

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BIPARTISAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH:

The Honorable Stephen Maitland (R)

91st District

Adams and Franklin Counties

1993- 2006

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: Heidi Mays House Archivist
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Transcribed by: Paul Scott

1 **Heidi Mays (HM):** Good afternoon.

2

3 **The Honorable Stephen Maitland (SM):** Good afternoon.

4

5 **HM:** I am here today with State Representative Stephen Maitland who represented the
6 91st Legislative District, which encompassed Adams and Franklin Counties, from the
7 years 1993 to 2006. Thank you for being here today with us today.

8

9 **SM:** My pleasure.

10

11 **HM:** I would like to first ask you about your childhood and early life experiences?

12

13 **SM:** I was born in Arlington, Virginia, but I grew up in Gettysburg. My mother thought
14 she could squeeze a trip in before I was born and it turned out that I came out on the road.
15 [I] went through the Gettysburg schools, worked at a small handmade fudge candy
16 company in Gettysburg through high school. I went to college at Carnegie Mellon
17 University, right out of high school. I did not graduate; I chose the wrong major. I
18 majored in mathematics and the social sciences were more up my alley, so I went from
19 that into the candy business. I actually owned and operated my own small handmade
20 fudge candy business in Farmington, New Jersey for three years. Then, I went back to
21 school and I got a bachelors degree in political science from Mount Saint Mary's College
22 in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

23

1 **HM:** Can you tell me, was anyone in your family involved in politics?

2

3 **SM:** I had a great aunt that was county coroner and that is about the extent of it. Yeah, I
4 was the first one, really, to go into this field.

5

6 **HM:** Well, how did you become interested or involved in politics?

7

8 **SM:** Well, I used to sit around the kitchen table with my parents and we would solve all
9 the world's problems but never actually do anything about it. And when I was trying to
10 choose a major at Mount Saint Mary's—I knew it was not going to be math—I picked
11 political science out of the college course catalogue because it looked interesting and I
12 thought that if I actually study political science, maybe I will actually solve some of the
13 world's problems like my parents and I discussed. [I] really hit it off at school and did
14 really well academically and my professors really urged me not to just learn political
15 science from the textbook, but to go out and do it. So, one day, I noticed that—it was the
16 Primary election in 1990—and there was a vacancy for the Committee Person on the
17 Republican ballot in my precinct, so I wrote myself in. Got my parents to write me in
18 and on the strength of three write-in votes, I became active in the Adams County
19 Republican Committee. I did a few other things too, such as serve on the County
20 Comprehensive Plan Updates Citizens Advisory Committee. That kind of got me into the
21 role of government and, in particular, what county planning was about.

22

23 **HM:** Well, how did you decide to become a Republican?

1 **SM:** Well, I just registered Republican in 1980. Probably because I was a Ronald
2 Reagan [U.S. President, 1981-1989] fan. Actually, I voted for George Bush [U.S. Vice
3 President, 1981-1989; U.S. President, 1989-1993] in the Primary in 1980, or would have
4 if I were old enough. I'd turned 18 after the Primary in 1980, and, I never really gave it
5 much thought, but one of the questions we were posed at the Mount was, "Why are you
6 Republican?" So, I actually explored it; I went to some meetings that the Democrats had.
7 There was a Young Democrats Club active in Adams County, at the time. It did not take
8 me but one or two meetings in there to hear the way they talked about Reagan and
9 George Bush, the first, to think, "No, the Democrats are not for me, I am Republican."
10 You know, my parents were entrepreneurs and business people and that just suited my
11 personal philosophy better.

12

13 **HM:** You had a nickname, I think, with your first run, your write-in campaign.

14

15 **SM:** Yeah. "Landslide." (*laugh*)

16

17 **HM:** That's really a cute name.

18

19 **SM:** Yeah, yes (*laugh*). That came back around to after my first election to the State
20 House.

21

22 **HM:** Yeah.

23

1 **HM:** Could you describe the aspects of your first campaign to the State House?

2

3 **SM:** Yeah, well I think the interesting thing was that I was recruited to run. It was not
4 my own idea. Darwin Moyer, from the House Republican Campaign Committee, had
5 been for years trying to defeat an incumbent Democrat named Ken Cole [Kenneth J.;
6 State Representative, Adams County, 1975-1992]. He had basically gone through every
7 viable Republican Candidate in the community. I think they were just looking for any
8 candidate at that point and my name kept coming up because I had a political science
9 degree. I had served an internship with Congress. I was a new committee person and the
10 first real election that I ever followed was the 1990 State House race between Ken Cole
11 and John Wolfe, the Republican candidate. So, I actually attended events that John
12 Wolfe had and not as a real participant, more an observer. So, that was my first
13 experience. At the time, January of 1992, I was a graduate student at George Washington
14 University and I was majoring in Science Technology and Public Policy. So, having
15 been a frustrated scientist and done well at politics, I thought here is the perfect
16 opportunity to blend the two. So, I was really heading for a career in the federal science
17 bureaucracy; NASA, Department of Energy or something like that, when Mr. Moyer
18 called me and he asked me, basically, if I would be interested in running for the State
19 House of Representatives. I just completed my first semester at graduate school and
20 started my second and I said, "Well, I am flattered, but no thanks." He was like, "Okay,
21 if you change your mind give me a call." So, I went home to attend an investment club
22 meeting with my father which was in Hanover, about a half-hour away. Darwin had
23 tracked me down through my dad and he was like who was that guy and what did he

1 want. I told him, and so the whole way to Hanover and the whole way home, my dad
2 was harping on me. He said, “You did not give the man a chance, you should have heard
3 what he had to say. This could be the year,” because there was an big anti-incumbent
4 mood then like there is this year. What goes around, comes around, I guess. So, I finally
5 said, “Alright Dad, you’re right. I did not hear what he had to say.” So, I met with him
6 and let him talk me into it. He talked me into running.

7
8 **HM:** Did you enjoy campaigning?

9
10 **SM:** After I got started, yes. It was pretty difficult to knock on that first front door. But,
11 fortunately the reception was pleasant and the next door was okay and the next door was
12 okay. If the first couple people had bitten my head off, I might have run home and hid,
13 but it went very well and I was a fulltime campaigner in the summer of 1992. My parents
14 let me move back in with them for about the third time and supported me while I did that.
15 I got to knock on about 9,000 doors in the district. Got really tan, like I am now, and I
16 did enjoy it. You run into a few that would not want to talk to you or who were nasty;
17 but most of the time, the people were pleasant. As a challenger, it went quickly, because
18 they just want you off their porch. The second time around, when I went door-to-door, it
19 was like walking through quicksand because everybody had something to say at that
20 point.

21

22 **HM:** Was that your main technique, knocking door-to-door, in that first campaign?

23

1 **SM:** Yeah, that was it because I had no money. I'd been in school for the last three
2 years, averaging about 3,000 dollars a year. That was one of the things that talked me
3 into running. That there is a decent salary attached to this job. The other main reason that
4 I ran was that my predecessor was literally abusing the perk system to the point of
5 committing fraud, income tax evasion, and just abusing the system to the point where
6 somebody had to put a stop to it.

7
8 **HM:** You interned for U.S. Representative Bill Goodling [William F.; U.S.
9 Representative, 1975-2000] as well, so you had some experience there?

