

Exh. C

1 that we had enough combined net worth to
2 guarantee the products that we were gonna be
3 building and selling on a -- on a large scale.
4 They believed that we were going to be
5 successful.

6 So, we were given a list of names from one
7 of the partners at Crowe Chizek of potential
8 investors. And Doug Lantz and myself interviewed
9 Brian Brady. And Brian decided that he wanted to
10 be a part of our team and invest with us for, you
11 know, 51 percent control of the company.

12 Towards the end of the negotiations with
13 Shadow Cruiser, a liability issue came up that
14 Shadow Cruiser didn't want to be liable for what
15 they had built. They wanted us to be liable for
16 it. We didn't -- that was a -- you know, it
17 ended the negotiations.

18 And at that point we decided that we would
19 just start from scratch and build our own
20 product. And at that point it was myself, Tim
21 Hoffman, Doug Lantz, Brian Brady. And Rod Lung
22 was not able to put in the amount of money that
23 it required for our seed money.

24 So, Rod and I decided that he could just
25 focus on Livin' Lite. He was my partner there.

1 And he would run Livin' Lite and -- and I would
2 continue to move forward with the Heartland
3 concept.

4 We needed an engineer. We interviewed a
5 couple of engineers. I turned to John Rhymer a
6 couple times for, you know, who -- who can we
7 get. He sent us after his protégé. That didn't
8 work out.

9 And then one day I said to John Rhymer, "You
10 know --" well, John Rhymer said to me, "What you
11 really need is somebody that can do engineering
12 and run production." And I said, "Where am I
13 gonna find somebody like that?"

14 And he turned around and walked away and
15 raised his hand. And I said, "Are you messing
16 with me?" And he said, "No." And, so, John
17 became our fifth partner. And that's when we
18 started Heartland.

19 Q When did you start Heartland, approximately?

20 A That was the fall of 2003.

21 Q And how long did you look at Shadow Cruiser and
22 all of that? How long did that take?

23 A That was started in the spring of 2003. And Doug
24 and I were over there a lot over the summer of
25 2003.

1 owners, we took on most of the responsibility and
2 we carried the burden as long as we could. And
3 then once we were way past maybe we should've
4 been, we finally hired somebody to take it over,
5 that that was their expertise.

6 Q When did Mr. Lantz leave the company again?

7 A I'm thinking it was sometime in 2004.

8 Q Okay. And describe for me why he left.

9 A He was terminated by Brian Brady.

10 Q Did you agree with that decision?

11 A No, I did not.

12 Q Tell me what you understand the reasons were for
13 why he was terminated.

14 A Personality conflict between Brian and Doug.

15 Q What personality conflict are you referring to?

16 A Doug would say what he thought, and he wouldn't
17 back down. And that didn't go over well. I
18 think some of us, as owners, would have a
19 tendency just to be quiet if there was something
20 that we didn't necessarily agree with. Doug was
21 that not way. He was very vocal.

22 Q Did you tell Brian you didn't agree with his
23 decision to terminate Mr. Lantz?

24 A I don't recall. I mean, I was just informed of
25 it. I think I was more in shock than anything.

1 selling. He's not Tim Hoffman. And he couldn't
2 do better than what Tim did with more salesmen.

3 So, I don't think it should've surprised
4 anybody that in that timeframe we didn't get to
5 three. But it obviously was -- it was what was
6 used to justify the termination of Doug Lantz.

7 Q Is it your understanding that Brian was the only
8 one that could terminate any of the owners?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Tell me about how you left the company.

11 A We had been purchased by Catterton Partners in
12 2007, for which we received a good amount of
13 money. As 2007 went on, it became more and more
14 apparent that -- that Brian and myself didn't
15 necessarily get along. And it was difficult.

16 In December of 2007 and early January of
17 2007, we produced a lot of brochures in a very
18 short period of time, lot of late hours, got them
19 all shipped to the dealers for the first shows in
20 January. Well, one dealer called Coley, Brian's
21 son, and said that he didn't get his brochures.
22 And Coley called Brian. And Brian called me,
23 very unhappy.

24 I called the shipping company, tracked down
25 the shipment. And it actually was shipped and

1 delivered. And called Coley to confirm that.
2 And he said yeah, the dealer called him back and
3 he had found it. But Brian called me and said a
4 few things, personal things, did some swear
5 words.

