

## **Sawbones 285: Eli Lilly's Secret Pot Farm**

Published on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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**Intro (Clint McElroy):** Sawbones is a show about medical history, and nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax, and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

**Justin:** Hello everyone, and welcome to Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine. I'm your co-host, Justin McElroy.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Audience:** [cheers louder]

**Sydnee:** Thank you.

**Justin:** It's kind of for both of us, because... we're a team. So I average out the cheering, and I just take the median. And that's... is that right? The median? Is that average of the...

**Sydnee:** The mean. The mean.

**Justin:** Co-sign of the...

**Sydnee:** No.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** It's okay. You don't have to know that.

**Justin:** Welcome to Indianapolis, Sydnee McElroy.

**Sydnee:** Thanks.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** Just me?

**Justin:** What?

**Sydnee:** Welcome everyone... well, you might live here. Welcome anyway.

**Justin:** Some of you probably live here.

**Sydnee:** To what might be your hometown.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Whenever we get to go on the road and do shows, we try to find topics for Sawbones that relate to where we're going. And as I was looking into Indianapolis, and stuff about the history, and medical history, and that kind of thing, one of the things I came across... which, I realize now, as I'm about to do the show... is it foolhardy to go somewhere and like, kind of knock on one of their biggest corporations?

**Justin:** Nooo!

**Sydnee:** Is that a cool thing to do? [laughs]

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Justin:** They love it! They love it. And 'knock' is probably a strong term. If I know you, it's probably a celebratory... nice... story.

**Sydnee:** Uh... [laughs] We actually—this really—this happened, because we did this in Salt Lake City. We went to Salt Lake City, the home of the country's biggest essential oil manufacturers. And I... I decided, yeah, I'm just gonna talk about how bad they are. [laughs]

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Justin:** They were loving it, though, because I guess they were tired of their Facebook walls just being absolutely full of their—

**Sydnee:** Multi-level marketing.

**Justin:** Yeah, right.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so we're gonna talk about Eli Lilly.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Justin:** Actually, you can see from our, like, hotel room. You can see, like, a giant Lilly building.

**Sydnee:** Yeah! I don't know which one. I assume there are many, right? Like, there's a lot.

**Justin:** Probably a lot.

**Sydnee:** I doubt there's only one. But yeah, it's really large. I don't... I guess we could go visit, maybe tomorrow? Or maybe not.

**Justin:** Ehh, we'll see. We'll see. If we're sort of a welcome presence.

**Sydnee:** This isn't bad. This is... like a lot of drug companies that have been around for a really long time, occasionally, they dabbled in things, uh, that are not... not traditionally accepted as medications today. Or maybe should be, I'unno. And Eli Lilly doesn't always like to talk about that part of their history, but we do, so we're going to.

**Justin:** Syd, I'm gonna call you a furniture salesman, 'cause you're really couching it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I'm gonna get angry letters. Like, I'm not... this isn't slander or anything.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** So, as you may imagine, Eli Lilly is named for... Eli Lilly, who was a—like, a guy. And that was his name. Eli Lilly.

**Justin:** So far, so good.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** He wasn't born here. He was actually born in Baltimore, but he moved around a bit with his family, ending up in Kentucky for a while, and then back in Indiana where he attended, uh, what was Indiana Asbury University, which is now DePauw. And uh, he... I love this part of his biography, because if you read it, it says, "Lilly became interested in chemicals as a teen."

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Hey, I think a lot of us can relate to that.

**Sydnee:** Sure. Alright, Eli. Me too, me too. But he was really—like, he wanted to do stuff with it. He wanted to be a chemist, not just, y'know, use 'em. And so, he was on a trip with his aunt and uncle, and he was—he visited this drug store. It was called the Henry Lawrence Good Samaritan Drug Store.

And he watched what the apothecary was doing there, and he got really excited about it, and said, like, can I come and work here and apprentice with you for a while and learn how to do what you're doing? And they said yeah. And so, four years later, he had actually completed a full chemistry.

And at the time, that would've been a pretty standard, like, training course for a pharmacist.