10

11 **SM:** Yeah, between Mount Saint Mary's and George Washington University that
12 summer of 1991, I served a committee internship with the Education Labor Committee.
13 Congressman Goodling was the ranking member of the minority and I got to summarize a
14 lot of testimony for the Congressman. I sat in hearings; they were re-authoring higher
15 education bills and they were also working on legislation to make the public aware of
16 crimes that were committed on college and university campuses. So, I worked with the
17 folks who had lost a daughter, who was murdered in a college dorm room, on that
18 legislation. So, it was my first real exposure to the legislative process. I liked it so much,
19 I actually applied for work on the committee staff of the Space Science and Technology
20 Committees of both the [U.S.] House and the Senate. There were no openings and I did
21 not really have the credentials at that point, but for that, I might still be down in
22 Washington D.C. So, it was a great experience and the Congressman was great to work
23 for.

1

2 **HM:** Could you comment on the demographic makeup of the 91st District?

3

4 **SM:** Yeah, it's pretty much Caucasian and a fair mix of Protestant and Catholic. It is
5 about four percent Hispanic and only about one and a half percent Black. It is an older
6 county and a lot of young people move away because we do not have real high paying
7 jobs. It is one of the needs that we have in the county is better jobs. We get a lot of
8 young retirees out of Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Northern Virginia that are still
9 close enough to maintain their ties to their former community, but avoid paying income
10 taxes on their pensions.

11

12 **HM:** What about the political ratio?

13

14 **SM:** My district is currently about 53 percent Republican, 40 percent Democrat, and
15 seven percent other.

16

17 **HM:** Some of the geography, could you comment on that?

18

19 **SM:** Well, my district is like the lower half of Adams County. So, if you view the
20 county as a slice of bread, you take off the curved part at the top and I am pretty much a
21 rectangle across the Mason Dixon Line. So, I have the whole Mason Dixon Line in
22 Adams County. In the west, running north from the Maryland line and then curving
23 somewhat to the east, is South Mountain. A lot of fruit is grown on the mountain. Steve

1 Nickol [State Representative, York County, 1991-2006] and I split the fruit growing
2 region of Adams County pretty well. There is the Gettysburg Plateau which is good
3 limestone soil for the most part. Rolling, gentle rolling hills are basically flat and then it
4 gets hilly again in the east toward Hanover; parts of which used to be in my district, but
5 after the census in 2000, were taken out. One unique thing about Adams County is, we
6 have no water that runs into the county; all our streams and rivers originate in the county.
7 So, for water to come to Adams County, it has to fall on us.

8

9 **HM:** You talked about some of the major cities, Gettysburg being one of them.

10

11 **SM:** Gettysburg is the county seat, the big town. The other larger towns I represent are
12 Littlestown, McSherrystown, Fairfield, Carroll Valley, Lawrenceville, and I used to have
13 New Oxford, but that went with re-districting.

14

15 **HM:** Well, what special problems does Gettysburg present?

16

17 **SM:** Well, we have the National Parks Service in Gettysburg. The Gettysburg National
18 Military Park and the National Park Service is both a blessing and a curse. They are a
19 blessing because of the tourism that we get, we receive nearly two million visitors a year
20 and they bring a lot of money and a lot of jobs to the community. The curse is that the
21 National Parks Service does what is in its own best interest and not necessarily in the best
22 interest of the people that have to live with them. One of the hot topics right now is tree
23 cutting. They are restoring historic views. What the soldiers actually saw in terms of

1 orchards and forests. So, they are cutting down a tremendous number of trees and they
2 are also planting a tremendous number of trees, but people are upset when they see huge
3 grooves of trees removed. But, they were not there during the Civil War Battle [July 1-3
4 1863] so, that is one of the impacts they have.

5

6 **HM:** I was recently to Gettysburg and I saw all those signs for the casinos, that is
7 another issue that, I think, is being raised down there?

8

9 **SM:** Yes, there is a group that has proposed to bring a slots parlor to Gettysburg, just
10 east of town. It has really divided the community, probably twice as many people oppose
11 the idea as support it; strong feelings on both sides.

12

13 **HM:** You have a district that is—is it growing in population?

14

15 **SM:** Rapidly, yeah. When I started, we had 73,000 people in the county, and now we are
16 up over 100,000.

17

18 **HM:** Well, how do you stay in contact with your constituents? What is the best way?

19

20 **SM:** I try and use every method of communicating with them, from letters and
21 newsletters to E-mails, to public appearances. You know, in my office, I will answer my
22 own phone. It usually flabbergasts the person calling in, “Is this really you? I cannot
23 believe that you answer your own phone.” You know, so I try to do everything –

1 everything that the Communications Department recommends. I like to try new things
2 because you can fall into a rut and get outpaced by the times.

3

4 **HM:** Do you have a website?

5

6 **SM:** I do, yeah.

7

8 **HM:** You also produced newsletters and questionnaires to distribute to your
9 constituents. How do you use the responses that come back to you?

10

11 **SM:** Well, in nearly every case on a questionnaire question, if there is a clear majority, I
12 use that as the basis of my vote on legislation up here. Sometimes, it can lead me to
13 introduce legislation. One of the hot topics now is illegal immigration and it was not a
14 newsletter question, but I had received so much input about doing something, since the
15 Federal Government does not appear to be interested, that I have co-sponsored and would
16 have introduced some bills, but some others beat me to the introduction.

17

18 **HM:** Could you describe your relationship between yourself and your constituents?

19

20 **SM:** Well, I have always had a good one up until the Primary election, here. You know,
21 the pay raise vote of 2005 caused a number of us to be defeated and I am no different,
22 there. I think the constituents understand that I was working for them, that I had their
23 interests at heart, that I worked really hard, put in the time and tried to reflect their

1 majority views to the best of my ability. I think they like me. A lot of them said, “I
2 voted against you in the Primary, but I did not think you would lose.” So, that has you
3 scratching your head. It is like, well, if you are going to vote against somebody, then
4 they might lose. *(laugh)* No, it has been a great experience representing the people of
5 Adams County and a small portion of Franklin County since re-districting. They are
6 good people and I hope the next Representative does better than I did.

7
8 **HM:** Could you talk about your first impressions coming to Harrisburg; the House
9 Floor, the Chamber?

10

11 **SM:** Oh, my head was just spinning, because I was, you know, I had won a very close
12 election. I only won by 10 votes and we had a recount and it took two weeks to get all
13 the process done and so, it was very high stress level. Then when I came in, we had a
14 hotly contested Leadership Election for, I think it was, for Whip between John Perzel
15 [State Representative, Philadelphia County, 1979-present; Speaker 2003-2006] and Jeff
16 Piccola [Jeffrey; State Representative, Dauphin County, 1977-1995; State Senate, 1995-
17 present]. Had I not been elected, probably Jeff Piccola would be Speaker of the House
18 right now. I voted for John Perzel in that Leadership Election and in the Caucus election,
19 the first ballot was tied. Then they had a re-vote and John Perzel won the second vote.
20 All this was going on and I was getting acclimated and meeting all the new people and I
21 had to setup an office from scratch because my predecessor left me nothing. It was just a
22 blur, a big blur. Plus, as a new guy that really was not expected to win, everybody
23 wanted a piece of me. Everybody wanted to meet me. I was single then, so I had time. I

1 would go morning, noon and night and there were weeks when I did not eat a meal at
2 home, because it was a breakfast meeting, a lunch meeting, a dinner meeting. I look back
3 on it now and I do not know how I did it.

4

5 **HM:** Were there any Members that helped you get started?

6

7 **SM:** Yeah, Pat Fleagle [Patrick; State Representative, Franklin County, 1989-2006] and
8 Steve Nickol, my neighbors to the east and west, and they both have been, and still are,
9 an enormous help and I would not be here without them, without their assistance and
10 guidance. Also, John Perzel has been a great friend and a mentor and, at the time, John
11 Barley [State Representative, Lancaster County, 1985-2002] was a big help. So, yeah
12 they are the ones that, I think, had the most influence on me.

