

REMINISCENCES OF

**ROSEMARY COLLINS
EMPLOYEE EXTRAORDINAIRE**

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

FEBRUARY 7, 2003

Rosemary Collins is a Commonwealth Court icon. She is one of the people who has made the Court the invaluable institution that it is today. Not only has Rosemary been a terrific asset to the Court for the past 29 year, she has gained many friends from the Court who absolutely adore her.

A retirement party was held in Rosemary's honor on February 12th, 2003. As she looks forward to her retirement, she also plans to visit the Court on special occasions, but she will always be with the Court in spirit.

MR. SCHUCKERS: This is Dan Schuckers, and I'm the Prothonotary of the Commonwealth Court. We are in the chambers of Judge James R. Kelley, one of the Senior Judges for the Commonwealth Court. Today we are going to interview Rosemary Collins, who has been Judge Kelley's secretary for the last four years. And Ro, or Rosemary or --

ROSEMARY: I always get Ro 4. When I went to work for Judge Crumlish, my last name at that time was Borajkiewicz, and Judge Crumlish said, "Since your name is Rosemary, my wife is Rosemary, she is No. 1, my daughter is Rosemary No. 2." We shared chambers with another Rosemary, she was Rosemary No. 3, I got dubbed Rosemary 4, and it stuck until this day. The sign on my desk is Rosemary 4. The mail would come and say Rosemary No. 4, and everyone knew who that was.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Ro 4 has been an invaluable employee of the Commonwealth Court for the last 29 years and will be retiring at the end of this month. I hope today to get some of Ro 4's reminiscences about the Commonwealth Court and her experience with the Commonwealth Court.

First of all, when did you start

being a secretary, when was your first employment?

ROSEMARY: At the age of 17, I went with a law firm before I was out of high school. There were seven attorneys and just me. Two attorneys paid your salary and the other attorneys paid you so much a week for your work.

I got married the following year, left them, and went to Hawaii, where I was employed by an attorney, who was also the judge of the tax court and Consulate of the Netherlands. I worked for him for two-and-a-half years.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Why did you come back?

ROSEMARY: My husband was in the service. We returned from Hawaii, and I became pregnant with the second child, so I did stay home that year. But the following year I went back for the same law firm and stayed there for another eight years. I left when my daughter was born, however, I got called back when she was three months old, but for just one of the attorneys then, Maurice Marmon, and was employed by him until December of 1973. The person I worked for the longest there was Filmore Harowitz, with whom I am still friends to this day.

MR. SCHUCKERS: This was in

Philadelphia?

ROSEMARY: Yes, all in Philadelphia. I had separated from my husband, and I received a phone call from Ben Cocco, Assistant Prothonotary in Philadelphia, saying there's an opening for a judge. I said I'm not qualified, and he said you just get your resume to me by 3:00 this afternoon, so I did.

I got the phone call from Judge Crumlish the next day and interviewed with him. He knew Marmon, and as a result I got the job with Judge Crumlish.

MR. SCHUCKERS: I just should add that Judge Crumlish was one of the original members of the Commonwealth Court and was on the Court from 1970, when the Commonwealth Court began, to 1990 I believe it was, and then he became a Senior Judge for about a year, as I recall. He was the President Judge from 1980 to 1990.

How many employees were in Judge Crumlish's office when you started in 1974?

ROSEMARY: There were three of us in Philadelphia when I started. I think Tom Ziomek had just left, and it was just myself, Jimmy Miller and Angelo Scaricamazza.

MR. SCHUCKERS: At that time Judge

Crumlish had two law clerks, and I think they were both in Philadelphia.

ROSEMARY: Yes, they were.

MR. SCHUCKERS: How many secretaries did he have at that time?

ROSEMARY: The two, myself and Cindy Strite.

MR. SCHUCKERS: She was the Judge's secretary here in Harrisburg?

ROSEMARY: Right.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Do you remember many other law clerks who worked for Judge Crumlish at that time?

ROSEMARY: After Angelo and Jimmy left, we expanded. We were on two different floors in City Hall, at that time we were on the fourth floor, the law clerks were on the second floor.

MR. SCHUCKERS: You were in City Hall at the time, in Philadelphia?

