**JIM WOLFE INTERVIEW**

**(Sizzle Reel)**

**TRANSCRIPT**

INT: Where were you, how old were you when someone first came up to you and said, “Hey man, try this.”

**16:11:23 – M/S**

Jim: (Laughs) Uh, it was uh... It was out- It was between my eighth grade and my freshman year in 1966. And uh, Mexi- an older Mexican guy showed up and we were playing basketball in the grade school and sat down and he had crushed some seeds with a sock and we sat down and he twisted a joint and we actually got high off of it for the first time, so uh... so it was- So it was tough at that point to go home and eat dinner on the folks cause my folks were very, very straight, and so anyway, so that was the first time. And so I, I smoked it off and on from then on actually.

INT: Let’s do a different frame. Tell me where you were.

**16:12:12 – C/U**

Jim: I was born in San Luis Obispo (slight flub), California. And this was in Santa Margarita, California, just north of there. And so I was born in 1952 in San Luis Obispo, California. So it was in, what we consider central California. So it would have been at the Santa Margarita elementary school. (Laughs) Little town of about 500 people or so...

INT: - So how old were you when you started growing?

**16:12:48 - C/U (slightly closer than above)**

J: Well we- Uh- In 1970 when I graduated, uh, we started messing around that summer, germinating a few seeds and stuff, and didn’t ever take anything to flower, but we started messing around with plants in 1970. And then in 1971 I did a half year of um junior college at Cuesta(?) College and then I had a really bad attitude from the Vietnam War, and I, really anti-social, and I’d lost a couple of friends over there, older friends. So I dropped out of uh junior college and then we decided to go over on the coast just south of Moro Bay, California and try to grow pot in the spring. And uh, little did we know, we were doing good and got ‘em about a foot high but then the uh, the fog set in over on the coast so we couldn’t get any sunshine for about a month, so we aborted that mission and uh. Then I went back to work at auto parts, got married that fall and then moved to Oregon, so... And then, then uh in 1972 I started trying to grow something on my property in uh, in Camas Valley. So, my first successful crop was 1973, I had a little bit that I had got to flower stage. Then in 1974 when my first son was born was the first year that I actually grew enough that could, would kind of get me through the winter without supplementing it, so- He (laughs), he was born- My wife’s mother came up, her dad was a principal superintendant in a school district, and her mom comes up, she’s 30, she’s in her 30’s, like maybe 38, 39, really young, with a 3-year-old son, and uh the kid was driving me crazy, Mark was driving me crazy, I was trying to build my house to I walked over to my chair and Ray was sitting there, Vicki’s mom, and I reached underneath my chair and pulled out a rolling tray and started rolling a joint up, and she said, “Where’d you get that?” And I pulled the curtain up and I said, “I grew it right underneath those trees down there.” And she said, “Well, Ron’s been doing a bunch of drug classes and he heard that that stuff’s no good for you. It’s really bad for you.” I said, “Well, he’s not hearing the right thing. He, they’re talking about the entire spectrum of drugs and this isn’t what’s bad for you here.” I had to smoke one right in front of her, so. She was a heavy cigarette smoker, so I complained to her about that all the time, so she didn’t have any room to get on me about anything, so (laughs). But the first year that I actually pulled it off was 1974, on my property.

INT: So how did you get all the seeds? How did that happen?

**16:15:37 – M/S**

J: We- I had connections in California, so they were Mexican seeds at the time. And then there would be some Colombian come in and different seeds, so. So we started with seeds and then, then by, by uh ’77, ’78, we were starting to pick the males that we liked and we would grow in containers to start with and then we would move the male away from the garden and so we would pick a male or two and then pollen, and get the pollen, pollen from it and put it in a little, we had a little trick to put it in a little film container, and then uh we’d wait until the plant was about ready to pollinate, or was ready, we’d take a little paintbrush and take the pollen out, and just tap it on a branch, when the wind wasn’t moving at all, and then we’d mark that branch with a ribbon or something. So that’s how I grew for years with the seeds I created in the fall, so at that point they started to become acclimated and everything, so. I had grown a crop the year before, we had some, that was maybe ’76, we had some great gold Colombian come in to town, so I thought I’d try those seeds and uh, then I learned that you know seeds are from different parts of the world and you know where the Colombian came from that didn’t mature ‘til like December. So I had some beautiful 4 or 5-foot plants that I thought were just gorgeous and they never flowered on me so (laughs). So anyway I learned what seeds not to use at the time.

INT: How did you learn about Sinsemilla?