13

14 **HM:** Now that you have been here for several years, have you helped anybody?

15

16 **SM:** I have tried, especially with Rob Kauffman [Robert; State Representative,
17 Cumberland and Franklin Counties, 2005-present] and Mark Keller [State
18 Representative, Franklin and Perry Counties, 2005-present], my Franklin County
19 colleagues. I have tried to help every incoming Member. I think I have written a letter to
20 each freshman, introduced myself, explained my appointments. I serve on the Historical
21 Museum Commission, for example. So, I let them know that if they have a museum
22 problem, you know, let me know. So, you know, I have offered for everybody and try

1 and find what their priority is; and if I can help them with it, then I do. I cannot point to
2 any specific individuals other than Mark and Rob that I have really been a mentor to.

3

4 **HM:** Can you explain the role of camaraderie to intra-caucus, inter-caucus, and
5 individual relationships?

6

7 **SM:** Well, when you come into an organization like this, there is a period of
8 socialization. So, I think first you are socialized into your Caucus and, you know, you
9 meet new people and you make friends and that is very important; that you have a sense
10 of team as a Republican Caucus, because you really need to stick together to get anything
11 accomplished. Then, intra-caucus, you know, we are all members of an institution that is
12 sometimes – it takes a lot of criticism or even unfair criticism, so you are like comrades
13 in the military. You have all been under fire so you share that kind of personal
14 experience. And it is unique, I think, except maybe for Congress, to be in a legislature.

15

16 **HM:** Did you play hockey?

17

18 **SM:** *(laugh)* I did.

19

20 **HM:** With a group, with a group of –?

21

22 **SM:** *(laugh)* You did some good research. Yes, when I had my fudge shop in New Jersey
23 I joined an adult novice hockey league and played one season. So, I had all of the

1 equipment. It sat in my parent's attic until, I think, it was 1995 when a group of
2 Legislators, staffers, and lobbyists formed a team at the Susquehanna Ice House, which is
3 no longer existing. We formed a team called the Statesmen and I played for several
4 years, three or four. Until, I think my third daughter was born, at which point I could not
5 keep up anymore. We actually played in a couple of championship games and won one.
6 So, I had blazing speed and a wickedly accurate shot. *(laugh)*

7
8 **HM:** Good. *(laugh)*

9
10 **SM:** *(laugh)* Just kidding.

11
12 **HM:** Well, how would you say that you worked with both Republican Leadership and
13 Democratic Leadership to resolve legislative issues?

14
15 **SM:** Well, I cannot really say that I worked very much with the Democrats. There is one
16 issue that I did and that was A.C.R.E. (Agriculture Community and Rural Environment)
17 [Act 38 of 2005]. The Governor planned, or had persuaded Art Hershey [Arthur: State
18 Representative, Chester and Lancaster Counties, 1983-2008], Chairman of the
19 Agricultural Committee, to introduce a horrible bill that would have expanded
20 bureaucracy and given the Governor's Office complete control over reviewing the
21 constitutionality of ordinances that affect farming. That would restrict types of farm
22 ownership or the expansion of farms, and it concerned me so much that, I think, for the
23 first time in my career, I called every single member of the House Agriculture and Rural

1 Affairs Committee to alert them, to express my concern including Democrat Members. I
2 had some allies on the Democrats; Rich Grucela [Richard; State Representative,
3 Northampton County, 1999-2010] was one and Rosita Youngblood [State Representative,
4 Philadelphia County, 1995-present] among others. With the help of Jerry Stern [State
5 Representative, Blair County, 1993-present] and Sheila Miller [State Representative,
6 Berks County, 1993-2006] and the staff of the Agricultural Committee, I helped re-write
7 the A.C.R.E. bill. Jerry and I, I think, can claim half each of the revision of the bill that
8 has now been employed. The Attorney General reviews the constitutionality of these
9 ordinances and he has actually referred a couple to Commonwealth Court to have judicial
10 review of them. So, that was the way the process is supposed to be and it was very
11 actualizing and fulfilling to have the process work. You know, have rank-and-file
12 members, like myself, take control of legislation and create a product that is really a good
13 product; to turn something really bad into a great product. So, I am very proud of that.
14 Usually, I just worked within the Caucus, because being in the majority I did not need
15 any Democratic votes. I did not want to pass or attempt to pass something that a majority
16 of Republicans did not want, so I would work with the chairman of the committee, I
17 worked with the majority leader – whoever it was at the time – and was able to get things
18 done that way, and Senator Punt [Terry; State Representative, Franklin County, 1979-
19 1988; State Senator, 1989-2008] my colleague in the Senate and his staff, always looked
20 out for my legislation over there. So, that is how you did it.

21
22 **HM:** Could you comment on the changes in Party Leadership throughout the years?
23 You served one year in the minority and then the rest have been in the majority.

1
2 **SM:** Yeah, my first term we were in the minority and we pretty much had our hat handed
3 to us every time we turned around. I remember stomping off the floor in foul humor
4 quite frequently. In the second year of my first term, two things happened that changed
5 that. First, the court overturned a Senate election in Philadelphia based on election fraud
6 and gave the Republicans the majority in the Senate; and secondly, Governor Casey
7 [Robert P.; Pennsylvania Governor, 1987-1995] became very ill and he had a double
8 organ transplant and Mark Singel [Lieutenant Governor, 1987-1995; Pennsylvania Acting
9 Governor 1993] became Acting Governor. Nothing against Mark, I know him and like
10 him, but he was not the strong leader that Governor Casey was. So, at that point, under
11 Matt Ryan [Matthew J.; State Representative, Delaware County, 1963- 2003; Speaker
12 1981-1983, 1995-2003], John Perzel, and John Barley's leadership, even though we were
13 the minority, we effectively began running the House of Representatives. I think the shoe
14 is on the other foot, today, and then in 1994 when Governor Ridge [Thomas;
15 Pennsylvania Governor, 1995-2001] was elected, we were one seat short of the majority,
16 but our leaders persuaded Tom Stish [Thomas; State Representative, Luzerne County,
17 1989-1996] from Hazelton, to switch Parties and that gave us the majority. From that
18 point on, we have enjoyed the majority ever since. The leadership changes, the death of
19 Matt Ryan was tough. I did not know Matt all that well, even though I served with him
20 for a long time. He was first elected to the House the year I was born. I was about six
21 months old when (*laugh*) he won his first election and I always dealt with John Perzel
22 and John Barley and Don Snyder [Donald W.; State Representative, Lehigh County,
23 1981-2000]. Who else did we have, that are not there, anymore? Well, a number of

1 them, and then when John Perzel became Speaker and Sam Smith [Samuel H.; State
2 Representative, Armstrong, Indiana and Jefferson Counties, 1987-present] Majority
3 Leader, we have worked very closely with them. I cannot say that there is, has been any
4 kind of radical shift in how the place is run under those guys. I think they pretty much
5 handed the ball off to the next, very smoothly.

6

7 **HM:** You have sponsored a lot of legislation each year.

8

9 **SM:** Yes. And the longer I had been here, the more I have sponsored, I think.

10

11 **HM:** What legislation issues do you feel were your most important?