6 And I was just to the point where I was
7 done. And I told him that if -- if my
8 performance was so bad, that he should just fire
9 me. I texted that to him. And he texted me
10 back, "I accept your resignation."

11 I texted him back, "No. It's not that easy.
12 You're gonna have to fire me and you're gonna
13 have to tell everybody why you fired me."

14 At that point, we went into a couple days of
15 just no communication. And I turned in a
16 resignation. Tim and John took me out to eat,
17 said that I should reconsider, you know.

18 I said to Brian the next day, "You know, I'm
19 gonna think about it." And then later that day I
20 decided that I was -- I was gonna leave. And I
21 decided that I would stay for the rest of the
22 month to work with my replacement. So I stayed,
23 you know, two and a half weeks extra and worked
24 with my replacement. I made offers to help with
25 a lot of other things.

1 But that -- that incident on the phone was
2 just a culmination of a multiple -- a multitude
3 of incidents between Brian Brady and myself
4 where, in my opinion, he didn't think that I
5 brought anything to the company. He didn't think
6 I did anything for the company. He never really
7 thought that advertising and marketing was a
8 full-time job.

9 So, I mean, that was -- that had caused a
10 lot of the riff, I guess, between him and I over
11 the -- the years. But, obviously, I put up with
12 it because we were riding a horse that was, you
13 know, at 280 million when I left after four
14 years. So, I could put up with some personality
15 conflicts for that.

16 MR. IRMSCHER: Why don't we take
17 a break. We're about to run out of
18 tape.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record
21 at 11:05.

22 (A break was taken at
23 this time.)

24 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the
25 record at 11:20. Please continue.

1 A Yes.

2 Q Is Mr. Fountain your attorney?

3 A No.

4 Q When did you first meet Mr. Fountain?

5 A Earlier this year.

6 Q Can you tell me when?

7 A I'm gonna say March maybe. Maybe April.

8 Q Was it -- can you relate it to when you sued?

9 Was it before or after you sued Heartland?

10 A I do not know.

11 Q Okay. But you think March of this year, correct?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q And had you ever spoken to Mr. Fountain or met
14 Mr. Fountain before that time in any context at
15 all?

16 A No. I don't think so.

17 Q Okay. Tell me how it was that you happened to
18 speak to or meet with Mr. Fountain for the first
19 time this year.

20 MR. FOUNTAIN: I would caution
21 you on one thing. As it relates --

22 MR. IRMSCHER: You don't --

23 MR. FOUNTAIN: I do have a right
24 to do this. If you seek advice from
25 an attorney --

1 MR. IRMSCHER: No.

2 MR. FOUNTAIN: -- you are
3 entitled to protect that advice under
4 the attorney-client privilege. If
5 you're simply talking to an attorney
6 and not seeking advice, that's not
7 privileged.

8 So, if you don't wish to tell him
9 about any advice you sought from me,
10 you don't have to. If you were just
11 talking to me about something that you
12 were not seeking advice from, you
13 would have to tell him what you
14 remember.

15 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

16 MR. FOUNTAIN: Okay.

17 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

18 Q Tell me about how you first came to speak with
19 Mr. Fountain.

20 A He called me. And my name was on the patent that
21 was -- there was an issue between Forest River
22 and Heartland. And he just asked me if I had
23 knowledge of any prior art.

24 Q What did you tell him?

25 A Well, I guess I wasn't really sure what prior art

1 meant definitely, you know. And then when I
2 understood that prior art was any units or
3 pictures or things that I had seen, I discussed
4 what I had thought would be considered prior art.

5 Q And what did you tell Mr. Fountain about the
6 prior art in that first conversation?

7 A That I had seen units, such as fifth wheels, that
8 had "V" front ends and horse trailers that had
9 "V" front ends.

10 Q Anything else?

11 A Not that I recall, that first conversation.

12 Q How long did the conversation last?

13 A Ten or fifteen minutes maybe.

14 Q Okay. Did you subsequently have additional
15 conversations or meetings with Mr. Fountain?

16 A At one point, I -- I asked for, you know, some
17 advice about this whole deal with Heartland. I
18 became aware that, you know, Heartland was filing
19 things with the patent office with my name on it.
20 And that concerned me a little bit.