ROSEMARY: Yes. Then we went with a satellite filing office in Philadelphia on the third floor, took over a larger area of the third floor, and Ann Gerace was the filing clerk. At that time the law clerks were Tony Beldecos, Larry Yogel and Joe Vignola. After their tenure, Kathy Kelly, Jimmy

Mall and Paul Brady were our law clerks.

MR. SCHUCKERS: I should add Joe Vignola later ran for United States Senate.

ROSEMARY: He was city councilman.

MR. SCHUCKERS: But he got the Democratic nomination to run for the United States Senate.

ROSEMARY: Right. In the late '70's Judge Crumlish pursued moving into the old Federal Court House at Ninth and Market Streets and did a lot of the groundwork. The key thing there was, we could have bought that building from the city, from the Federal Government, for a dollar, and it wasn't done. So they renovated that for us, and we moved in in the late '70's.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Do you remember the opening of the filing office in Philadelphia? When was that done?

ROSEMARY: That's the late '70's. They were on the third floor, as I said.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Anne was in charge of that?

ROSEMARY: Anne was, and we moved down to Ninth Street. In 1980, when Judge Crumlish became the P.J. after Judge Bowman died, our staff

expanded greatly. Our law clerks at that time were Bridget Grady, Dave Bongiovanni and Tony Zabicki. Then we hired an assistant, another secretary, and her name was Eileen McHugh. The other assistant secretaries over the years were Theresa Lopuzanski, Anne Lynch, Mary Hamilton and Mary Doyle.

MR. SCHUCKERS: And I believe at that time the President Judge also had a law clerk in Harrisburg. Wasn't that Tom Brogan at the time?

ROSEMARY: Yes.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Did the President Judge at that time have three law clerks?

ROSEMARY: We had four. We had three in Philly and Brogan here.

MR. SCHUCKERS: By the early 1980's, the President Judge had four law clerks, three in Philadelphia and one in Harrisburg, and the one in Harrisburg was Tom Brogan.

ROSEMARY: Other law clerks that worked for us after that was Kevin Gibson, Gerry Dougherty, Tom Oeste, Roy Cohen, Eric Turner, Pat Rooney, John Sckrocki, Jeff Norton, Rich Procida, Gene Cortese, and John Gordon, who is still with the Court.

MR. SCHUCKERS: John Gordon is still

with the Court. He is invaluable to the Court in helping to run the mediation program, and invaluable particularly in the late '80's and in the 1990's in helping with the insurance cases.

ROSEMARY: When Judge Crumlish was President Judge, we had law clerk reunions, we had two reunions in Philadelphia, one here in Harrisburg, and I think we held two in Pittsburgh, which I arranged. It was fun. I miss those reunions. Do you remember the one we had in Harrisburg, at the Hershey Convention Center? It was a fabulous reunion, had a very large crowd from this central part of Pennsylvania. It's nice to see the law clerks again. That's why I was happy with the 30th anniversary. At least I saw some of the old law clerks.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Could you summarize your relationship with Judge Crumlish? You started in 1974, and he was President Judge from 1980 to 1990, and passed away in 1991. Could you summarize your relationship and what it was like to work in his office?

ROSEMARY: Judge Crumlish was a tough taskmaster. There was a system that had to be followed every day. He came in at 9, went right

into his office for dictation for at least two hours, and then there was also a list of phone calls that had to be made first. You had to report back to him right after lunch with the answers to all the phone calls. When he became P.J., he really became a workaholic, long hours. There is a couple of stories I'd like to throw in, if I can.

John Gordon at one time had a place at Spring Lake, and the Judge was away on vacation. However, he called in, and we said the staff wants to go to Spring Lake to John's in the afternoon for a picnic, it was such a day, and he said fine. So that morning we come into work, and the guys all said we're not going to get much done today, we are going to go play golf, and I said fine. Well, don't you know the Judge calls in from vacation, and of course I was blasted because I let them go play golf. I had to send somebody to the golf course to get them back. He wasn't too happy with me that day.

Another time we had a terrible blizzard and he was in Florida, and I dismissed the staff at noon. He called in the afternoon and of course wasn't very happy with me when I said I dismissed the staff. So he must have ascertained

there was a real blizzard from someone else, he called back and said, "What are you going to do?" I said, "I'm going to sleep on the couch tonight." He said, no, no, no, go across the street to another law clerk, Jeff Norton's, and stay with him. I called Jeff, and Jeff said, "Ro, forget it. I got a bunch of men here." I said, "All right, I'll sleep here." About nine o'clock I went outside and found the roads were passable and went home. The next day he did call and apologized after he found out it was a real blizzard.

