

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
NEW ENGLAND  
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100,  
BOSTON, MA. 02114-2023

DATE: December 15, 2003 (Memo to File)  
FROM: James E. Israel, Investigator  
Search & Cost Recovery Section  
TO: File  
SUBJ.: Richard Sousa (Interview) SSID #  
(Wells G & H)

MEMORANDUM

ENFORCEMENT CONFIDENTIAL  
ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Person Interviewed: Richard P. Sousa  
1 Fairfax Street  
Burlington, NA 01803  
(H) 781.272.9279

On Monday, November 24, 2003, I traveled to Burlington, Massachusetts to meet with the above-named individual. Upon arrival, I was greeted at the door by a female that introduced herself as the wife of Mr. Richard Sousa. I advised her as to whom I was and why I was there. She invited me in and led me to the dining area. Mrs. Sousa was aware of the reason for my visit and felt very strongly that she and I should talk, which we did, before I began dialog with her husband.

Mr. Sousa entered the dining area shortly afterwards. I rose, presented my identification to him and in turn, he introduced himself to me. Mrs. Sousa left the room and Mr. Sousa and I sat and then began to have conversation. Mr. Sousa advised me of his medical condition and what he has gone through so far but felt that the worst was over and he was well on the road to recovery. I advised Mr. Sousa of my reason for being there and what I was looking to

accomplish by my visit with him. He was very cooperative and straight forward. Mr. Sousa advised me of the following:

1. Mr. Sousa worked at Whitney Barrel at 256 Salem Street, Woburn, MA from 1969 until 1976.

2. He performed many functions while there. He was a truck driver, a barrel painter, a barrel washer and he did any other job that needed to be done.

3. His main job was that of the Whitney Barrel Company truck operator. His duty was to pick up and deliver barrels for the company. The truck could carry as many as 150 barrels per load.

4. Whitney Barrel Company usually employed at least five employees but during the summer, extra help was hired.

5. Some of the other Whitney Barrel Company employees were: Bill Leather (deceased), Tom Clark (deceased), Joey "Pudgy" Capaldo, Ronald Knight, Charlie Scott (deceased), John Camerlengo, Ross McKeane, and Anthony Carchide.

6. The Whitney Barrel Company was in the business of collecting, cleaning, refurbishing, recycling and selling used barrels and sometimes two-, three- and ten-thousand gallon tanks. The business was located at 256 Salem Street, Woburn, MA.

7. Whitney Barrel Company picked up barrels for refurbishing and recycling from George Mann and Company of Stoneham, Woburn Barrel of Woburn, Poly Chemical/Poly Vinyl of Eames Street, Wilmington, MA, E. C. Whitney Barrel Company, Tabby Cat Food Company, Gillette Company, Cabot Paint, Pinnacle Tannery of New Hampshire, and Baird and McGuire Company of Bridgewater, MA.. All barrels picked up from the above locations were taken to Whitney Barrel Company and put through the refurbishing/recycling process.

8. Whitney Barrel Company also traded barrels with other companies, depending upon the needs of the different companies. Some of the barrel companies involved in the trading were: Roach Brothers Barrel Company of Lowell, MA., Woburn Barrel Company of North Woburn, MA., E. C. Whitney Barrel Company of Wilmington, MA., and Kingston Steel of Plaistow, New Hampshire.

9. **Gillette Company**: These drums picked up from Gillette were "primo drums." They

were cleaner and in better condition than drums from other companies. They were not all banged up. The drums came from the Gillette located on Ballardvale Road in Wilmington/Andover area and were taken to the Whitney Barrel Company for recycling. These drums were usually black, blue, and green. Most of them were black with a white cover, and some were black with an orange cover. These barrels contained residues from peanut oil and perfumes. These drums were processed at the Whitney Barrel Company.

10. **George Mann & Company:** The drums from this company were brought to Whitney Barrel Company for recycling. The George Mann Company handled a lot of chemicals. There were always chemical residues left in these barrels. These drums were put through the cleaning process at Whitney Barrel Company. Every drum that came in had some residue in them from the business. Some of these drums had stenciled markings but not all of them. He did not recall the exact markings.

11. **Poly Chemical Company:** The drums from this location were brought to the Whitney Barrel Company for recycling. The residues from these drums, when dumped, would turn the water in the cleaning cycle green. These drums had markings on them but he does not remember what markings. He did not recall any particular odor from these drums, just smelled like chemicals.

12. **Baird and McGuire Company:** He picked up approximately 150 drums monthly from this company and brought them back to Whitney Barrel Company for recycling. These drums had lots of Malathion residues in them, every single drum. Whitney Barrel Company trucks went down to Bridgewater to pick up these barrels. This residue was some very nasty stuff, you couldn't let it get on your skin. This residue, when cleaned from the barrels, would turn the entire process water yellow. All of the process water went down the 5-foot drain in the middle of the floor and out to the sewer. There was a "joke" around Whitney Barrel Company that "most of the chemicals were under the building." It was said as a joke but it was true.

13. **Catania Spagna - Somerville:** Delivered their own barrels to Whitney Barrel Company using their own trucks. These barrels had an oil residue in each of them. The barrels would be brought into the building and the residues would be dumped on the floor to go down the drain. You didn't have to take the barrels down to the river to dump the residue, the drain from the building ran down to the river.

14. **Ed Bowley's Junk Yard - Tewksbury:** This is where the bad barrels, junk barrels, barrels that could not be refurbished, were taken. They were taken to be shredded. The barrels and whatever residue inside was taken to this location.

15. Drums with residues inside would come in, the covers went one way and the rings went another. The contents of the drums would be dumped in the hole in the floor. The hole was four to five feet in diameter and about five feet deep with a grate over it. The grate was "messed" up once and an employee fell into the hole. Could not remember the name of the employee. It was said that the drain ran out to the sewer but "stuff" still leached out to the Aberjona River.

16. Once a tanker (Roy Brothers/Billerica) came to Whitney Barrel Company location, it contained a big load (do not know what) but the load was dumped down the sewer man hole out back. It flooded the sewer and ran off into the river. The truck was loaded with a white, milky substance. . He could not recall the date this occurred, but the article was in the Woburn Times newspaper.

17. Cabot Paint Company delivered more drums to Whitney Barrel Company than Whitney Barrel truck picked up from them. Cabot Paint drums were recycled/refurbished at the Whitney Barrel Company.