21 Q Let's try and -- we'll come to that in a minute.
22 But let's talk first about your additional
23 conversations with Mr. Fountain.

24 You had this one phone call with him. Can
25 you tell me what the next communication was with

1 make sure I follow up on this.

2 During your time at Heartland, were you
3 always the one that was responsible for working
4 with lawyers?

5 A I was typically the liaison between the team and
6 the attorneys.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I would carry information back and forth, you
9 know. I would be the one that would send e-mails
10 of questions from Brian or Tim or John and, you
11 know, they would typically go through me.

12 Q Okay. And you had -- let's go back to this
13 conversation with Mr. Fountain that you have here
14 in March or so of this year.

15 You talk about prior art and you talk to him
16 a little bit about some horse trailers and
17 fifth -- I think you said fifth wheels and horse
18 trailers with "V" front ends. Is that right?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Did you talk about any other products or items of
21 any type?

22 A At that time, I do not think so.

23 Q Did you have subsequent conversations with
24 Mr. Fountain?

25 A We -- I had subsequent conversations with

1 A I'm sure by default it was in there.

2 Q So, you understand that if a patent would issue
3 from this earlier application, you don't own it,
4 Heartland owns it, correct?

5 A Yes. I understand.

6 Q Okay.

7 A I mean, you know, I'll be honest. There may be
8 some gray area in my understanding between what
9 ownership and what inventor, you know --

10 Q Sure.

11 A -- rights and things there are. But --

12 Q Did you talk to anybody from Forest River, any
13 employee, former employee, from Forest River in
14 connection with this case?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay. Did you provide any documents to anybody
17 at Forest River at any point?

18 A No.

19 Q Tell me about your last conversations with
20 Mr. Rhymer and Mr. Hoffman. When did you last
21 talk to those two gentlemen?

22 A Last conversation with Mr. Rhymer was maybe
23 two months ago, and it was just of a personal
24 nature. And it was the same with Hoffman.
25 Hoffman was maybe a month and a half ago.

1 some of the things that are -- that are going on
2 with Heartland in -- in their process of filing
3 for patents, that -- that there's -- there's
4 maybe some questionable information in there
5 and -- and stuff that I just -- you know, I had
6 told Ryan that I don't -- I don't want to be a
7 part of anything that's not aboveboard.

8 You know, the reason that Doug and I had him
9 basically -- we tried to get our nose in -- in
10 there a little bit. Like if our name's gonna be
11 on this, you know, let us know what's going on.
12 And --

13 Q Well, there's a big difference between saying,
14 you know, "I want to know what's going on," and
15 having a formal document that you signed and
16 theoretically submitted to the patent office and
17 all of that.

18 So, can you tell me how it was you went from
19 having a concern to having this document in front
20 of us here today? How did that happen?

21 A Conversations with Mr. Fountain about, you know,
22 what is going on in the -- in the process of
23 filing a patent.

24 Q Who wrote Exhibit 102?

25 A Mr. Fountain.

1 Q Did he write all of it?

2 A As far as I know.

3 Q Okay. And when did you first see it?

4 A Couple weeks ago, I think.

5 Q Okay. And did you read it?

6 A Did not read it in detail, no.

7 Q Okay. Why not?

8 A I was busy.

9 Q What did Mr. Fountain tell you it was?

10 MR. FOUNTAIN: Wait. Stop.
11 Before the -- if that discussion took
12 place in the context of your seeking
13 legal advice from an attorney, you
14 have the right to keep that
15 confidential. If it did not, you need
16 to answer his question.

17 A Well, I absolutely was seeking legal advice at --

18 MR. FOUNTAIN: Then you have the
19 option of answering or not answering.

20 A Okay.

21 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

22 Q So, are you refusing to answer my question?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And you're doing that why?

25 A Because I don't know that it's in my best

1 A Just from discussions with Mr. Fountain.

2 Q Who told you what the crux of that document was?

3 A Mr. Fountain.

4 Q Can you tell us what he told you as to what the
5 crux of that document was?

6 A That basically we were pointing out that the --
7 the process that I went through and led as the
8 liaison at Heartland was not as detailed as it
9 should've been; that the whole issue of -- of
10 prior art and all these things were not made --
11 were not explained to us; that, you know, my name
12 is on a patent that obviously -- I mean, I think,
13 my opinion is, we shouldn't have received.