**Justin:** A lot of it was made up anyway. [laughs] So...

**Sydnee:** So he learned how to mix chemicals. And he also learned a lot about managing businesses, and funds, and that kind of thing from the guy who ran the drug store. So he kind of apprenticed him in business management as well as in making drugs. And so, he was ready to kind of go out into the world and make drugs for people. [laughs]

Well, that was his plan. But he had to work for a while. He worked in Indianapolis for a while at different drug stores, y'know, just kind of working as the pharmacist at the counter, not really owning the operation or making new medications. Just mixing and selling compounds that were already known.

His career got interrupted for a while, because there was a war... the Civil one. Yeah, so...

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So that side-tracked him for a little bit. He had to stop pursuing chemistry, and instead... he was on the Union side, which is good.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** I say that, because we were talking about the Civil War in Nashville yesterday... [laughing] And when I said that the guy was on the Union side that we were talking about, everybody was kind of like, "Oh, okay..."

**Justin:** Alright... that's not fair to Nashville. They are very pro-Union at this point, now.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I'm just sayin'. So—

**Justin:** You're just saying that, in Nashville, they kind of wished the Confederacy had won. Is that what you're saying?

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I'm not saying that! I'm not saying that, no.

**Justin:** You were saying they kind of think the south should rise again, and the war of northern aggression, et cetera, et cetera. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying that being a West Virginian, it's nice to be back in the Union.

**Justin:** Yeah!

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** That's all I'm saying.

**Justin:** We had a great time in Nashville. Lot of great music, lot of great food.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** It's a lovely place that doesn't condone slavery at all.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Justin:** That's from me, Justin McElroy, the one who doesn't get the louder cheers.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Sydnee's doing her best to even things out.

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying that—

**Justin:** You're still just going—I gave you an out!

**Sydnee:** Raucous applause—

**Justin:** You don't have to keep digging, Syd!

**Sydnee:** For the north... anyway. So, uh, after the war, he went back to his chemistry business. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1876, he opened his own labs. He finally got to pursue what he had been wanting to do since his teen years when he first got so interested in chemicals.

Uh, he started his own laboratory. He had a two-story building, and he began to manufacture his own medicines, and it was called... it actually just said "Eli Lilly: Chemist" over the door. It's not like a catchy name, but then, he never changed it, so I guess it worked. [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So he started out his business, and his big thing was that during the Civil War, he observed a lot of the medics using medicines and doctors using medicines that he knew weren't working, from his chemistry training. He was like, "Well, that doesn't do anything. That was fake." I mean, a lot of the medicine was.

And so, he wanted to use... he said, y'know, "I really want to make medicines that work and do something." He had good intentions. And so, he started with quinine. Which is a real medicine, right? He observed, quinine is good for malaria. I want to manufacture it and sell it.

And of course, quinine was used for lots of other things that it didn't necessarily treat. But he really did start off with a real medicine, and that was great, and that made some money. But not enough. And so, then, he started making fake medicines like everybody else. [laughs]

**Justin:** Alright!

**Sydnee:** And some things were just like, helpful innovations. Like, he was the first one to come up with like, gel coated pills and capsules that made things easier to swallow.

**Justin:** That's good.

**Sydnee:** That was good. He came up with like, fruit flavorings for medicine, and sugar coating pills, and that kind of thing, so that it was easier for like, kids to take them. So that's good.

**Justin:** Good... good. Yeah. Good.

**Sydnee:** I mean, good in that, it's good that you're thinking about kids taking medicine... bad in that it probably was still like, opium. [laughs]

**Justin:** Right.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Mother's little helper.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But... but in addition to that, he also was making a lot of the kind of like, hand-rolled pills and compounds and elixirs that a lot of the other... I mean, honestly, patent medicine salesmen and women of the time were making. So, there were a lot of like... if you look through an Eli Lilly catalog of their medications from the early years, they're not that different than a lot of the other patent medicines that he was kind of against when he first started out.

One was called, uh, Succus Alterans.

**Justin:** One of the great Harry Potter spells.

**Audience:** [laughs]



**Sydnee:** Or, 'alternative juice' is the other name for it. [laughs]

**Justin:** That's very good!

**Sydnee:** A succus is a fluid. Like a gastric juice is what they were referencing.

**Justin:** Gross.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Justin:** I like mine better. The whimsy and everything.

**Sydnee:** Uh, but he started selling that, and that was like, their big... that was actually a bigger seller than quinine. [laughs] People liked that better.