12

13 **SM:** Well, I think the All Felon's DNA Law [Act 185 of 2004] is one that I will look
14 back on for years and be proud of it, because it will help solve crimes; it will help
15 exonerate innocent people, and will help achieve justice for a lot of people. The Minor's
16 Consent to Medical Treatment Act [Act 52 of 1999] was ultimately passed in a Senate
17 bill, but I am going to take the credit for it because I did all of the work. It prevents
18 adolescents between the ages of 14 and 18 from checking out of inpatient voluntary
19 psychiatric care and it was just crazy to allow a troubled teenage to remove themselves
20 from treatment against the wishes of their parents and their physician. So, I think a lot of
21 people will be helped by that legislation that I did. Well, I have actually had 30-couple
22 bills and amendments signed into law and all of them were important to somebody, but I
23 think those that I mentioned are the big ones. That and A.C.R.E.

1

2 **HM:** If you do not mind, I am going to comment on a few others, too. Let me see, we
3 will start with maybe the beginning; 1996, House Bill number 2592 became law [Act 186
4 of 1996], which allowed counties to listen and record phone conversations of inmates at
5 correctional institutions. Why was this necessary?

6

7 **SM:** Well, we had authorized that for state prisons but not county prisons. We had a
8 prison escape in Adams County; they were the “Underwear Bandits,” because they got
9 rid of their orange jumpsuits and got away in their underwear. Then District Attorney
10 Mike George, now Judge George, advocated that counties be allowed the same privilege
11 that the state prisons were allowed.

12

13 **HM:** It makes sense.

14

15 **SM:** Yeah.

16

17 **HM:** (*laugh*) An issue that you tried numerous times to pass was, Pennsylvania voters, by
18 referendum, decide[ing] on having a returnable beverage container act. How difficult are
19 things like this to receive recognition and especially be put on the ballot?

20

21 **SM:** Well, that is a tough issue because we have not had a Governor, during my tenure,
22 that would support it. There is no sense sending the governor a bill that he will veto, but
23 that was introduced on behalf of the farming community. They spend huge amounts of

1 time cleaning cans and bottles out of their fields. Livestock could eat it or it could ruin
2 tractor tires and I think it would pass both Chambers easily but with that veto threat, you
3 know, I have kind of given up on that. (*laugh*)

4

5 **HM:** As you mentioned, you served as a commissioner with the Pennsylvania Historical
6 Museum Commission, from 1993 to 2006. What were your responsibilities as a board
7 member of the Commission?

8

9 **SM:** Well, we oversaw the general policy of the Commission and many of its programs.
10 I was personally involved in the grant program which I helped take from about two
11 million dollars a year up over five million dollars. I have been involved in the Grant
12 Committee of the Commission ever since I got on. Also, I chaired the Historical Marker
13 Committee. So, those blue and gold markers that you see on the streets, they were kind
14 of mine. (*laugh*) My Committee helped do them with the staff of the Commission.

15

16 **HM:** You also had a hand in Heritage Week and Charter Day.

17

18 **SM:** Yes, they are all programs that when they get the original charter from King
19 Charles II [King of England, 1660-1685] to William Penn [Founder of the
20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1644-1718] out. The public can see it and get their
21 photograph taken with it. That is a real tangible piece of Pennsylvania History and it is
22 quite an impressive document, if you have seen it.

23

1 **HM:** You have also gotten additional money for the historical system, historical sites
2 throughout the Commonwealth. I think they are very appreciative of that, as well.
3 Specifically, I was thinking of—there were numerous ones. Can you think of?

4

5 **SM:** Well, under my tenure of the board, we did the Erie Maritime Museum and U.S.
6 Brig Niagara—that is the other new institution that came on during my tenure. There has
7 been huge restoration process at the Ft. Pitt Museum, Old Economy Village, William
8 Penn’s home—I cannot think of the name of it, offhand – but yeah, the Commission has
9 been busy and has done a lot of work. Soon, we are going to redo the State Museum, so
10 we will have a brand new refurbished Pennsylvania State Museum and Archives.

11

12 **HM:** During the 2001-2002 Session, you were able to get legislation passed that
13 provided compensation premiums for rescue workers, rescue volunteers [Act 60 of 2001].
14 Was this a district problem or was it more a state-wide problem?

15

16 **SM:** It was more of a state-wide problem. What would happen was a fire company
17 located in a borough would serve the surrounding townships but the borough would have
18 to foot the cost of the workers comp insurance for the volunteers. It seemed to me to be
19 fair to spread that cost out among the entire service area in the lack of another agreement.
20 So, that legislation was requested by the New Oxford Fire Company and we were able to
21 get that done.

22

1 **HM:** Also during that session, you were able to pass legislation providing appropriations
2 for conservation districts [Act 85 of 2001]. You offered similar legislation in other
3 sessions. Why do you think it passed this year?

4

5 **SM:** Well, it is my experience that it takes about six years to get a bill through the
6 Legislature. The first session you educate the House on it. The second, you educate the
7 Senate on it. Then the third session, everybody looks at each other and says, “Didn’t we
8 already do this? Yes, send it to the Governor.” So, that is it. I bet if you average out the
9 bills, six years is about the average.

10

11 **HM:** I think you are about right. I think I have noticed that theme. (*laugh*)

12

13 **SM:** Yeah.

14

15 **HM:** In 2003, you sponsored legislation that was enacted that helped provide home
16 health care agencies assistance with out-of-state physicians [Act 44 of 2003]. What did
17 this legislation do?

18

19 **SM:** Well, I have so many people that come in from out of state. They move into my
20 district from Maryland or Northern Virginia and they keep in contact with their friends
21 and their doctors and their churches from where they are from. Pennsylvania did not
22 allow an out-of-state physician to order home health care for a Pennsylvania resident. So,
23 we allow them to order everything else. You know, a prescription, outpatient treatment,

1 you name it; everything but home health care, and it just did not make sense. It was a
2 bureaucratic obstacle to my constituency. So, we were able to change the law to allow
3 them to directly write a home health care order.

4

5 **HM:** Also in this session, after numerous attempts – probably in six years – you were
6 able to pass a bill that would require parental consent for tattooing and body piercing for
7 minors [Act 36 of 2004]. What was the basis for this?

8

9 **SM:** That is when an irate mother walked into my district office door whose 14 year old
10 daughter went and got her tongue pierced, then tried to hide that from mom. Apparently,
11 your tongue really swells up when it gets pierced and daughter did not hide it very well.
12 Yes, that one took six years, as well. And it just seemed to me – and my own daughters
13 had their ears pierced at about age five or six, but my wife and I were with them. We
14 consented to it and I just think parents ought to have that say over needles being stuck
15 into or through their children's bodies.

16

17 **HM:** You commented on this already, about the DNA database for the State Police. In
18 your own words why was this necessary?

19

20 **SM:** Well, criminals tend to have a pattern of criminal behavior that changes over time.
21 So, someone who is a violent criminal, today, might be a non-violent one, tomorrow, or
22 vice versa. So, by taking the DNA from all felons and comparing it to data bases of
23 perhaps unsolved crimes, you can identify more perpetrators. You can exonerate

1 innocent people, and basically, those are the goals of the legislation. We are not the first
2 state to do it; there is about 20 or so that also do all felons. Some states are even going to
3 anyone that has been arrested for a felony, not even necessarily convicted. The law looks
4 at your DNA the way it looks at your fingerprint, so you have the same right to privacy as
5 your fingerprint.

6

7 **HM:** Just in this current session, you sponsored legislation calling for a Constitutional
8 Convention [HB 2091 of 2005/2006].

9

10 **SM:** Yeah, that went over like a lead balloon. (*laugh*).

11

12 **HM:** (*laugh*) Yeah.

13

14 **SM:** In the wake of the pay raise, people were clamoring for reform and I had intended
15 to introduce that legislation for municipal purposes. You know, maybe to merge our
16 municipalities or allow them to annex, allow boroughs to annex the growth areas and
17 townships. So, I threw in the – looking at how we are compensated and things like that
18 but, you know, it has not gone anywhere, nor will it.