14 There's -- there's plenty of prior art out
15 there that -- that, you know -- including other
16 prior art that's come to my attention since then,
17 you know, that's on this exhibit. But --

18 Q So, you weren't aware of the two documents marked
19 Exhibits 40 and 41 prior to meeting with
20 Mr. Fountain; is that right?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Okay. Did you intentionally lie to the patent
23 office?

24 A No.

25 Q Did you intentionally deceive the patent office

1 in any way?

2 A No.

3 Q Did you intentionally withhold any -- any
4 references of any type from the patent office?

5 A No.

6 Q Did any of the inventors, to your knowledge, do
7 that?

8 A No. I -- I -- it's, you know, my position that
9 we were never ever questioned about prior art and
10 what we knew and what we saw and what was out
11 there. I mean, it was so obvious, these -- some
12 of these things, that we obviously would've said
13 it, you know.

14 We all knew about SpaceCraft. We all knew
15 about horse trailers, you know. I think when we
16 went to file the -- the patent, it was pretty
17 broad-scoped and they kept narrowing it down and
18 narrowing it down. But, you know --

19 MR. IRMSCHER: Why don't we take
20 a break. We're running out of tape.

21 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record
22 at 12:12.

23 (A lunch break was taken at
24 this time.)

25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the

1 Q Okay.

2 A So, there was nothing that he shared with me
3 that, "This is similar."

4 Q Did you review the provisional patent application
5 before it was filed?

6 A Yes. We all did.

7 Q Okay. All of the inventors reviewed it?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. How do you know that? How do you recall
10 that?

11 A I gave it to them. I mean, like I said, I was
12 the liaison. But when I received it, I came back
13 and -- and everybody reviewed it.

14 Q Okay. And why was everybody being, you know,
15 the -- the five named inventors? Why were they
16 all named as inventors?

17 A We felt that it was a team effort.

18 Q John Rhymer, I think -- I think you've read his
19 deposition, you said?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q He testified basically that it seemed like you
22 were all owners and all in this together and you
23 ought to all be named or words to that effect.

24 A Yes.

25 Q Is that your recollection as well?

1 A That is my recollection, that that was kind of
2 the feeling that we had.

3 Q Okay.

4 A And we were all there for the discussions when we
5 were trying to conceive this, you know, sitting
6 at a table and sketching and talking. And, you
7 know, we felt like we all played a part.

8 Q What part did you feel like you played?

9 A Well, I mean, no more than I guess being a part
10 of the discussions about how can we do this. And
11 I don't know if it was -- it probably was John
12 himself who said, "Why don't we do this, cut the
13 corner." But it could've been Tim. It could've
14 been Doug. I -- I really don't remember.

15 Q You remember it wasn't you, though, right?

16 A It wasn't me.

17 Q Okay.

18 A I don't think. I'd like to go back in time and
19 find out.

20 Q Well, it certainly seems clear that with respect
21 to obtaining this patent, you had the
22 responsibility to try and make sure that you
23 shepherded everything through this -- through the
24 legal system, correct?

25 A I don't know that I would say that I shepherded

1 A No. I have -- I have not been privy to that.

2 Q Have you ever done that that you can think of?

3 A No.

4 Q So -- so, in the process of getting this --
5 the -- the -- the turning radius patent that
6 we're talking about, you don't recall ever
7 reviewing any other patents --

8 A No.

9 Q -- is that right?

10 A No. Not at all.

11 Q And you don't recall, again, either discussing
12 with any of the other named inventors or
13 providing to your lawyers or anybody any other
14 patents, correct?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Okay. When you named all of the owners of
17 Heartland as inventors, you didn't do that to try
18 and deceive anybody, did you?

19 A No. I mean, we -- we felt like, you know, we had
20 an idea and that we were all putting our name on
21 it.

22 Q And you read John Rhymer's deposition, right?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Do you generally agree with his characterization
25 of how that came about that you all five were on

1 the patent?

2 A I haven't read it, you know, for -- seems like a
3 couple months.

4 Q Okay.

5 A So, I'm not sure. I mean, if you give me details
6 of how he generalized it, seems like --

7 Q He said basically he was the inventor of the
8 improved turning radius, but that it seemed like
9 you ought to all be on the patent because we're
10 all in this together. Is that generally --

11 A I -- okay. Now --

12 Q Is that generally the same as your recollection?

13 A I'm -- I'm -- I know that that's what he said.
14 I'm -- I'm gonna tell you that I don't agree with
15 that a hundred percent.

