a decision to try to determine where the Tule white-fronted goose breeding area was in Alaska. It was political pressure, there was a fellow by the name of Bob Elgas that was a permittee that raised wild geese and was a wildlife artist and he had enough influence that we were pressured into going up there and trying to find the rare Tule white-fronted goose.

**Jerry:** Ok, you were still stationed at Sacramento?

**Jack:** I was still stationed at Sacramento then; spent seven summers in Alaska flying.

**Jerry:** Well, who took over your job while you were gone? Somebody had to do the job.

**Jack:** Oh yeah. I had a good administrative assistant and agent there that would take over the duties.

**Jerry:** So you're flying in Alaska looking for white-fronts.

**Jack:** Yeah, we started out of Anchorage and then went to Bethel, spent a summer in Bethel around Dall Lake and south of the mouth of the Kuskokwim River. And we'd find the molting geese and band them and take taxonomic measurements to determine whether or not it was a Tule white-front or a common white-front. And sometimes we thought we were more apt to find a pigmy race than a giant race. And we never did find, in all the areas; in all the areas we worked and banded and surveyed and now refuges, Fish and Wildlife Refuges basically for all wild critters but waterfowl breeding area.

**Jerry:** And those areas have names?

**Jack:** Yeah, there's; oh, they're named for the area, the rivers drainages they were in. One, of course, stands out to me, the Iditarod and that area there is; I can't recall now some of the names, but all those in the interior are now refuges where those areas that we were. You can find them on Google Maps.

**Jerry:** But the upshot, the common and the Tule were essentially the same bird but occupied different areas and winter range?

**Jack:** Yes. The winter range we identified, and this Bob Elgas, the private citizen, was the one that found them and they wintered on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. And from there, we figured they probably were from Alaska because that was where most the birds from other banding information we had. So we went up there in search of that rare Tule white-front. But it turned out, they were right close to Anchorage, down in the Kenai, is where they summered and nested and their breeding area.

**Jerry:** So that was good bit of biological information then. So you did seven years in Alaska; what was your grade at that time?

**Jack:** I was an 11 then, GS-11.

**Jerry:** And this would be in 19--?

**Jack:** Well, in the 1960's from about '62 until, my last assignment though was in 1973; my last time I went up there.

**Jerry:** And then what? Was there a Mrs. Downs somewhere along this process? When did she come into the picture?

**Jack:** We were married in 1947, and my wife was a naturalized citizen from Norway. And we had a daughter and three sons; I had twin sons, they were the last.

**Jerry:** So you were moving her around too.

**Jack:** Oh yeah, she was willing to go. When I was transferred to and promoted to, the agent in charge in New York, we found a beautiful, one of our favorite homes in all our moving, was in Connecticut.

**Jerry:** So you went from Sac-of-Tomatoes, to New York and you were promoted to agent in charge of what the New York office or in Long Island?

**Jack:** The main function there, in New York, was the port and it was because of the Endangered Species Act and importations program. I had started one in San Francisco and it was successful. And New York was much larger and more difficult situation and I was told to go back there and do what I did in San Francisco in New York. They were having a hard time getting started there.

**Jerry:** And they designated the POE's [Ports of Entry] at that time?

**Jack:** Yes, they were initially the ports, and New York, of course, is one of the most important.

**Jerry:** San Francisco logically on the west.

**Jack:** Los Angeles and Seattle.

**Jerry:** Okay, was Newark in that?

**Jack:** Newark came after I left New York and they put an office there. They didn't have one at the time.

**Jerry:** So you have this beautiful, favorite house in Connecticut and you're challenged with the Port of Entry things in New York. How did that turn out?

**Jack:** I thought the world had come to an end when I had to leave Sacramento, but I put myself wholeheartedly into that assignment and it was successful.

**Jerry:** Did the promotion help?

**Jack:** Well, it helped, it helped my wife; she hated to leave Sacramento and California.

**Jerry:** And what was the grade at that time, just for the record.

**Jack:** A GS-12. Had New Jersey; that was part of my district. Most of my time was concerned with; and some of the cases we made there were very significant. We made one of the biggest alligator cases ever made out of New York. And my good friend Wills, was down in Louisiana, he was participating, and they were hauling alligators illegally killed in Louisiana into the port of New York. The buyer there was [unintelligible#4@00:09:31], and they were being shipped mostly to Japan, and we stopped that.

**Jerry:** Isn't there, the LE group, don't you have a story book on, *The Longest Tail*, the story of tailing a suspect from Louisiana to New York?