19

20 **HM:** Another piece of legislation that you sponsored that was just signed into law was
21 providing identification cards for retired enforcement officers and making it easier for
22 out-of-state enforcement officers to get permits to carry guns in Pennsylvania [Act 79 of
23 2005]. Why were these measures needed?

1

2 **SM:** Well, the Federal Government enacted legislation that allows retired police officers
3 to carry concealed weapons anywhere in the country. So, the state needed rules or
4 legislation on who is a qualified retired law enforcement official. So, the department that
5 the officer retired from has to issue the card. So, if the cop was a creep and they let him
6 go because he was no good, they do not have to give him the card. Then, they have to
7 qualify with the weapon from a trained firearms instructor. So, with the id card and the
8 qualification card then under the federal law, you can carry the concealed weapon. And
9 that is important to have trained and qualified individuals out there in the public, in case a
10 terrorist or criminal incident comes up, that they can respond to and they can help deter
11 that kind of crime.

12

13 **HM:** Another issue that you are involved has been in property taxes and before that
14 amusement taxes. How has that specifically affected your district?

15

16 **SM:** Well, about four years ago, we repealed the amusement tax on ski resorts and I have
17 a ski resort, Liberty Mountain Resort in Carroll Valley, that did pay a lot of amusement
18 tax revenue to the borough of Carroll Valley and the Fairfield School District. So, I
19 fought tooth and nail against that repeal, but I lost that battle. So, it hurt Carroll Valley
20 Borough by about 150,000 dollars a year and the school district by about 55,000 dollars a
21 year. You know, that is just revenue wiped out from them and the cost of a lift ticket did
22 not go down.

23

1 **HM:** A very controversial issue that you have been involved with for a number of years
2 has been gay marriage. What can you tell us about the scope of this issue here in
3 Pennsylvania?

4

5 **SM:** Well, I think that most of my constituency is socially conservative and they believe
6 that marriage and the legal benefits of marriage should be reserved to a man and a
7 woman. So, I just carried that issue as far as I could to see that that is how the State law
8 looks at marriages, a heterosexual union.

9

10 **HM:** You even signed on as a plaintiff with Representative, well, former Representative
11 Allan Egolf [C. Allan; State Representative, Cumberland, Franklin and Perry Counties,
12 1993-2004] back in 2004.

13

14 **SM:** Yeah. Yeah, if I had that to do over again, I would not do that because to haul two
15 people in the court, you know, it probably was not needed, necessarily. But at the time, I
16 felt that the issue was going to go before the courts, that if we could get a ruling in our
17 favor on it, then it would be to the benefit of what we are trying to do. But to the two
18 men that got hauled into court, I'm sorry, I would not do it again.

19

20 **HM:** On the lighter side, you sponsored a bill that would have named Atreipus the
21 official state dinosaur [HB 2343 of 2002].

22

23 **SM:** Atreipus. (*laugh*)

1

2 **HM:** Which it never got passed. How did that idea come about?

3

4 **SM:** Well, that came from my wife, when she was a first grade teacher at St. Francis
5 Elementary School.

6

7 **HM:** Okay.

8

9 **SM:** She took her children to the Smithsonian and there was a curator there who talked
10 about dinosaurs and he was advocating that all states adopt an official state dinosaur as a
11 way to get the children involved and stir their imaginations and get them to learn about
12 pre-history and dinosaurs. So, at my wife's urging and her first grade classes urging, I
13 introduced the legislation, which actually received quite a bit of ridicule, (*laugh*) but it
14 did land me on BBC Radio. BBC Radio thought it important enough to interview me and
15 broadcast it around the world, so that was a first.

16

17 **HM:** Well, what would you say is key in your mind to getting legislation passed?

18

19 **SM:** Well, I think you have to have a good idea, first of all. It has got to be an
20 improvement in the law; change for change sake is no good. Usually, the constituents
21 brought me a problem. They saw something in the law that they felt needed to be
22 changed. I would evaluate that using my own mental abilities, such as they are, and then
23 if I decided that they were right, I would pursue it. There is still a lot of bills that I have

1 introduced that I think would be good ideas that have not gotten done and perhaps never
2 will be, but that is the important thing; It has to make the law better and not just shift
3 things around. Then, you need to convince others that you are right and that is where
4 advocacy, persuasion, logic, and log rolling and all the techniques that we have come into
5 play. You need the support of your committee chairman and the Majority Leader to get
6 your bill through to the calendar.

7

8 **HM:** Well, since you will be leaving at the end of this session, is there any legislation
9 that you would like to see pass before you leave?

10

11 **SM:** Well, I have a couple bills that I would term minor that I hope can get through yet
12 this session. One thing that I will have to leave to a future session is the involuntary
13 commitment of the mentally ill [HB 433 of 2005]. We have a standard that for someone
14 to be involuntarily committed, they have to be in immediate danger to themselves or
15 others. The law does not take into account the harm that they do to themselves when they
16 are not quite that dangerous. Schizophrenics or manic depressants are the two types that
17 have this problem. They will go off their medicine either because, when they are
18 medicated and they feel well and do not think they need their medicine which is a
19 symptom of the disease, or there is a side effect of the medication that they do not like.
20 So, they go off their medication and they start to go into decline and their family, friends,
21 loved ones all see it and recognize it and have to stand there and watch it because the law
22 cannot intervene until they become so sick that they are an immediate danger to
23 themselves or others. Our Mental Health Procedures Law allows for partial

1 hospitalization and outpatient commitment, but it is never used because under that
2 standard, people are too sick for outpatient treatment. So, I would like to see – like, New
3 York has a law called Kendra’s Law,¹ Florida has one, also named after someone who
4 was killed by a mentally ill person. We need to go in that direction. We need to step in
5 sooner, before these people trash their apartments, wreck their cars, lose their jobs, and
6 deplete their bank accounts, which happens over and over again. Since sponsoring this
7 legislation for a number of terms, I have heard horror stories from all over the state.
8 Frustrated parents, or spouses, or children, “I cannot get my,” you know, “loved one
9 help.” I think the law needs to step in sooner and I hope that is something we can get
10 done in the future.

11
12 **HM:** Well, how frustrating is it for you, whenever you see a cause like this and it does
13 not get the attention that it deserves?

14
15 **SM:** It is very frustrating, because I have Chairman O’Brien [Dennis M.; State
16 Representative, Philadelphia county, 1977-1980, 1983-present; Speaker 2007-2008] in
17 my corner in the Judiciary Committee to do this, but he ran it by Secretary Richman
18 [Estelle; Secretary of Public Welfare, 2003-present] and she just, out of hand, said nope,
19 because there are people in Philadelphia, consumer advocates for the mentally ill
20 services, that think that it is not needed. But the kind of patient that is a member of the
21 consumer’s group is the kind that stays on their medicine; they are not the kind that goes
22 off their medicine. So, Secretary Richman is listening to the wrong people and the
23 Governor would veto it if we presented it to him on her recommendation. So, we will

¹ Kendra’s Law is a New York State law concerning involuntary outpatient mental health treatment.

1 have to wait till the next Secretary of Public Welfare is in and hopefully he or she will be
2 more receptive. I finally got the psychologists and psychiatrists to agree because they
3 were very divided on the effect of something like Kendra's Law, here in Pennsylvania,
4 but this session, the Psychological Association agreed to support the legislation. So, I
5 thought was a major step in the right direction because they never were on board before.
6 So, maybe the Swann Administration² will be more receptive. (*laugh*)

7

8 **HM:** Well, I have noticed that you have had a lot of amendments that were passed, too.
9 So, can you tell me what role the amendment process plays in getting legislation enacted?