MR. SCHUCKERS: As I recall, Judge Crumlish used to take trips to Ireland, and you were in charge of his itinerary?

ROSEMARY: Yes, every single year he went to Ireland, and he would be gone at least two weeks, and the full itinerary was taken care of. So I learned a lot about travel.

MR. SCHUCKERS: What was your relationship with the law clerks?

ROSEMARY: Great. Judge Crumlish was really into camaraderie. Often we told him we were going to go out for happy hour on a Friday, and it got to the point where he said no, I'd rather you have happy hour at the office, go out, get your beer

and wine and bring it back to the office at 5:00; I'd feel better that you do that. So we used to do that a lot.

Our Christmas parties that he promoted were really fabulous, which you never came down for, did you?

MR. SCHUCKERS: I think I did for one.

ROSEMARY: We used the en banc courtroom in the old Federal Court House, and we would get together and organize all the food, and every one of us cooked something for it. There were about 300 people in attendance, and we'd have the Philadelphia Policemen's band play, so our Christmas parties were the "in" party in Philadelphia.

In the summer he would have a tent party at his house in Avalon, which I organized, and that was another big affair, with all the politicians from Philadelphia, and lawyers, etcetera. Those were fabulous gatherings.

In the 1980's, we decided to go into the new technology computers. They were IBM, the large floppy disks. We were sent to school, and needless to say, I was the oldest person in the class. I was hysterical on the third day, I felt I

could never learn this. The girl teaching the class was excellent, and I finally did catch on. Our system of communication was similar to our present e-mail, but the only way you could send something between two offices was a telephone call and certain buttons to push, and the document would go through to the other office. However, Karen Phillips and I were the only two who ever succeeded in doing it.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Prior to that time?

ROSEMARY: Was a typewriter.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Typewriter and hard copy.

ROSEMARY: So you were really retyping things many, many times.

MR. SCHUCKERS: So it was very, very difficult to get everything in the final format, and then it had to be sent out and a hard copy would be sent around. That began to change --

ROSEMARY: In the 1980's.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Mid 1980's.

ROSEMARY: Then we realized the technology was advancing, and Judge Crumlish put Judge Craig in charge of seeking computer programs for us because Judge Craig was very knowledgeable about computer systems.

MR. SCHUCKERS: I should add that Judge Craig came to the Court from Pittsburgh in 1977 or '78 and was President Judge from 1990 to 1994, and he subsequently retired. But he was very much into computerization, into the modern technology. So beginning in mid 1980's things started to change.

ROSEMARY: He did a lot of research, came up with a new program called SAMNA, that was strictly written for us by a house in California somewhere.

After that we went into Word Perfect, and at the same time we started with the different e-mail programs as well. From Word Perfect we advanced to Word and a more advanced e-mail system, and the PACMS system which we have today for keeping track of all the opinions and filings, etcetera.

MR. SCHUCKERS: That's the new docketing system at Commonwealth Court. Have those technological changes in the last 15 or 18 years made the jobs of the secretaries much easier?

ROSEMARY: Much easier. There's so little typing to do, and you have templates made up for a lot of things, just bring them up and fill them in, like a form. So you really don't have much

typing to do.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Previous to that, everything had to be typed over and over again. If one mistake was made, you had to retype it.

ROSEMARY: Retype it many times. I remember when we had the school strike in Philadelphia. We were in the courtroom until nine o'clock that night, and we had Bill Green and Jimmy Binns standing over Eileen and I dictating this agreement, but thank God we had the computers at the time, so as they made the changes, the finished product could be produced that night.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Prior to that time if there was any mistake, you had to retype the whole page all over again.

ROSEMARY: Exactly.

MR. SCHUCKERS: There was no e-mail, no fax. All those technological changes came in beginning with Judge Crumlish's administration, beginning in the mid to late 1980's.

ROSEMARY: Right.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Did you have any special duties? Did your duties greatly increase when he became President Judge?

ROSEMARY: Yes, when he became

President Judge, my duties really increased. I was no longer a secretary, I became an administrator. If there were certain things the Judge wanted done, he would have me do the calling to say he wants this done, whatever task.