**16:17:15 – C/U**

J: I had, I had started reading books, I had started reading books and so at that point we learned to keep the seed out of it. We had fought seeds in Mexican- in Colombian pot forever so, um, I think the book was “Sinsemilla Tips” or something. It was a loose-leaf book back in the old days and I’d read that and so that’s when we started doing our own seeds. So...

INT: I’d like to get that again, cause we’ve interviewed that guy. So how did you learn about Sinsemilla? Tell me about that.

**16:17:59 – C/U (slightly closer than above)**

J: Well we just heard of it in the wind, kinda. And we had, we’d complained and fought seeds in pot forever and had to roll the seeds out on top of a shoebox and the whole 9 yards so I came across a book somewhere that was called “Sinsemilla Tips.” And it was a little loose-leaf kind of a, you know not a whole lot of pages but it really interested me so that’s kind of where I got the technique, you know, to keep them from pollinating together and to separate the male and everything, so. So it was from that book, originally.

INT: Is there something special you do for your plants?

**16:18:52 – M/S**

J: I think it’s, it’s, it’s another thing that I preach, and coach. I love to preach and it’s tough to practice, you know. It’s passion, it’s passion. And, and that’s, you know, that’s, basically it’s a lot of time and a lot of care, and you’ve got to be passionate about the plant, and if you’ve got money, if money is your number one reason to grow pot, somewhe- it’s gonna go array. Somewhere you’re gonna have problems, because uh, so I’ve coached the, you’ve got to be passionate about it and it can’t be, your first reason for having a crop cannot be monetary or for some reason- it just doesn’t work like that, the plant doesn’t work like that. So-

INT: So what is it about cannabis? You’re a hard worker and you could probably grow anything. (Warns him about his foot tapping)

**16:19:58**

J: Okay. Um uh... Once again, it’s passion and I- I, I was, I was raised with a, with a big garden, uh as a kid. And it was a chore of ours. And so you know, I was, I had that green thumb kind of you know forced down my throat so to speak, and uh, but that’s where, dad was an old Indiana farm boy so we had a big garden to start with, so, so. I was a gardener and then I didn’t have a lot of access, I started growing in, in, in Oregon because the only access I had to marijuana was, or cannabis was to go to California, and I was doing that less and less, so, so that’s when I wanted to start growing my own pot. But I know friends that don’t even smoke it that grow it. And there’s just something about growing it and I’ve got buddies that have stopped growing it, and they’ll come up to my place, and they’ll be in there petting the plants and everything and I’ll tell them, “Hey, you need to grow some, I know you don’t smoke anymore but you need to grow some because, for your health, for your sanity, because it’s just, there’s just something about the plant. It speaks to you. And it’s, it’s got some good energy, you know, so I’m just passionate about it. It’s a plant I love, and I grow a few vegetables, but uh, but cannabis is the one that I’m passionate about, so (laughs).

INT: So when you were growing it was against the law. Did you feel like a criminal?

**16:21:34 – C/U (slightly closer than above)**

J: Well... I’ve never felt like a criminal. Um... It never seemed wrong to me. Once again I’ll go back to my childhood: And we were, we had the difference of right and wrong, you know, we developed the difference, my parents taught us the difference of right and wrong. And, and smoking cannabis or growing cannabis never felt wrong to me in my heart. I was never in the wrong. I was just always doing something that was against the law at the moment. That made me an outlaw, that, you know, outlaws and criminals are two different things. I was never a criminal; I have never been a criminal. But you know, I’ve lived outside the law at times because the law wasn’t right, you know, it was prohibition. And so now 40 years later it’s proved that you know, I wasn’t the bad guy, you know. So (laughs).

INT: Did you ever think it would be legal like this?

J: Ten years ago I would have said it wouldn’t be legalized in my lifetime, but then I saw it pick up speed and so, coming from a really timber(?) oriented, kind of a redneck county, I didn’t think that it, it would ever get legalized. I thought the powers to be were too big for us to free the weed. The powers to be and where I come are timber, is the timber industry. And they don’t, they, they don’t want anything to do with cannabis down there.

INT: Why do you think it’s important to save these stories? Why do you step out of the shadows and should somebody give a damn that we’re doing this?