10

11 **SM:** Well, sometimes you have a chairman that just will not move your bill for a
12 personal reason. He does not like it—he or she does not like it – so, that gives you an
13 opportunity to get your idea aired out on the House Floor. Sometimes it is just faster
14 even if everybody is for your idea. If you have a Senate bill in the House and you can put
15 the amendment on and let the Senate concur, it is so much quicker than, you know, going
16 through three days reading in both Chambers and all the back and forth that it takes. It is
17 both a faster process and one that can get you around some road blocks.

18

19 **HM:** You have served on numerous committees. Do you have a favorite?

20

21 **SM:** I would have to say Judiciary is my favorite. I am not a lawyer, although I soon
22 will be. I got started in 1994 under Chairman Jeff Piccola and Governor Ridge's Special
23 Session on Crime. I just enjoyed that committee. It is very active. It meets almost every

² Lynn Swann is the Republican candidate for the Governor of Pennsylvania for the 2008 General Election.

1 week and about 40 percent of the legislation that goes through the House of
2 Representatives goes through the Judiciary Committee. I have had a lot of success in that
3 committee.

4

5 **HM:** I think, looking at the legislation that you have introduced, would you say that your
6 issues are reflective of the committees on which you served?

7

8 **SM:** By-and-large, I would say so. I have been very active in Judiciary and also in
9 agriculture and in health care. I have gravitated towards those committees.

10

11 **HM:** Yeah, I was not sure if your interests drove your committee placement or if your
12 involvement in the committees drove your legislation?

13

14 **SM:** Well, in terms of – I currently serve on Health and Human Services and Aging, in
15 addition to Agriculture and Judiciary. I ended up on Health and Human Services and
16 Aging because I saw that those were the issues coming to me from my constituency. You
17 have more say, I think, being on the committee, not that you cannot get the bill through
18 another committee. I have Transportation and others but – so, I picked Agriculture,
19 initially, because I defeated the chairman, the Majority Chairman of the Agricultural
20 Committee. Agriculture is the largest industry in my county and I have enjoyed that
21 immensely. I enjoy working for the farmers, with them I have learned so much about
22 agriculture. When the apple and peach trees are in bloom, I lie awake at night worrying
23 about frost. I mean they have me brainwashed (*laugh*) – and Judiciary; I just like. It is

1 just something that I like. I have served on other committees. I served on Tourism,
2 which is important to Gettysburg also, but I had a young family and the Tourism
3 Committee travels a lot and so, I decided to get off that Committee just because I could
4 not go on many of the trips that they went on. I served on Professional Licensure and
5 that was a bunch of turf battles, groups wanting to be licensed, because a license would
6 freeze out other groups and the chairman did a great job kind of managing that, but I
7 decided that that it was not for me. I do not think that I have been on any others so, just
8 on and off with Tourism and Professional Licensure.

9

10 **HM:** What would you say were the issues in, the hardest issues that you have
11 encountered in your committees?

12

13 **SM:** Well, I do not think that my committees have had the hardest issues. I think that tax
14 reform and education reform are the toughest issues and I am not on finance or education.
15 Obviously, there are problems we have not solved, nor do I think that we are going to
16 solve them anytime soon. I think on our committees, especially the bigger ones, Health
17 and Human Services and Judiciary, when we set our minds to doing something, we were
18 able to get it done. At least something – an improvement of some kind.

19

20 **HM:** Do you recall how the House or you personally dealt with major events that
21 affected the way that Pennsylvanians lived. Perhaps wars or floods, 9/11 [September 11,
22 2001]?

23

1 **SM:** Well, 9/11 was a big shock. I was in the Conewago Valley Schools giving my
2 usual talk about what a State Representative does to, I think, eighth graders when they
3 said that a jet had hit the World Trade Center. So, we were watching kind of the fire
4 when the second one hit and it just stunned us all. It really changed Harrisburg, in terms
5 of our security and the little badges that we have to use to get in and out, the Capitol
6 Police and Governor Ridge resigning as Governor to become the Secretary of Homeland
7 Security³. I remember when Ridge gave his farewell address to a Joint Session of the
8 House and Senate, I was seated on the House floor and I could hear the roar of the
9 National Guard Airplanes outside thinking, “Boy, the terrorists could make a real
10 statement here today (*laugh*), if they could pull it off.” So, it is probably the only time
11 that I was scared to be a Legislator, that day when Governor Ridge left. You know, we
12 are still feeling the effects of that because we have had our freedom given up a little bit,
13 in the name of security. Like police officers, retired officers, carrying concealed
14 weapons, you know? It never would have come up but for that.

15
16 **HM:** Okay.

17
18 **SM:** So, that has really changed us. I think that we are going to have an energy crisis or
19 we are in the midst of one right now with fuel prices. That is going to, in the end, make
20 us greener, you know, more fuel efficient. I have introduced, in support of bills for green
21 technology and fuel efficiency in the past, and you know, whenever there is a crisis, you
22 know, we are kind of a reactive body, so hopefully some of those things will be
23 accomplished.

³ Department that oversees the broad national effort to protect the United States from internal and external hazards.

1

2 **HM:** How do you think that the House has changed since the time that you started?

3

4 **SM:** Well, I'd have to say that this Session has not been fun and it had always been fun
5 before. There is a mood out there among the public. There is a lot of nastiness and I hate
6 the way that the press and some of the public just tear the Institution down. One of the
7 Legislatures critics said that those guys, meaning Legislators, would take the rings off a
8 dead Pope's fingers, if they were not constantly watched. Who wants to be part of an
9 organization that is characterized like that? You know that is just wrong. All the people
10 here – you get a bad apple every now and then – but the people here are good people,
11 respected in their communities; they are here to do their best to make their community
12 and their state a better place to live and I think that we need or deserve a little more
13 respect and a little more deference especially from the media. When we live and work in
14 this world and we give our professional lives to thinking about how we can make
15 everything better for everybody, to just be beaten on like that from critics and by the
16 press is wrong; it is just wrong.

17

18 **HM:** What would you say your relationship was like with the media, both before and
19 after?

20

21 **SM:** It has always been good with the Gettysburg media. The *Gettysburg Times* and the
22 WGET radio station have always been very good to me. I have always had a horrible
23 relationship with the Hanover paper, the *Hanover Evening Sun*. They have always been

1 after me. Since going into Franklin County, the *Chambersburg Public Opinion*, their
2 editor, is so negative toward the Legislature. For the most part, the Gettysburg media is
3 the main one that covers me and I have had a great relationship with nearly everybody
4 that works in print, radio, and media. Also, I have had a good relationship with Adams
5 Community TV and my friends here at House Republican Video. They got to see my
6 wall down in the district office where I did a monthly program for a long time. Kind-of
7 let that slip here, lately, but I would interview a cabinet Secretary or one of my leaders or
8 something, and do a monthly program and they would air it. They would air the heck out
9 of them. You know, my town meetings – they would come down and tape my town
10 meetings and then it would be on four times a week for a month. So, that was good.
11 Harrisburg media ignored me for a long time, until about this session and, I wonder why
12 – what issue had they got onto then, but – like the *Patriot* writers have been fair, I think.
13 The one that writes for the Hanover paper, you know, he is always looking to tear you
14 down, I think.

15
16 **HM:** What roll do you think technology played in your role as a Legislator?