**Justin:** The real medicine.

**Sydnee:** It was supposed to be used for like, purifying the blood and the liver. Whatever that meant. And there were a lot of things like that. This is just a liver toxin. It's good for your liver. Take it. And really, what it was was various herbal things in a bunch of alcohol. So it was like 24% alcohol.

**Justin:** Nice! So it worked.

**Sydnee:** And then it—I mean, it had some like, pokeweed in there. It had some burdock. It had some prickly ash. But it was mainly alcohol. And people loved it, and—

**Justin:** Yeah. I would think, yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was very popular for, uh...

**Audience:** [laughing]

**Justin:** For drinking?

**Sydnee:** For syphilitic afflictions.

**Justin:** Like sobriety.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, like syphilis. [laughs]

**Justin:** Some... some people with syphilis are sober, I would imagine.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and then they also started to say like, well, y'know, our patients with syphilis seem to love it, and they've also let us know that it's really good for their rheumatism. And it's really good for all their skin conditions. So you can use this stuff and put it all over you if you want to at the same time, for your eczema or psoriasis or whatever. It's mainly alcohol. Put it wherever you want. It's fine.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** We don't care. Uh, the dose of this by the way was either... one teaspoon three times a day, or one tablespoon three times a day, for two months, or three months, or eight months... or you keep taking it forever, and at some point, switch to once every other week. Just... feel your way through.

**Justin:** [laughs] Trust your gut.

**Sydnee:** Whatever you think is working. It's working. And if it's not, just take more.

**Justin:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** So that was their biggest seller. They also sold some other things like uh, laxatives were very popular at this point in history. They're always popular, right? Everybody always loves laxatives. They sold laxatives, and people loved them, 'cause right away, you knew, like, it worked. [laughs]

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Or it didn't, and you didn't buy it. But they were selling senna based laxatives, like elixir purgans, which would work.

**Justin:** Work.

**Sydnee:** It had senna in it. Yes. And the doses were like... it's funny, 'cause they have different doses based on, do you want it to just like...

**Justin:** How busy is your schedule? [laughing]

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Do you need to be regular? Do you need a cleaning? [laughs] Or do you want it coming out both ends?

**Audience:** [sounds of horror]

**Justin:** Do you need an excuse to finish your book?

**Sydnee:** Are... [laughing] Are you hiding from your wife and children in the bathroom for a while to get a break? Is that what that... is that what that meant?

**Justin:** What's the next thing you were gonna...

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, they also sold all kinds of pills with ingredients that, at the time, would've been very common. You found belladonna, morphine, cocaine, strychnine...

**Justin:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Just a whole catalog full of... mainly, these were the active ingredients in varying amounts, mixed together in some alcohol. [laughs] And named something that sounded effective. And that was mainly the catalog.

Again, like, this is not... this is not a strange thing for a drug company at the time to have these kinds of things in their, y'know, in their library. It was included... all of these things were included in the United States pharmacopeia at the time, as legitimate drugs that were used for various afflictions. And among them, another that I haven't mentioned, was cannabis.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** Cannabis was a very popular drug.

**Justin:** That's legal here, right?

**Audience:** No!

**Justin:** Oh, crap!

**Audience:** [laughs and cheers]

**Justin:** It's a joke. Just kidding. Just kidding. I only do cocaine.

**Sydnee:** Don't worry, we didn't fly anywhere. We're just driving.

**Justin:** Yeah, we're just driving in a bus. It's fine. Everything's legal in a bus. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Audience:** [laughs]

[theme music plays]

**Justin:** Hey, everybody. We hope you are enjoying the program today. Uh, we have a live episode for you, then we're back with new, brand spankin' new episodes of Sawbones next week, so uh, thanks for hangin' out with us.

We got a couple of sponsors. Y'know, business. Sorry. The suits. The suits in marketing force us to do this. We'd rather just talk about science and live free. But we gotta pay the bills, so...

First up this week is Shady Rays. Uh, if you wanted to get a great looking pair of sunglasses, and you don't want to pay as much as the other... the other companies. You know the ones I'm talking about. I don't want to name any names, but uh... let's just say it rhymes with pexpensive punglasses. Y'know what I'm talking about.

You're gonna want to go to Shady Rays. It's an independent sunglasses company that wants to give people more bang for the buck. The shades are polarized, and they're made to hold up no matter what you do outside at a reasonable price. Also, they want to have the best warranty in all of eyewear. If you break or you lose them, they're gonna replace them for you for life.