I remember one time there was a new employee here in Harrisburg, and I called him to tell him that he had to do a certain task, and he gave me a lot of guff about it. So Judge Crumlish sent for this person. He had to make the trip from Harrisburg to Philadelphia. The Judge has a meeting with me and this particular gentleman, and in front of this person he says, "When she tells you to do something, you do it. It's not her giving you the orders, it's my orders she's carrying out." He never gave me a problem again after that.

Tom Brogan always said that I was his boss, not Judge Crumlish. He still says it when he sees me.

During my 18-and-a-half years with Judge Crumlish I developed a working relationship with Ron Darlington, which was invaluable to me.

My administrative duties really increased so much so, truthfully, I'd have to say I was his right hand.

Then as his retirement approached, I knew he was becoming very, very melancholy about that, but we did get a fabulous party together for him for his retirement. We tried to surprise him, but he did find out about it. Right before he retired, though, we opened up offices in West Chester. We were in those chambers for approximately two years.

MR. SCHUCKERS: His offices.

ROSEMARY: Yes, at Boot Road and Paoli Pike. That was another task for me, set that entire thing, the design of it, the furnishings, everything we did for that office.

MR. SCHUCKERS: As I recall, in the late 1980's President Judge Crumlish moved his chambers out to West Chester from Philadelphia, and I think he moved out to Chester County.

ROSEMARY: Yes, he did. I would drive into Center City every day, and John Gordon and I would drive out to West Chester to work, and sometimes Paul Durkin, if he was going out. Paul Durkin, Ben Tayale and Bill Finnerty were the Judge's personal assistants, and I worked closely with all of them over the years.

Here's another cute story that I have

to tell you. After we moved out to West Chester, Judge Crumlish called from Florida and made this request: "My son bought me fish for Christmas, and I don't want the fish staying there, I'd rather have them in the office. Would you and Paul bring the fish into the office?" So I said okay. Paul Durkin and I went over to the house, and we realize we can't bring this octagon-shaped aquarium without emptying some of the water out. So we dumped some of the water out, and Paul sets the aquarium next to me, partially on my lap, and shuts the door and cracks the aquarium. So we get to the office, tell John Gordon what happened, and he laughed hysterically. We had a brand new trash can there, dumped the fish in it, and then ran around trying to find the same top to this aquarium, as it was a pedestal-type aquarium. We finally found one, and stayed late that night because the fish couldn't be dumped right into the water. So needless to say, Paul and I didn't get home until late that night, and luckily we lost only one fish. I never told Judge Crumlish the story until after he was retired.

While we were out in West Chester, the development of the new judicial center was put into place. Judge Crumlish did all the groundwork

for that, including the architect, designer and the builder, and we had many, many meetings with Mr. Wong and Mr. Vartan at that office about the new center. After Judge Crumlish retired, the new center was dropped.

MR. SCHUCKERS: There was a proposal beginning I believe about 1987 and '88 to have a judicial center, or have a central area where the appellate courts would meet, and it would be in Harrisburg. Mr. Vartan was to be the builder and Dr. Wong was to be the architect for that. About 1991 this was eventually disapproved.

I think you worked for some other judges after Judge Crumlish retired?

ROSEMARY: Right, after Judge Crumlish retired and his health started to fail, he decided to retire and not stay on as Senior Judge. For several months I worked three days a week in Philly with Judge Barbieri and two days a week out in West Chester, until I went with Judge Barbieri permanently. I was with Judge Barbieri I guess a little over a year when he died. His law clerks were Amy Suhr, Sally Farrell and Ellen McCann.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Judge Barbieri was one of the original judges of the Commonwealth

Court, appointed to the Court by Governor Shafer in 1970. He ran for the Supreme Court and was defeated, and he eventually became Court Administrator for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Sometime in the 1980's he was appointed as a Senior Judge at the Commonwealth Court, and he was invaluable to the Court because he had written a treatise on workers' compensation, and he really knew workers' compensation backwards and forwards. Could you describe your working relationship with him?

ROSEMARY: He was wonderful. He was so bright, and he was another one that just allowed me to do everything. He could dictate his opinions right from the top of his head. When he became sick, it was tough on all of us, because after he left, Judge Craig appointed Judge Lederer for three months from the Common Pleas Court of Philly to work in Judge Barbieri's chambers. I continued to visit at his home once a week until he passed away. One day while visiting, he said to me, "You know, Ro, the hardest thing to do is to die."