17
18 **SM:** Well, I go back to before I even had a pager. (*laugh*) Then when my wife was
19 pregnant, I had a pager and now I have the Treo⁴ and I have to watch that I am not
20 reading my E-mail as I am driving down the highway, which is not recommended. You
21 are so much more in touch and – I forget what the issue was, but – we had an issue that
22 we had to vote on in a relatively short period of time up here. I was able to E-mail about
23 half the people in my address book in just a short period of time and kind of get the pulse

⁴Treo is a line of [smartphones](#) manufactured by Palm, Inc.

1 of what they thought of this and that was interesting, because a lot of people got back to
2 me in a short period of time and had an opinion or an argument, one way or the other,
3 that helped influence how I was going to vote on that issue. We are just so in touch now,
4 you know, electronically and digitally. That has radically changed over my tenure here.

5

6 **HM:** It sounds like you think it is a good idea.

7

8 **SM:** It is a blessing and a curse; I used to be able to not be reached (*laugh*) and now you
9 can be reached all of the time. You know, if I fail to answer my phone, it is usually my
10 wife calling, but then I catch heck for it. There is times when that hour drive from
11 Gettysburg to Harrisburg was the most peaceful part of my day and I looked forward to
12 it. It is kind of gone now. But, in terms of providing service and getting things done,
13 yeah, it is very helpful.

14

15 **HM:** How have laptops on the House Floor helped you?

16

17 **SM:** Well, it has sped up the process, because we do not have to stand by and wait for
18 things to be printed and an hour to read it. My first term of doing the Budget, we were
19 here all night long, overnight. You know, you would see the sun come up through the
20 east stained glass windows on the House Floor and now, you just hit the button, hit
21 rolling session, everything comes up. So, it saved a lot of trees and saved a lot of time.
22 Even though I was just behind the computer age in school, you know I am savvy enough.
23 I keep up with it, I think.

1

2 **HM:** What would you say that your relationship was like with lobbyists?

3

4 **SM:** I pretty much kept them at arms length because I did not want to be perceived as
5 somebody that you know was really was a suck-up to the lobbyists. My predecessor, at
6 least the year I ran against him, received 98 percent of his funding from special interest
7 groups. I always tried to keep mine below 40 percent and usually exceeded that at 30 or
8 25 percent. There are a couple that I became friends with, George Stark from Columbia
9 Gas. He is Darwin Moyer's son-in-law and Darwin is the man that recruited me to run
10 so, I consider him a friend, though he happens to be a lobbyist. Gary Morrison, who
11 recently retired from National Fuels – which is not in my area, it is up in the northwestern
12 part of the state – but, he moved into my district and so he would come around and see
13 me up until his retirement and I consider him a friend. By-and-large, I just tried to keep
14 them at arms length, use them for what they know, try to be aware that they are spinning
15 their issues, you know, when they are in front of you and to look a little deeper than just
16 what they tell you. I never ran across one that I felt was a bad person or dishonest or
17 trying to twist my arm or anything.

18

19 **HM:** What, in your opinion, are the obstacles that make it difficult to bring about change
20 in the Legislature?

21

22 **SM:** What kind of change do you mean?

23

1 **HM:** Institutional, mainly.

2

3 **SM:** Well, I think as a social institution, the people of Pennsylvania are conservative and
4 conservatives do not like radical change; they like incremental change, so you have to
5 take it one step at a time. I think there is a lot of habit, a lot of custom, a lot of tradition
6 that you do not want to completely obliterate as you move forward here in the 21st
7 century; some people just like things the way they are. (*laugh*)

8

9 **HM:** Could you describe your first office when you came to Harrisburg?

10

11 **SM:** Up here in Harrisburg? Yes, I was in 431 South Office and it is in the fourth floor
12 of the now Irvis Office Building - pretty far away from the House Floor. In fact, I
13 currently occupy the office furthest from the House Floor in the Capitol Complex. The
14 protestors cannot find me there, you know, they go through the East Wing pretty easily. I
15 shared it with Marty Laub [Martin; State Representative, Montgomery County, 1993-
16 1994] and it was a smoking office. I do not smoke, personally, but my secretary, Marty's
17 secretary, and Marty all smoked, so I was glad when they banned smoking in our state
18 offices. It had a nice view of Strawberry Square, so it would get the afternoon sun.
19 Plants did well in there and I was not here very much. My early days, I did a lot of
20 constituent service directly, myself. I had one staff person, so being a freshman in the
21 minority, I did not need to be here. So, I was building those contacts back home.

22

23 **HM:** Did you always have a district office?

1

2 **SM:** Yeah, it opened on February 1, 1993 at 146 Chambersburg Street in Gettysburg. I
3 had hired my first aid, Sharon Price, and she came in about 8:30 in the morning. I gave
4 her a set of keys. It was like a vacant apartment and I said furniture will be arriving
5 today, good luck and I came to Harrisburg for Session. So, talk about throwing her to the
6 wolves. She did a great job for me. She worked for me for over 10 years and she left for
7 a better position with South Central Community Action Program and was probably in
8 line to be the Executive Director of that agency but sadly, she suffered a pulmonary
9 embolism and passed away.

10

11 **HM:** How have your offices changed through the years?

12

13 **SM:** I hopped around the Irvis Office Building on the fourth floor and I have the big
14 office at the end of the hall with the private bathroom. I mean, it is the best office in the
15 Irvis Office Building, I think. Other than getting a little bigger and having like a
16 conference area, they have not really changed except that I spend more time in
17 Harrisburg. The longer I have been here, the more legislative focus I have had as
18 opposed to constituent service. I handed that off to my staff, basically, and spent more
19 time here. In Gettysburg, I stayed in that first location for six years and then I moved to
20 my current location at 33 West Middle Street. I have three staff people. I used to have
21 summer interns, but when the caucus quit paying them, they became hard to find and they
22 were not worth much as volunteers. I have had some great interns over the years, back
23 when we did pay them. Two or three are in the Foreign Services, you know, they were

1 good kids. I have had, I guess, seven or eight district office staff people turn over
2 through the years. One, Holly, was pirated away by Congressman Todd Platts [State
3 Representative, 1993-2000; U.S. Representative, 2001-present] when he took over for
4 Congressman Goodling. He came and stole her. Currently, I have Larry Miller, who has
5 been with me for 11 years, and Chris Kemple, who has been with me about three, and
6 Georgie Wetmoore, who used to work for Congressman Goodling, went and had twin
7 boys and then came back to work. She has been with me not quite a year yet.

8

9 **HM:** Did you ever think about running for another office?

10

11 **SM:** Yeah, I had actually planned to run for the State Senate in 2008. My State Senator,
12 Terry Punt, is in poor health, likely to retire although that is not certain. I was kind-of
13 planning that he would retire and I would attempt to jump over to the Senate. It would
14 have been difficult because Franklin County is the bulk of the district. It is about 55
15 percent of the Senate district and Adams County is about 40 percent and part of West
16 Central York County is about five or six percent of the district. So, a Franklin County
17 candidate has the upper hand. Representing a piece of Franklin County now, I have made
18 a lot of contacts and done a lot of work for Franklin County and thought that I had a
19 chance, but, you know, the Primary put an end to that. You know how to make God
20 laugh, right? Tell Him your plans. *(laugh)*

21

22 **HM:** What aspect of your job as a House Member do you like the most?