16 Q Okay. Well, what part was it that you don't
17 agree with?

18 A Well, I just -- I think that when you get four or
19 five guys around a table and you're all
20 discussing the problem and the solutions and
21 you're talking about different aspects of it and
22 you come to some sort of an agreement, for one
23 guy to say then because he, you know, drew it up
24 and executed it or maybe even had part of the
25 main suggestion, to say that it was really his I

1 think may be a little -- I don't know.

2 Q Well, again, I mean, I'm not trying to repeat
3 testimony. But it's clear in your mind that you
4 didn't come up with the idea of cutting off the
5 corner to improve the turning radius, correct?

6 A I said I didn't think so.

7 Q Okay.

8 A You know. I just -- I think it's -- if you had
9 to do it by -- here's the deal. Instead of
10 trying to say a hundred percent one guy or
11 another, if you had to do it by percentages,
12 yeah, I could probably buy into the argument that
13 John was, you know, 50 percent and Tim was 35 and
14 Scott and Doug were -- you know what I mean?
15 That's what I would say.

16 Q Okay.

17 A We never worried about it, to be honest with you,
18 at the time. We -- there was no self-interest,
19 you know, there. I think we were trying to, you
20 know, have a consensus opinion about a solution
21 to a problem.

22 Q Did anybody other than the draftsman help John
23 figure out how exactly to make the frame and the
24 end cap so that it would work?

25 A I'm gonna tell you that the fiberglass guys were

1 Q At the top of the page there, third line down,
2 there's a sentence that reads, "As a result of
3 the failure of the prior attorneys to properly
4 communicate with these inventors."

5 And I assume that means you and Mr. Lantz.
6 Is that right?

7 A I would assume it means all the inventors on the
8 patent --

9 Q Okay.

10 A -- application.

11 Q "These inventors have been prevented from
12 complying with Rule 56."

13 What failure to communicate properly are you
14 referring to there, if you know?

15 A I would say it's my understanding that just the
16 whole prior art concept. You know, in -- in
17 subsequent discussions with -- with Mr. Fountain,
18 you know, I've obviously learned a lot about
19 patents and applications and prior art. And, you
20 know, it was easy for me to say when someone
21 said, "Well, have you ever seen this before,"
22 "Well, yeah, I have."

23 Now, I didn't know that was relevant to what
24 we were doing and -- and my attorney at the time
25 didn't say, "Well, you needed to identify these

1 things if you knew them to exist."

2 Well, everybody new SpaceCraft existed.

3 Everybody knew horse trailers existed. I guess

4 that's -- so, when I read this, that's -- you

5 know, that's what I think this is referring to.

6 Q But at the time that the application for the

7 patent was filed, you didn't think that the

8 SpaceCraft or the "V" nose horse trailers or

9 anything of that was relevant to the invention,

10 did you?

11 A I --

12 MR. FOUNTAIN: First off, before

13 you answer --

14 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

15 Q You -- you answer the question.

16 MR. FOUNTAIN: Wait.

17 MR. IRMSCHER: You object or not

18 object.

19 MR. FOUNTAIN: Before you --

20 MR. IRMSCHER: You object or not

21 object.

22 MR. FOUNTAIN: Before you answer

23 the question --

24 MR. IRMSCHER: I'm gonna call the

25 judge.

1 MR. FOUNTAIN: -- let me make my
2 objection.

3 MR. IRMSCHER: You better make a
4 quick objection.

5 MR. FOUNTAIN: I will object to
6 the form of your question --

7 MR. IRMSCHER: Thank you.

8 MR. FOUNTAIN: -- and offer to
9 explain it in more detail if you wish.

10 MR. IRMSCHER: I don't need any
11 explanation.

12 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

13 Q You can answer.

14 A Can you repeat the question?

15 MR. IRMSCHER: Can you read the
16 question back, please?

17 A I think you were saying at the time of the patent
18 application did I think that was an issue or not.

19 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

20 Q Did you think that the SpaceCraft, the "V" nose
21 trailer, and the other items you mentioned were
22 relevant to the invention?