**Jack:** Yes, Jerry Smith. You know there's a sequel to that that he should write. It was even more intriguing. We stopped them temporarily, but there was too much money involved and they started it right up again. Well, then I created an undercover and put undercover agents right with these people that were involved in the traffic. And I had a female agent involved in that and then an informant, who wasn't an agent, that worked and we made that case and it involved even more alligators and people went to jail after that.

**Jerry:** And dealing with just the tails?

**Jack:** Belly skin is what they use.

**Jerry:** Oh, belly skin. It wasn't the meat then, this was for—

**Jack:** The meat wasn't involved at all, it was kept locally. Then there were several other major cases involving spotted cats. We had one, called The Rat, we called it; the Rabbittransit Case involved 300 and some spotted cats, involved in the seizure.

**Jerry:** Taken from South America?

**Jack:** A merchant in the garment district; their name was Rabbittransit Company, but they were involved in importing skins and exporting fur coats and that sort of thing.

**Jerry:** And these cats were from where? Anywhere they could find one?

**Jack:** These came out of South America, ocelot and other spotted cats there, and some from Africa.

**Jerry:** So you had the spotted cats, that was a big issue, and with the one garment outfit. What were you able to do with them?

**Jack:** They were convicted in federal court and heavily fined.

**Jerry:** Did that slow down their operation?

**Jack:** Yes. There were smaller cases, one or two hides here and there. I can remember one shipment though, that the processed alligator, were processed, they were made into shoes, golf shoes. And I don't know, but I think we seized one time about a hundred pair of golf shoes all made from alligator hide; all different colors.

**Jerry:** You know the story that I got, was the work law enforcement did and what the Endangered Species Act established, with alligators being listed, given a little protection and when you stop making purses and shoes out of them, they recovered.

**Jack:** Yes.

**Jerry:** Which is kind of Endangered Species Act at work with assistance from LE.

**Jack:** Yeah, now there can be legal trade in the things under permit.

**Jerry:** Yes. And when I lived in Florida, there were requests for depredation permits; people had alligators in their pond.

**Jack:** Yeah, swimming pools and whatever.

**Jerry:** It always killed me, these people would spend extra God d\*mn money to buy a house in Florida around a lake and have a marsh there and then all a sudden, "There's an alligator in my lake!" And they want somebody to do something about it.

**Jack:** Yeah, yeah. That's like geese, people, like in Seattle especially; they were cranky that Lake Union and Lake Washington there full of geese. People would build a big fancy house on the lakeshore and the geese would come up and crap all over their lawns and eat their grass and they'd cry their eyes out. You inherited those, when you bought that, that's what you buy.

**Jerry:** Yeah, that always gets me.

**Jack:** Some of the complaints were depredation complaints were completely unjustified, but you had to deal with them.

**Jerry:** I can remember when the area offices came online in '77, I think. One of the first phone calls; I got assigned to Jacksonville, Florida. I was a salmon and trout guy out west happy as hell, but when they had the Area Office draft I ended up as a fish guy in Jacksonville, Florida. But one of the first calls we got from one of the golf clubs out there, the big one that had the open—in St. Augustine? Anyway the guy called, "God d\*mn, I'm sure glad there's a Fish and Wildlife office is here. You've got to do something about these damn geese crapping all over the greens." And I thought, oh Lord, is this what we're going to be doing as a next step in my career.

Okay, where do we want to go from here? I'm going to ask you about other issues that we were facing there in New York; it was so damn big, there had to be something. You said you were happy with your career?

**Jack:** Absolutely, the most satisfying work; that's all I know. I was about 22 when I went to work doing this work for the state police, and then 30 when I went to work for the Fish and Wildlife Service. I've known nothing else and I wouldn't have it any other way. When I went to Seattle I expected to be under the agent in charge, of course. But a seasoned veteran wildlife officer, he probably wasn't, I have to say that. I don't want to insult him but he influenced me as much as any supervisor I've ever had. And his background, he was a drummer on the Vaudeville circuit. Vaudeville was dying out and he ended up in South Dakota doing something. And he met a supervisor from Predator and Rodent Control, this fellow's name was Leo Childress. And he was a drummer, and he belonged to a shrine club and he passed away while I was still up there. And he, above everything else, was a gentleman.

**Jerry:** You know it's a hard connection to go from a Vaudeville drummer to wildlife officer, heading up an office in a city as large as Seattle.