**16:23:29 – M/S**

J: Well, it’s a miracle plant, and not only cannabis but hemp, you know. But since the ‘70’s and ‘80’s when we’d be smoking a joint and somebody would step in that maybe didn’t agree with it or was not familiar with it, we’d kind of look at them and go, “for medicinal purposes only.” And we used to say that forever. But it used to, it used to- There’s so many medical values, you know, to it that it’s, it’s gonna be, it’s gonna be a miracle plant. It was a miracle plant. And once you look back at history and you understand that prohibition and why there was prohibition and everything, you understand that, that they’ve just kept it, kept it in the closet along with us way too long. So. Hemp’s the same thing. Hemp is one plant that will, that could save this planet, but uh you know, we’ve got to get it, we’ve got to get it out there. Once again the timber- the timber industry doesn’t want anything to do with the hemp. They-

INT: Yeah, that’s crazy.

**16:24:34 – C/U**

J: They have a, a um... I live right- I’ve got a private timber property right behind my property and so years ago when they said they were gonna spray it and, and start putting Round-Up on it and stuff, and artificial nitrogen, I- They left a card on my gate, I called him up, he came up, and I explained to him, you know, this was in like in 2006, and I said, “I’ve got a medical garden right down in the creek here, I’ve got people in wheelchairs that I’m furnishing, and you want to keep the spray totally off of my property because this is medic- this is medical uh properties, has medical properties.” And I said, “If you, you spray my property and you ruin my pot, we’ll have these people in wheelchairs in at the county, at the courthouse, throwing rocks at the windows.” And uh, so, they, they, they stayed away from the property. I’ve had to, I’ve had to go up there every time they sprayed- I didn’t mind them logging it, but when they come back and start put, poisoning the, poisoning the ground afterwards, timber industry has discovered that if they poison all the competition and then throw the artificial nitrogen on there they can speed the growth of timber up about 10 – 15 years. So it’s all about the bottom dollar, and they don’t- They can’t aerial spray without getting drift, and so I’m- They have to bring the Douglas County sheriff out when they come spray around my property, even the back-side now cause I’ll go up and check the wind and take my video camera, and they’ll come up and tell me first with the sheriff that they’re doing it. But then I’ve heard- My grandson has a couple of kids that work for him and they said, “Oh, he’s just concerned about his pot, you know. He doesn’t care.” Well, I’m concerned about, I’m concerned about the elk that walk through that ground after it’s been sprayed and the rabbits running around and of course I’m concerned about my pot; you are what you eat. And uh, and I’ve got my water system right there. So, but they, they’ve given me a little space there but they’ve got, they’ve got to spray that- And my grandson works for the BLM; the federal government does not use those sprays; they’re too controversial. But the private timber industry still gets to use them, so... Um, that’s what I fight. I didn’t mind them cutting it; it was their property, they can do what they want with it, but uh, to poison it right up above mine and to get that, that drift on, on, onto my properties, not right. So.

**16:27:11**

INT: What’s the difference between the growers from the ‘70’s and the new growers? What’s the big difference there?

**16:27:21 – C/U**

J: I think a lot of people are coming into the industry just for the money, just for the money. I, I, I- Everybody’s in a big hurry to get it done, they don’t really care about the end product, and I’ve been growing organically for the last few years. I’ve grown mostly organically forever, but I’ve learned that two little things- Of course when we grew, when we grew guerilla, I’m talking about medical, but when we grew guerilla, it was rapid-grow, it was chemical food because that’s what you could put in your backpack. And some of our gardens were a couple of miles from a road. So you had to watch what you carried in there. And at the time we didn’t know that that chemical food was bad for us; it just made the plants grow exceptionally large and fast and you know, we didn’t know that it was an unnatural substance that was in it. So the, the, uh. What I see today is that the, and, and I deal with a few big grow shops, hydroponic stores, uh, not too many people care about organic. They care about how fast and how big and how quick they can get it, and it’s- The generation that’s growing it out there now, they’re not too concerned, they’re- It’s, money is kind of the number one thing. It’s not the finished product. So you know, we want to- Gray(?) at 30-years-old, first puff can tell if it’s been grown with chemicals. One puff. And we’ll go into a dispensary somewhere just for kicks and buy a little product, you know, cause it’s a novelty and they will give us a little, “Well here’s a doobie or something, go try this for your first time in here.” One hit and it’s fft! (laughs) So yeah, the new generation, it’s all about now, now, now, and, and, I’ll go in my one store down in outside of Roseburg, and the manager will say, “Wolfe, you’re still one of the only ones that bother me about all this organic stuff and you’re a pain in the butt.” I’m like, “Yeah but I’ve got to have it right.” And I’m working with certified kind(?) here out of Eugene. So I log everything I put on the, on the, on the plants and keep my logs and so. And I get inspected once or twice a year, so. We’re uh, and we’re proud of it. He walked, Andrew walked in the Gray’s(?) garden when he was at my house last and Gray wanted to get certified and he and Gray walked over to Gray’s garden and he walked in the garden, walked over to the trash can, dumped it upside down on the ground and there was trash everywhere and bottles, and he started grabbing the bottles and sniffing the lids and going, “You know Gray, I can tell if you’re using any chemicals,” and Gray goes, “Keep checking.” (Laughs) I’m good.