23

1 **SM:** I like helping people and we have had some real unique cases that we've
2 significantly helped people. There was a young boy, back in the early days, who lost his
3 feet to a lawn mower accident and this was in the newspaper, and you thought, how
4 terrible. Months later, the parents called in and here, this five year old boy is growing
5 fast and he needs prosthetic feet, a new set every six months and they are thousands of
6 dollars a set and Sharon, my aid, actually found a way to get his feet paid for. So, that
7 youngster is now a high school senior, playing soccer on prosthetic feet. Another case
8 that was really bizarre – well, I guess I will not go into that one. One time, an elderly
9 woman called into the office and said that she had ghosts in her apartment. They were
10 not bothering her but she just thought that I would like to know that she had ghosts. So, I
11 said, “Okay, thank you for letting me know,” and talked it over with my staff and they
12 knew who the daughter of this woman was. So, they called the daughter to check on
13 mom and here mom was not taking medication that needed to be taking. Who knows
14 what was adverted there. A guy called in one day and wanted to know if it was legal for
15 him to raise African pigmy hedgehogs in Pennsylvania. It took us a long time to find that
16 it is in the game code and the answer is No; you cannot propagate non-native species in
17 Pennsylvania. So, he went down to Thurmont, Maryland, and raised his hedgehogs.

18

19 **HM:** *(laugh)*

20

21 **SM:** So, helping people is really, really big. It is always great when you have a bill or
22 amendment signed into law because that is kind of what we exist to do. To change the
23 law, but it is so hard. Very difficult to change the law and I think I have been rather

1 successful, over the years. One of the neat things about being a Legislator is that you are
2 “in the know” about a lot of stuff that is in the early stages or has to be kept quiet. So,
3 that is kind of exciting. It is like being privy to secrets and I will kind of miss that. I
4 won’t have the early warning when things come up anymore.

5

6 **HM:** What aspect do you think you liked the least?

7

8 **SM:** Getting beaten on by the press and the public for what I think are illegitimate
9 reasons and raising funds. I mean, to campaign and raise money, go around with your
10 hand out all of the time. Then you get solicited to raise funds for other organizations.
11 You know, I have done the Bowling for Kids Sake and the Behind Bars for Good,
12 Daffodils Days and all those things. So, not only am I soliciting for my own campaign,
13 but I’m soliciting for the Boy Scouts and all those other things and I will be glad to stop
14 that.

15

16 **HM:** What would you say your fondest memory is of serving in the House?

17

18 **SM:** I would have to say, looking back, it would be sitting with Dick Waybright, former
19 Adams County Commissioner and dairy farmer, and Governor Ridge and having my first
20 bill signed into law that helped preserve farmland all across the state for agricultural
21 conservation. It has really added up to a lot of acres preserved so just the sense of
22 accomplishment and pride that I could take an idea from a constituent and get it through

1 the process and sit there with the Governor and my friend, Dick Waybright. You know, I
2 have a cherished photograph of that on the wall back home.

3

4 **HM:** Do you have any amusing stories you would like to share?

5

6 **SM:** (*laugh*) Well, I guess there is the day I got chewed out by Matt Ryan, or almost; we
7 were having a memorial service for a deceased member – I think it was for Herm
8 Mihalich [Herman; Westmoreland County, 1991-1997] a Democrat - he had died while in
9 office and we had a memorial service and I had an amendment to a bill that had to be
10 filed by two o'clock, and it is this memorial service and it's going on and on. It's twenty
11 till two, it's quarter till two, it's ten till two and I am thinking, my goodness, what do I
12 got to do. I have to have this amendment in by two o'clock. So, I got out of my seat,
13 walked to the back of the chamber, walked around the back, down the side aisle to the
14 amendment clerk and handed her my amendment and she would not touch it. Her eyes
15 got real big and she looked at me and I walked back to my seat the same way. And I sat
16 down and Pat Fleagle [Patrick; Franklin County, 1989-2006] leaned over and said, "Matt
17 Ryan did not take his eyes off of you the whole time you were standing." I am like, "Oh
18 crud!" (*laugh*) So, the memorial service ends, the Speaker announces that due to the
19 length of the service the time for filing amendments will be extended and then Roger
20 Nick comes to me and said, "The Speaker would like to see you up on the rostrum."
21 (*laugh*) So, I had hardly ever conversed with Matt Ryan before and had heard that he has
22 an Irish temper. So, it was quite a terrifying trek up to the rostrum. He had his arms
23 crossed and he looked at me and he said, "Were you filing an amendment because you

1 thought the deadline was up?” I said. “Yeah”, he said, “Alright,” and that was it. (laugh)
2 I got out of there without my butt being chewed off. So, that was one. The only times I
3 got in trouble in the Legislature was when I did not ask anybody for advice. Had I leaned
4 over and said, “Hey Pat, do you think I should file this amendment?” he would have just
5 said, “No, just wait,” but I did not ask and that’s when you get into trouble.

6

7 **HM:** Yeah. (laugh) What would you say the hardest issue you encountered as a
8 Representative was?

9

10 **SM:** The hardest issue has got to be this school/property tax reform issue because I just –
11 I am convinced, now, that there is no solution. That we are going to be stuck with the
12 system that we have forever and nobody will ever be happy with it. It is. The state is just
13 too diverse for a one size fits all solution. To change it is going to be too radical to
14 accept, you know. If we could have solved it, we would have solved it by now. That is
15 what I tell people at home. So, we have to attack it in other ways and I think there are
16 other ways we can ameliorate it.

17

18 **HM:** How would you like to be remembered?

19

20 **SM:** Well, as somebody that tried to do the job the way it is supposed to be done, to the
21 best of their ability. I would like—I hope it does not happen, but – I would like, decades
22 from now, people to say Steve Maitland was the best State Representative this district
23 ever had. In reality, I hope the next one is better and the next one is better than that, but.

1

2 **HM:** Upon retirement, what are your plans?

3

4 **SM:** Well, I am in my final semester of law school. I had undertaken law school to
5 become a better Legislator and in the case the unthinkable would happen, I'd have a skill
6 to fall back on. Plan B has now become plan A, so I will graduate from Weidner
7 University of Law, here in December, Lord willing. Take the bar exam in February and
8 hopefully, find a lucrative career in the practice of law.

9

10 **HM:** Will you remain active in politics?

11

12 **SM:** I am going to try. I am trying not to be angry over being defeated in the Primary,
13 but every now and then, especially when driving, I think about it and think this is just
14 wrong. That I was defeated because of the pay raise when it is well deserved. The
15 compensation is not commensurate with the responsibilities. The people that were angry
16 about it are, just do not know. I do not want to say they are ignorant, but they are
17 ignorant of the circumstances of what we do. What we put up with, the five to seven
18 hundred hours of overtime we work every year. So, I am trying to not be angry and stay
19 active as a committeeman with the Adams County Republican Committee, but I have to
20 go into the room where I know a good third to half the people basically stabbed me in the
21 back in the Primary. They went out and recruited my opponent and they, you know, just,
22 helped him with his campaign. And these are people that I worked for, busted my tail for
23 for years but, I think, I will be able to do it. I think I will.

1

2 **HM:** Would you like to offer any advice to new Members?

3

4 **SM:** Well you are only as good as your last vote, (*laugh*) so do not stick your neck out
5 too far; it is not worth it. But, my advice is to get out and see your district and the state as
6 much as you can. That is something that I have immensely enjoyed. It is amazing; the
7 industry and the talent and the skill of the people of Adams County and Pennsylvania. It
8 is amazing what is in your own back yard and you do not know it. I have the world's
9 largest horse farm in my district. I have the state's largest dairy farm and, you know, an
10 elevator factory where they just bought a six million dollar steel laser cutter. I said on my
11 tour how can you lie awake at night pulling the trigger on a six million dollar piece of
12 equipment and they said, well, that is what you have to do to stay competitive in the
13 industry. So, there is a lot out there to see and to appreciate, so take advantage of it.

14

15 **HM:** Okay, well this concludes our interview today. Thank you very much for taking
16 time out of your schedule to be with us.

17

18 **SM:** You are welcome.

19

20 **HM:** Thank you.