

VOICES OF 1968
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

University of Delaware Library, Museums & Press

TIMESTAMP DOCUMENTATION

Notes from Leo and Judy Reynolds Tammi interview

Interview Date: April 4, 2018

Interview Location: One-Button Studio, Morris Library, University of Delaware

Interviewer: L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin

Note taker: John Caldwell

Time (H/M/S) Topic/Notes

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 00:00:05 | Introduction with names and location of interviewers and interviewees |
| 00:00:35 | Preface from Leo Tammi, level of violence supporting bigotry, racism, warmongering; need to be comfortable with the level of discomfort in being an activist, non-violent action brings violence on to you |
| 0:01:30 | Formation of SDS at the University of Delaware, holding public discussions with SDS membership, presence of anti-radical “impersonators” within SDS |
| 00:03:35 | Talking about the further activities of SDS after 1968 and into 1969, including people looking for weapons to defend themselves and police trying to trap Tammi with an illegal weapons deal |
| 00:06:10 | Tammi Egg Farm (20 acre poultry farm), growing up the child of left-leaning Finnish immigrants; speaking Finnish at home; father active in 1948 Henry Wallace platform; father trying to start co-op for feed mill with other local farmers; target for surveillance in the 1940s and 1950s; mother intimidated on a train from Florida to Delaware; children well aware of parents’ beliefs and incidents |
| 00:09:50 | Formation of his own beliefs, growing up on Otts Chapel Road, where there were “more black than white”; played with all the kids in the neighborhood; aware of busing and school segregation; fights when black students started taking the bus to integrated schools; “always have the opportunity to stand up and speak out” |
| 00:12:15 | George Wolkind, teaching Tammi to box |

- 00:12:45 Graduated from Christiana High School in 1965; information about his time at UD; studies sacrificed for “taking a stand;” became involved in activism; graduated from UD in 1969, was expelled from the University—Dean of Men gave him a letter on graduation day saying he was not welcome on campus; even though it was overturned shortly thereafter, left negative feelings
- 00:14:55 Jeff Steen (sp?), anti-ROTC campaign and the “March on” to disrupt drill practice; “Plead guilty” petition and short-term expulsion (Tammi signed, did not walk on); some faculty okay with missed classes
- 00:17:30 Photography career; Tammi got into photography as a child, self-taught; *The Heterodoxical Voice* provided a platform for photography; also took photos of high school sports (his alma mater) to hone skills, continued while he was a student at UD, worked with Dicky Howell, sports writer
- 00:19:30 Gardening and farming
- 00:20:20 How Judy and Leo got to know each other – she delivered mail
- 00:21:08 *Newark Weekly* columnist who kept a list of students not to hire, Leo on that list (“my first black list”)
- 00:21:50 *The Heterodoxical Voice*: Jim Tomarelli was first editor; Tammi did a lot of photography for them, Tammi didn’t consider himself a writer; took his camera to all of the demonstrations/events he went to; had a Miranda camera, Minolta in high school, later had a Graflex 4x5
- 00:25:00 Chicago, 1968—had a big impact on Tammi. “Police riot,” police beating residents; police agitation during the riots/provocateurs; stayed on the fringe of the action to take his photographs, but willing to take the risk to take his photographs
- 00:27:20 Went to Chicago in 1967 with George Wolkind, Sharon Johnson, Rob Bresler (political science professor) and
- 00:28:02 Heard Martin Luther King, Jr speak, “black militants” agitating him
- 00:28:55 Hitchhiked with Jim Tomarelli and Marian Brooks (sp?) to Chicago in 1968; hitchhiking back from attempt to travel to New York City with George Wolkind
- 00:30:30 Photo from *THV* of Art Magness, UD student who traveled to Chicago in 1968 and received head injury. Several groups of UD students traveled independently to Chicago. Effect of Chicago on other radicalizing students
- 00:31:48 Conversation with Pierre Salinger at the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention
- 00:32:32 End of interview