23 MR. FOUNTAIN: Once again, I will
24 object to the form of that question.

25 THE WITNESS: Okay.

1 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

2 Q Okay. You can answer.

3 A At the time, no, it was not in my thoughts.

4 Q I want to move down on the same section of the --
5 of the second page. You talk -- or this document
6 talks about, "Particularly as a result of Mr.
7 Lantz and Mr. Tuttle becoming aware of the
8 testimony of the other three named inventors
9 during their depositions."

10 You're talking about flaws here. What flaws
11 did you become aware of? What are you talking
12 about?

13 A I'm gonna tell you that my understanding is it
14 has to do with a couple of things; what we
15 understood to be prior art, what relevance that
16 had to this patent application, whether or not we
17 should've even gotten the patent, and the -- I
18 think in this sentence the -- the reference to
19 flaws, I think it has to do with -- with my other
20 three partners all testifying that, you know,
21 they didn't really have anything to do with the
22 invention or they did have something to do with
23 the invention and how that is, you know,
24 applicable to a patent application.

25 Q Okay. On Page 3, there's a paragraph that

1 A He showed me, yeah, in -- on paper. He showed me
2 photos.

3 MR. IRMSCHER: Have I got
4 everything you showed him in this
5 conference room?

6 MR. FOUNTAIN: I don't know.

7 MR. IRMSCHER: Why wouldn't I?

8 MR. FOUNTAIN: I don't remember
9 precisely what I showed him.

10 MR. IRMSCHER: Okay.

11 MR. FOUNTAIN: As he mentioned,
12 there was a plethora of prior art.

13 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

14 Q On the top of Page 4, you talk briefly about
15 Trial Exhibits 40 and 41. That's the Cardinal
16 product. Is that your recollection?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q And again, I think you've already testified to
19 this, but you weren't aware of that product at
20 the time this application was filed; is that
21 right?

22 A That is correct.

23 Q When did you first become aware of this product?
24 In your -- in your discussions with Mr. Fountain?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. And your understanding of what 40 and 41
2 show is what? Can you tell us?

3 A Frames that were built for the Cardinal product
4 years ago by a company called Quality Frames, I
5 think.

6 Q Do you know Quality?

7 A No. I'm not personally familiar with them.

8 Q Are you personally familiar with the Cardinal
9 product?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Does it have an improved turning radius in the
12 front end cap?

13 A Excuse me. Currently, I don't know.

14 Q Okay. Did you do anything with respect to the
15 Cardinal product other than just look at these
16 pictures? These drawings, I mean.

17 A No. I just saw the drawings.

18 Q Okay. Let me show you, Mr. Tuttle, what is a
19 transmittal form that includes the Information
20 Disclosure Statement that was filed in this
21 patent application and ask if you -- ask you to
22 take a quick look at the last page of this
23 document and see if you recall anything about any
24 of those patents that are listed there.

25 Do you recall any of those by name?

1 Q Do you have any knowledge that Heartland was
2 trying to obtain an inflated value of the patent?

3 A I was not involved in that at all. I have no
4 knowledge of that.

5 Q Okay. And do you have any knowledge that
6 invalidation of the patent or denial of issuance
7 of the patent would've brought about a financial
8 collapse of Heartland? Do you have any knowledge
9 of that?

10 A No, I do not.

11 Q I assume you're aware of what has been called in
12 this -- in this case the hotel incident. Am I
13 correct in that assumption?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Okay. How did you become aware of the hotel
16 incident?

17 A Through somebody in the industry. I mean, it --
18 it spread pretty quickly through the industry.

19 Q And I'm correct that the hotel incident took
20 place long after you had left --

21 A Yes. That is correct.

22 Q -- Heartland, correct?

23 A That is correct.

24 Q Have you been told -- well, where did you get the
25 information you have about the hotel incident?

1 by that?

2 A I took the picture, I outlined it, and I put it
3 on a background. They were my client.

4 Q What's the name of this product?

5 A Shadow Cruiser.

6 Q And did you consider this Shadow Cruiser product
7 to be relevant prior art when you filed the
8 patent application?

9 A I didn't even think about it. I'm --

10 Q Okay.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Can you draw for us -- I want to make sure I
13 understand how the Shadow Cruiser looks if you're
14 looking down on it. Can you draw that for us?