**Jack:** Yeah, and he was a real gentleman.

**Jerry:** Were there other people--?

**Jack:** I had to fire about three folks and they were all character issues. One was a deadbeat, I think, I don't know how else to describe him, but borrow stuff, not pay it back. You assigned some agents to a work project, a

law enforcement project and they had to stay in motels and stuff. This guy never rented one or participated in one, waited until everybody would get their rooms and stuff and take a sleeping bag and sleep on the floor, and not pay any; I had to get rid of him. And I hired the first Black agent, I think, in Sacramento and was told try to get a college graduate, and trainable. I'd go over and recruit at the University of California at Berkley was my favorite place, because I'd be insulted every time. Everybody I interviewed wanted my job, they didn't want to start as a trainee and then they had to go into a trainee status if they didn't have the experience. And finally we had to settle for a postman, and it was not too well. The guy was untrainable and got himself thrown in jail for child support, non-child support payments; as a result, I fired him.

**Jerry:** Well, for all your experience and all that time, that's not too many, but you must have made some really good hires.

**Jack:** Yeah.

**Jerry:** Let's talk about them; talk about the success.

**Jack:** Well, several of them became agents in charge and were successful otherwise and senior resident agents, which are supervising the field agents. There were, I probably had about as many people working under my supervision as anybody; any of the agents.

**Jerry:** Any particular one that stands out, anybody that you name, the SRA's or--?

**Jack:** Let's see, there were several of them. The one that's here right now, is Case Vendel. He came out of Kansas and worked for me as an agent, his first agent job was, they assigned him to an office in Stockton, California. He came in 1974 and went back to his home county in Kansas, was an outstanding Senior Resident Agent. And a couple that I hired were not only special agents but outstanding undercover agents. And they were assigned to, one in Chico on his first assignment. I hired him out of the Oregon state police after I got to Portland. And he had done some outstanding work for the state, so his first assignment was a very difficult undercover operation of Native Americans selling feathers illegally. And he entered into that and posed as a buyer and we made that case and I always considered him an outstanding agent and supervisor material, but one of those guys that didn't want to move, but he would have made an outstanding SRA.

**Jerry:** I'm going to ask you about the trends that you saw in the Fish and Wildlife Service from the time that you began, you said from, had a reorganization a couple times and finally to the Division of Law Enforcement. So all that time, what did you see in the Fish and Wildlife Service, the changes good or bad?

**Jack:** I consider now, the way they're doing law enforcement I can't understand why they're doing what they're doing. They're not enforcing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the agents are not working that. I understand they spend more time working on computers, with computers, than outside work; there's no field work being done and that disappoints me. I think there's a role in enforcement at the field level that was important to me, and the states I worked with thought we were an important function to work with them. The Lacey Act, they're still dealing with interstate transportation of illegal animals, they're still doing some of that but that's still, I think, an important function that might be neglected now.

**Jerry:** From the federal level or the--?

**Jack:** Yes, the Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement doesn't impress me now at all to be honest.

**Jerry:** When did you see this particular demise?

**Jack:** It just happened; well after I retired. Now when I was working there was a camaraderie amongst different agencies; they've got friends that are refuge managers, worked in refuges, recruited refuge people into the Service. I initiated and kind of invented the Wildlife Inspector Program. The agents, thought their job mostly should be investigating the violations that we were running into and that we should have a function or we had people do that inspection with Customs. So I told the wildlife inspectors and hired about eight, and they said, "Okay, go ahead." And all college graduates. I picked college graduates that applied and each of those people went on to become very good special agents, some supervisory agents and undercover agents. Everyone I hired in that became successful in what they did. One of them was, he could have been and had the moxie and the intelligence to be agent, was there today, that Kenner Harrington.

**Jerry:** Kenner, yeah, Klamath Falls.

**Jack:** Yeah, I hired him as a wildlife inspector and I got in a little trouble over that; there was a Target National Wildlife Refuge, did you ever hear of that on Long Island? It was a big estate and it got its name during the



Revolutionary War; the British used a big rock out in Long Island Sound as a target for their cannons. And then this estate came, I can't remember, it's some prominent New Yorker but I can't remember the name right now, was one of them. They had a big estate there and we took and gave it to the refuge and for lifetime use, they finally moved on. And the refuge manager had an office in the lower floors of this big mansion, and I thought these kids, we're hiring them GS 7's, can't afford to live on Long Island; they'd starve to death. So I said, "Can you put them up here?" There was enough rooms, some of them were married, and there was a big beautiful kitchen, and they had kind of a commune, cooking their meals and everything. And we didn't charge them any rent or anything. And then the Regional got onto me they almost fainted in Boston. They thought it was some violation of some kind giving employees free housing like that so I had to quit that, but it worked for a while.

