

After Dartmouth graduation Jim Snyder took a position as a research psychologist for the US Department of Transportation in Washington, DC. A local restaurant named "The Three Thieves" used an interesting, light-hearted logo in the ads that appeared from time to time in the Washington Post restaurant section. The Three Thieves logo was the inspiration for Jim's black and white oil painting of three furtive figures making off with loot stolen from a nearby village.

In 1969, Uncle Sam came calling with a draft notice, so Jim scurried down to the military recruiters and signed up for Air Force Officer Training School. After assignments to San Antonio and Sacramento, Jim spent nine months in Biloxi, Mississippi. Because Electronics Officer Training School started for the day at 6:00 am and ended at noon, Jim (not married at the time) found himself with lots of free time. He whiled away numerous afternoons at the Biloxi fishing docks doing pen and ink sketches of the shrimp boats. Jim gave these pen and ink drawings to family members as Christmas presents in 1970, the year Jim and Sarah were married.

After four years in the Air Force, Jim went to Boston University Law School. As a diversion from his studies, in 1975 Jim painted a black-and-white oil portrait of the astronaut Frank Borman done in the "pointallist" style based on a half-tone photograph that appeared in the newspaper.

Now that he has retired from his career as a corporate lawyer and the children have grown up and moved away, Jim is thinking about heading down to the fishing docks at Barnegat Light, NJ to take up pen and ink sketching again.