**16:30:13**

INT: Tell me whether you grow organically and why you do.

**16:30:23 – M/S (wider than others)**

J: Um, I grew org- I grew organic vegetables when I was a kid because we knew where the fertilizer was and you had to take the wheelbarrow and the shovel and go get it out of the barn. And so, when I came up here, uh, then when we started growing guerilla, it was, it was- The only way to take food out for miles was to take a chemical food out, so, it, it took- I had to go back to where, once the medical, the medical marijuana started and I started, I got licensed in 19, in 2000- Then I was able to relax a little bit, start looking at what I could do better, uh, I’m still totally passionate about it so every time I have a spare minute or I’m in my garden, the first thought that I’ve got is how can I do something better? How can I make it better this and that? So we became educated that, that organic pot tasted much better. It’s more expensive to grow organically, but the product is, is so much nicer. Once you know the difference and you’ve tasted the difference, and once again you know, I like organic vegetables and everything else, you know. You know. Years ago when I was grow- The first part of my medical uh scene in the early 2000’s, I was growing indoor, too, and uh, to grow indoors, it’s, you pretty much have to use pesticides, you know, and fungicides, to keep the molds and the bugs down. And so outdoors you can control it a lot better. So uh, a lot of indoor pot we are suspicious of immediately, because of what we know what it takes to grow, to grow it organically or to grow it indoors, once again for money. If you’re growing it for money you’re gonna grow chemically, and you’re gonna, and you’re gonna put uh Doctor Doom and all sorts of sprays on it that are really harmful to people, you know. And you know, maybe down the road or next generation or whatever, you know.

INT: So why organic?

**16:32:37**

J: I think it’s the only way to go-

INT: What is?

**16:32:42 – M/S (closer than above)**

J: the, the, the, the organic, it... I’m just sold on it because- Well people tell me that our, that our, how good our pot tastes, and um. But when you grow with chemicals, like when you grow with chemicals indoors you can only put chemicals in soil for about 2 months and then the salt build-up, the by-product from the plant, from what it can’t eat of those chemicals has made the soil toxic, and you have to totally flush the soil out and uh, I was just cleaning pots the other day, just whizzing through ‘em, and in the old days you’d have a salt line around the inside of them and stuff and I was going, “God, this is so much nicer to not fight a by-product that has shown up and, and you, and I could only grow a couple of months and then the plants would stop growing and I’d have to totally leech the soil to get them going again and it just was unnatural, you know. Now I don’t have any problems at all and, and so, organic is, is just as easy as growing with chemicals, and a much better direction to go. So.

INT: So what is it about cannabis that everyone wants to grow it?

**16:34:07 – C/U**

J: Um... Well, once again we could talk about, we could talk about that in the past it, it was pretty profitable to grow it, but other than that it’s, it’s, it’s, it’s medicine and it’s, it’s uh, there’s something about smoking something that you’ve grown yourself, uh. In the old days I smoked with a crowd and they’d be going, “Wow, that’s great! Where’d you get that?” And I used to say, “A real good friend of mine grew it.” (Laughs) You know and so, you could never talk about it much but uh cannabis, uh, I had a, I’ve had a neck injury, diving in a pond in 1972, and then I had a logging injury in 1978 and got hit in the neck with a snag, and so I’ve had headaches. And so cannabis, certain kinds of cannabis, reduces my headaches and takes my headaches out. It reduce- reduces a whole bunch of stress, and uh, at my age, I was raised in a alcohol generation, and uh, so alcohol does none of that to me, you know. It will make me aggressive and tough to get up the next day and uh, cannabis actually makes me not drink as much. If I start having a drink or two, and I’ll smoke a joint, I’ve hit the plateau. And if I don’t have any pot to smoke I’ll drink quite a bit of alcohol, and so uh, so cannabis is a, it just- When I’m frustrated or not feeling good, uh, kind of got the blah’s, I can smoke some cannabis and I’m inspired. All of a sudden I’m like, “Okay, this and that, and boy this is fun,” and it actually gives me energy and uh, and the energy to get up and do stuff and enjoy what I do, you know it heightens all the senses, so, it makes it all better, so. Anyway, that’s a big part of it.