15 A Sure. Witness Complying. That's what I would
16 say the top view of a Shadow Cruiser fifth wheel
17 looks like.

18 Q Can you -- can you give me a rough idea where the
19 hitch is in there?

20 A Yeah. The hitch is gonna be up here.

21 Q I'm not understanding that as well as I --

22 A Oh, this is a top view.

23 Q So, where's -- where's the point where the hitch
24 actually connects to the truck?

25 A The truck would be out here in front of it.

1 Q And a side view of the Shadow Cruiser?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. FOUNTAIN: Excuse me.

4 Where's 109?

5 MR. IRMSCHER: Right there.

6 THE WITNESS: Right here.

7 MR. IRMSCHER: That's the one I
8 gave you.

9 MR. FOUNTAIN: I thought this was
10 107.

11 THE WITNESS: 109, 108, 107.

12 MR. FOUNTAIN: I'm sorry. I may
13 have --

14 MR. IRMSCHER: Well, you've got
15 one of them, Ryan. I gave it to you.

16 MR. FOUNTAIN: Oh, I understand
17 now. I'm sorry.

18 MR. IRMSCHER: Are we square?

19 MR. FOUNTAIN: Yep. We are.

20 (Deposition Exhibit 111 marked
21 for identification.)

22 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

23 Q Show you what's been marked for indication as
24 Exhibit 111 and ask if you can identify that for
25 us.

1 A A Trail Bay fifth wheel by R-Vision.

2 Q Okay. And when were you first aware of this
3 product?

4 A When they came out with it. They were one of my
5 clients. I was doing literature for it.

6 Q And when did this come out?

7 A I don't know. I mean, I -- let me back up a
8 little bit. There was like seven or eight Trail,
9 dash, something products that R-Vision had. And
10 I did all their literature. And I remember a
11 Trail Bay, you know, brochure that I did. I
12 don't know about specifically the date.

13 Q Were you aware of this product prior to the time
14 you filed the patent application?

15 A I was aware of the Trail Bay product, yeah.

16 Q And does this show anything other than a
17 conventional fifth wheel?

18 A I guess, in my mind, I'm -- I'm gonna define
19 conventional fifth wheels as they're pretty
20 angular. And this seems to have a more
21 pronounced curvature around the front. So, I
22 mean --

23 Q When you say pronounced curvature, which -- which
24 angle are you talking about?

25 A Just from a side view. The front -- the very

1 front nose of it sticks out a little more. But,
2 yeah, I'd say it's a traditional fifth wheel.
3 It's a little sleeker than some.

4 Q Okay. And I assume your answer's going to be the
5 same as it has previously.

6 You didn't even consider disclosing that one
7 in the patent process?

8 A No. I mean -- yeah.

9 (Deposition Exhibit 112 marked
10 for identification.)

11 BY MR. IRMSCHER:

12 Q Mr. Tuttle, let me show you what's been marked
13 for identification as Exhibit 112 and ask if you
14 wrote or prepared that.

15 A I'm gonna say that this is -- seems to be a
16 duplication of an article that I had written for
17 a website, not this particular website.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And there seems to be areas of this that have
20 kind of been cut and pasted as well.

21 Q Did you prepare the text of this or no?

22 A Yes. The original text that was on the original
23 website, I did prepare.

24 It does include obviously some of our
25 marketing angles that we took with our design.

1 Q Okay.

2 A If it's current or past or both.

3 Q And are you familiar with Weekend Warrior's
4 products?

5 A Somewhat.

6 Q Do they make fifth wheels?

7 A Yeah. They did when they were in business.
8 They're out of business now.

9 Q Are you aware of any of their products that
10 would've been relevant prior art at the time you
11 filed these patent applications?

12 A Not that I know of. I'm not real familiar with
13 their front cap designs and turn radius designs.

14 Q As you sit here today, you're not familiar with
15 any of their products that would be relevant to
16 this case, as far as you know; is that right?

17 A As far as I know, no.

18 Q What's a bull nose?

19 A A bull nose?

20 Q Yeah.

21 A I do not know.

22 Q I thought that was --

23 A I mean, I've heard it referred to in pliers where
24 it's --

25 Q I used that phrase wrong? I thought that was a

1 type of front end on a trailer. Is that not
2 right?