After Judge Lederer left in January of '92, the Supreme Court appointed Judge George Kelton and Judge Charlie Wright to the Commonwealth

Court bench as Senior Judges. I was assigned to Judge Wright when Judge Kelton called the chambers to congratulate Judge Wright on his appointment. I heard Judge Kelton was looking for a secretary, I wanted the chance to work with Judge Kelton, so I said, "I understand you're looking for a secretary." He said? "Why? Are you interested?" I said, "Yes." He said, "You have to pass that by Judge Craig first." I said, "Fine. I will call him." So I did. I interviewed with Judge Kelton and was given the position. I worked again with Amy Suhr. The other law clerks for Judge Kelton were Ellen McCann, Kim Kocher and Pauline Gebhardt.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Ro just mentioned working in Doylestown. The reason she was in Doylestown was because Judge Kelton was from Bucks County and he had been appointed by the Supreme Court to the Commonwealth Court as a Senior Judge. He had been on the Bucks County Common Pleas Court for years. Prior to that he had been in private practice in Bucks County and was a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School and was one of the extremely outstanding judges in the history of the Commonwealth Court.

ROSEMARY: And we were only allowed

to stay in the courthouse six months as we had to find our own facilities. We found a really nice location in Langhorne, right across the street from Sesame Place in Bucks County. We were there until he retired. And do you know I can't remember? Was it '97?

The Senior Judges have been very effective with this Court, extremely effective. Judge Wright passed away after three months of being a Senior Judge with the Commonwealth Court. Judge Armand Dellaporta came with the Court as a Senior Judge. Judge Sam Rodgers was also a Senior Judge at the time, who has now passed away. Judge Kalish, Judge Genevieve Blatt and Judge Narick were with us for many years.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Judge Narick began in 1986 and retired about a month ago. Judge Silvestri was on the Court, he was a Senior Judge from Pittsburgh.

ROSEMARY: When did Judge Silvestri pass away?

MR. SCHUCKERS: I would say about 1998 or '99, but I'm not positive about that. The whole Senior Judge program was something Judge Crumlish, as I recall, helped initiate with the

support of the Supreme Court. The Commonwealth Court in about 1977 or 1978 expanded from seven to nine, and it has remained at nine. But beginning in about 1985 or 1986, we began to get from the Supreme Court Senior Judges, and we have had a whole series of Senior Judges since then.

ROSEMARY: Another Senior Judge who was very effective was Judge Charlie Lord.

MR. SCHUCKERS: He was absolutely invaluable to the Court in terms of insurance cases. With the help of John Gordon, he handled so many of the really difficult insurance liquidation and rehabilitation cases. Some of them went on eight or ten years, as I recall, and very difficult to manage, but Judge Lord, with the help of John Gordon, did an outstanding job on that.

The big case in that area was the Mutual Fire case, which began in the late '80's and went on for eight or ten years. There was so much paper involved in that particular case.

ROSEMARY: After Judge Kelton retired, I had to pack up the entire office and everything was moved out to Erie for Judge Jiuliante, who was named in place of Judge Kelton.

I was sent to Judge Friedman's

chambers back in Doylestown, where I had an office and did some work for her, but I was on call for every other Judge. The very first day, in fact, Judge Leadbetter's secretary had an automobile accident, so I went to Blue Bell and worked for Judge Leadbetter for about four weeks, and then went back each summer for two years when Maureen was on vacation.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Maureen is Judge Leadbetter's secretary.

ROSEMARY: Also during that period of time I worked for Judge Doyle in Media when Betty was away on vacation.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Betty Hartert was Judge Doyle's secretary in Media.

ROSEMARY: Also I worked for President Judge Colins in Philadelphia when Sandy was on vacation, and I came to Harrisburg and worked for Judge Rodgers when Rose was on vacation. I worked for Judge McCloskey when Nancy Peck was on vacation. When I was here in 1999, January of '99 --

MR. SCHUCKERS: You started with Judge Kelley, is that what you mean?

ROSEMARY: Right. But prior to that,

I was here working several weeks for Judge Friedman's secretary. She was in China adopting a baby, and while I was here, Judge Kelley called. His present secretary, Irene Snyder, who I had also worked with with Judge Crumlish, was ill. So for 14 months I commuted, I came up Monday mornings, went home Thursday nights, and lived with Rose Keegan, and moved up here 14 months later. I have been living here for three years, since January of 2000.