**Jerry:** You got the help you needed.

**Jack:** Got the help I needed and that was what was important in that area there. And what I found too when I got there, they had hired some people prior to my getting there, to go as special agents. And they were all from like South Dakota, Casey Fredericks was, he was there for a while. And there were three or four and they hated it there, and I could understand that. So what I did, I went to personnel and said, "Look, I'm going to recruit some local people if I can that will be satisfied and know that this is home." So I got all those guys, I transferred one by one, we'd have a position there that I talked the director into taking them to that position. They went back mid-west and west coast and southwest, but what I replaced them with, I recruited one agent was a graduate out of the John Jay College of Law out of New York. I recruited an IRS agent that was not law enforcement, he was a book man. And I hired, as my SRA, a personnel guy who lived in Connecticut, and made an agent out of him.

**Jerry:** Sounds like his name was Paul Gladdys!

**Jack:** His name was Paul Gladdys. And see, I've got to mention him. He was one of my most efficient SRA's. He was a rock for me there, because he knew how to do the personnel stuff I wanted to do that was unusual and not normal. And he's the one that helped me initiate the Wildlife Inspectors. He became an agent in charge eventually down south someplace, after I left.

**Jerry:** I'm going to have to share my story with you. Paul Gladdys on what a small World this is. Paul and I attended the DMDP Program in D.C. together.

**Jack:** Oh, no kidding!

**Jerry:** He came out of the Personnel Office and we were at the school of wisdom and training, and he wanted to go into the Law Enforcement Program. And I thought, you know, here is mismatch of things. He ought to go back to be a super personnel specialist in Office of Personnel, and the rest of us were all going to be trained to be super managers out there at our field stations. Paul is retired in Florida now.

**Jack:** Yeah, yeah. That's one I forgot, I should have mentioned him. He was extremely important to my success in New York.

**Jerry:** We couldn't believe that Paul was going to make a super agent; I mean he was a calm guy; he was very mannered.

**Jack:** Oh yeah.

**Jerry:** And gentle.

**Jack:** Nice wife.

**Jerry:** How about that, I'll have to tell Judy the story.

**Jack:** Isn't that amazing, yeah.

**Jerry:** It's nice to have people like that. But other changes that you've seen organizationally, did they help you or did they hinder? You don't like the—

**Jack:** I don't consider anything that was done, that I didn't necessarily agree with but it didn't hinder me. It was accepted and I had the most, deepest respect for the leadership that I was under. Greenwalt wasn't my supervisor, he came as a law enforcement supervisor. Well, he's the one that made sure I went to New York to get that mess straightened out, to be honest.

**Jerry:** And you forgive him now?

**Jack:** Oh yes. Oh yeah, yeah. I'd never let that interfere with our friendship, no.

**Jerry:** You said, while you were there, it was just a super job. Was there something that you wish you could have done that you didn't do, along the lines that would have made things better?

**Jack:** Well, you always look to things. I ruminate at night a lot of times where I could have done better at something or accomplished more. But overall I'm

completely satisfied with the people I worked with and worked for; it was a tremendous experience.

**Jerry:** You can't get together often like you guys do without having stories about folks. Is there one in LE that is particularly humorous. I've heard of guys dressing up in gorilla outfits and going undercover, I mean there's all kinds of things; people hiding down in an outhouse. I mean, I don't know how true they are but is there anything like that?

**Jack:** I've always had a good sense of humor, I guess, and one of the favorite, practical jokes, I guess, was when I went to Seattle, there was a guy in Spokane, Ed Carter, and he looked just like the fellow that was, at that time, the Under Secretary for the Interior. I can't remember his name, it may come to me here in a minute or so, I'll let things grind away, but he looked just like him. So this, he was in Washington, of course, and Under Secretary, and he was supposed to come out to the first regional conference that we were having. And I had worked with Ed, he was in Spokane, I was in Seattle. And I saw this resemblance, so we got word that the Under Secretary wasn't going to be there. So a lot of people in the Region, didn't get onto it. So a couple of us, I guess I initiated it, I said, "Well, let's go there and tell people, say, do you know who that is?" "Well, no." "Well, that's the Under Secretary, he did make it." God, people went around, tried to kiss his butt, groveled. And Paul Quick was the Regional Director there, great fellow, came out of Predator and Rodent Control, and he said, "Well, what the hell?" He thought it was a great joke too. And several times, had things I can't think of them right now, that were funny that we did.

**Jerry:** Well, it's always a good life; you're having a good time here for your Law Enforcement Reunion.

**Jack:** Oh yeah.

**Jerry:** Thank you, Jack,, for taking the time for this important interview; you've been very helpful; you'll get a copy of this to review.