3 A Could be.

4 Q Doesn't mean anything to you?

5 A Not really.

6 Q What's the front end of a typical cargo trailer
7 or horse trailer look like? Can you describe it
8 for us?

9 A Typical cargo trailer is just a blunt, flat front
10 end. Somebody may call that a bull nose, I
11 guess. Same with a typical fifth wheel cargo
12 trailer; flat, not very aerodynamic at all.

13 Q Okay. And are there other types -- or were there
14 other types of front ends on those cargo trailers
15 or horse trailers?

16 A Oh, absolutely.

17 Q And what kinds were there? And I'm talking about
18 at the time that you filed this patent
19 application.

20 A Angled front ends. Fairly common. I mean, been
21 around for 30 years.

22 Q And -- I'm sorry.

23 A Both on travel trailers and fifth wheels.

24 Q Okay. And if I'm understanding your testimony
25 correctly, you did not think that any of those

1 type of shapes were relevant to the patent
2 application or the patent; is that right?

3 A At the time when we were filing for the patent
4 application, I guess I was under the assumption
5 that it would only apply to a fifth wheel
6 recreational vehicle.

7 Q Okay.

8 A And --

9 Q And was that your understanding all the way
10 through the time you were with Heartland?

11 A Yeah.

12 MR. IRMSCHER: Okay. I thank you
13 very much for your time. I don't
14 believe I have any further questions
15 at this point.

16 THE WITNESS: Thanks.

17 MR. FOUNTAIN: Just a second.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. FOUNTAIN:

20 Q I have a few questions for you. Going back
21 through some of the things that you had explained
22 to Mr. Irmischer earlier today, he had asked you
23 how it came about that Brian Brady teamed up with
24 you. And you started to say, "You want my
25 opinion of --" and then you stopped.

1 just before it was filed --

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q -- did you have an understanding as to what the
4 claims meant?

5 A Not particularly, not beyond having a fifth wheel
6 with an improved turning radius.

7 Q Did you ever have a situation where one of the
8 attorneys at Barnes & Thornburg or Baker-Daniels
9 at some point sat you down and said, "This is
10 what the claims mean."?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. Now, you said that you made sure the other
13 inventors reviewed the application; is that
14 right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q How did you do that?

17 A By providing them copies of it.

18 Q Did you actually see them read it?

19 A I'm -- I recall that as we sat in a room that
20 different partners of mine were absolutely
21 reviewing it and looking at it. To what depth, I
22 don't know. But they -- they had it in their
23 hands, they saw it, they read it.

24 Q And --

25 A Some of them might have scanned it, you know.

1 Whatever.

2 Q Why did you prepare it that way?

3 A Because I was asked to.

4 Q Who -- who asked you to?

5 A Sales.

6 Q Who in sales?

7 A I don't recall.

8 Q Okay. And have you talked to Mr. Fountain about
9 this brochure prior to today?

10 A Not that I recall, I haven't.

11 Q Did you talk to him about it today outside of
12 this deposition?

13 A I'm racking my head here. We talked about it,
14 yeah, today outside of this deposition maybe
15 after it came up. I'm not sure if it was before
16 or after it came up.

17 Q One of the things that I want to make sure the
18 record is clear on is there are travel
19 trailers -- a travel trailer is a term that's
20 used commonly in the RV industry, right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And what is a travel trailer? What does that
23 encompass?

24 Does it include fifth wheels to some people
25 and to others it doesn't or how does that work?

1 A Travel trailers are typically bumper pull. Fifth
2 wheels are -- typically go in the bed of a truck.

3 Q Are there some people --

4 A They're two different products.

5 Q Okay. Are there some people that consider a
6 fifth wheel to be a type of travel trailer?

7 A To my knowledge, that would only be the patent
8 office, I think, because I see that in the -- in
9 the in materials that we've, you know, received
10 from the patent office. They called it a travel
11 trailer fifth wheel, which is greek to RV people
12 because they're two different products. So --

13 Q Okay. So, your -- your testimony is in
14 general -- general terms --

15 A Within the industry, everybody knows they're
16 different.

17 Q Okay.

18 A There's a travel trailer, and there's a fifth
19 wheel.

20 Q And your testimony is a fifth wheel is not a type
21 of travel trailer in common use?

22 A Yes. That's my testimony.

23 MR. IRMSCHER: Okay. I don't
24 think I have any further questions.
25 Thanks very much for your time.