MR. SCHUCKERS: The last four years you have been the Harrisburg secretary for Judge Kelley?

ROSEMARY: Right. And now I'm looking forward to retirement. However, I know I'm going to miss everyone. My last four years with Judge Kelley were absolutely wonderful. He allows you to do your work, he doesn't bother you unless there's something wrong, and I think in the four years I've been here, I have gotten one phone call from him that there was a problem with something. He's just a fabulous man to work for. Judge Kelley's staff consisted of Leah Davis, James Stock and Phil Pierre in Greensburg, and Suzanne Deal in Harrisburg. I learned so much technology from Suzanne Deal. She is a whiz with computers.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Do you have any general reminiscences on your 29 years with the Commonwealth Court?

ROSEMARY: I have found it truly an adventure, especially working in so many different offices and comparing the work in a home office with the work in the Harrisburg office.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Each chambers is different, am I right?

ROSEMARY: Every chambers does things differently. It's the same work, but every chambers had a different style.

MR. SCHUCKERS: I have found that some chambers are very centralized, in that the Judge is very much in control and doesn't delegate that much. Other chambers the Judge just wants to be sort of an overall editor and delegates quite a bit to the law clerks and to the judicial secretaries.

ROSEMARY: Yes, I found that in many of the offices. It depends on the individual personality, it really does. I know when I went to Judge Friedman's office, I learned an awful lot, I learned so much invaluable information. She had a special program set up that no one else had, and she

still uses it to this day. Rose Huber was her secretary at that time. Her husband wrote the program. I learned to use that program, and I just thought it was great.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Was it essentially to track cases?

ROSEMARY: Track all the cases, and you could track them by key words. If she knew she wrote a particular case on workmen's compensation, there was a particular issue in that workmen's compensation case, you could just type those things in in this program, and all the opinions that would refer to that would come up. Even with PACMS, she still uses that program today.

My 25th year with the Court, Judge Friedman threw a party for me at a restaurant in Doylestown, inviting Judge Kelton, Judge Mirarchi and Judge Leadbetter to it -- Judge Colins couldn't make it -- and all the law clerks I worked with in the past couple years. It was a wonderful party, and a thrill.

I love all the people I've worked with. Here in Harrisburg I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of people, where in the home offices you have a small group. So to me this was a

really great experience. Even though I was far away from my family, I still enjoyed every minute of it.

MR. SCHUCKERS: One thing I should add is that each Judge of the Commonwealth Court has a chambers and a judicial secretary and sometimes a law clerk here in Harrisburg. They also have a home chambers, with usually law clerks and one judicial secretary out there. Each Judge of the Commonwealth Court has two chambers, one in Harrisburg, one at home, two secretaries and usually four law clerks, but the Senior Judges usually have only three law clerks. That's the way the Court's been evolving ever since 1970, when each Judge would have only one law clerk at that time. It particularly expanded in the late '70's and '80's, it expanded so the commissioned judges have four law clerks and most --

ROSEMARY: It was necessary to expand because of the volume of cases.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Could you comment on that, in terms of the volume of cases that you have seen from the '70's up until 2003?

ROSEMARY: I don't have an accurate count or anything, but I just know the volume of work really increased because of the volume of cases.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Along those lines, I can say when I clerked for Judge Wilkinson in '73, '74, I think in that year Judge Wilkinson wrote 50 opinions, which essentially worked out to one every week. Now our judges put out 120, 130, 140 every year, and I think the total number for the Court for the year is usually up around 1800 for the year. So you have seen a tremendous expansion of the work load of the Commonwealth Court, and as a result you have a tremendous expansion of the law clerk staff.

ROSEMARY: Of course, the new technology has been very helpful to us, because with the old typewriters it would have been impossible for judges to produce that number of opinions.

MR. SCHUCKERS: Exactly. It's been very interesting reminiscences. I appreciate you taking time doing this. As I mentioned early on, Ro has been an absolutely invaluable member of the Commonwealth Court staff, has done a wonderful job, and I think she somewhat underestimated her role when she was on Judge Crumlish's staff, particularly when he was President Judge. I think she was one of the people who really helped run the Commonwealth Court and did an outstanding job for a number of those years. Thank you.