And get this – Shady Rays provides ten meals to fight hunger in America with every order placed, and they provided over four million meals so far. That's amazing. So, head on over to [ShadyRays.com](http://ShadyRays.com), and you're gonna find a deal that is... they describe it as Black Friday level. So believe this or not.

Go to [ShadyRays.com](http://ShadyRays.com) and use the code 'Sawbones.' You're gonna get 50% off of two or more pairs. That's like buy one, get one free, basically. Run the numbers. You can get two pairs for \$45, the best warranty in all of eyewear... you can't beat it. Go to [ShadyRays.com](http://ShadyRays.com), use the code 'Sawbones', and you can find all the newest, latest styles, and you're gonna get 50% off if you get two or more pairs.

So check it out. [ShadyRays.com](http://ShadyRays.com), promo code 'Sawbones.'

Uh, we have a veritable sort of beach cornucopia for you here, because what are you gonna put all these fancy new sunglasses in? You're out in the water, you're living your best island life... where do you store your sunglasses? Why, in an Away suitcase, of course!

Away brings you world-class luggage that solves some old problems, like wheels that stick. Don't you hate that? You're cruising along, then... oh! Sticky wheel. Guess that's my day. And also, some new problems, like dead cell phones.

These are wonderful suitcases that come in nine colors and four different styles. Every one is made with premium, German polycarbonate, and they come with a lifetime warranty. And also, if you want to get a carryon suitcase, you can rest easy knowing they're compliant with all major US airlines, so no need to eat any portion of your suitcase to get it to fit. No worries there.

We have an Away bag. We use it for our kids' clothes all the time. They love it, 'cause it's this very pretty pink shade, which is Charlie's very favorite. You can't bust the thing up. It is nigh indestructible. A fantastic suitcase, and we're lucky to have it as a part of our luggage wear family, which is a phrase no one's ever said.

So, you get \$20 off a suitcase with this deal. It's [AwayTravel.com/Sawbones](http://AwayTravel.com/Sawbones). Use the promo code 'Sawbones' during check out, and you can save \$20 off. Can't beat that. It's fantastic. Also, if you're in the New York City area, there's an Away retail store you can check out.

So, one more time. [AwayTravel.com/Sawbones](http://AwayTravel.com/Sawbones). Use the promo code 'Sawbones' at check out, and you're gonna save \$20.

Folks, that's gonna do it for us. So let's uhh... let's not have any further ado. Let's just get back to the show!

**Sydnee:** Now, the thing about this... this cannabis part of the story. Cannabis is a big part of the Eli Lilly story. But for some reason, Eli Lilly representatives don't like to talk about it. [laughs] They don't like to go over

it. Like, if you read... and I've read, now, several accounts of the history of Eli Lilly, you won't find any mention of their cannabis operations in the early years.

And this is strange, 'cause again, this wasn't just them. Like, all the major pharmaceutical companies were also selling weed alongside all their other medicines, or not medicines, that they were selling. But this has become like, an obsession and a fascination for someone in particular. This is how I found this story. This gentleman named Fred Pfenninger, who is a former attorney, who started working as an Eli Lilly diversification analyst... whatever that means. And he holds a bunch of shares in Eli Lilly.

And he was always vehemently anti-drug. And then, he knew somebody who used marijuana to manage their pain, and he saw that it was really effective, and so, now, he's become very pro-marijuana. Now, he'll tell you, he doesn't use it – he just wants it to be a medicine that everybody else can use if they need it.

**Justin:** Wink. Wink.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And uh, and it's funny, 'cause if you read descriptions, everything I read kept referring to him as like... when you see him, he's a distinguished gentleman in a blue blazer, and he's very much a Marion county Republican.

**Justin:** We thought y'all might know what that meant.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But he really wants Eli Lilly to talk about how they loved weed. And—

**Justin:** [laughs] It's like a friend you went to college with that smoked every day, and you try to get him to talk about it later in front of their kids. It's like, "That's not really me anymore. I'm not Blazy Bob, I'm just Robert, the father of Rebecca and Steven."

**Sydnee:** So this story largely... he has dug up, and unearthed, and shared with the world, just 'cause he really wants everybody to know, like, "I own shares in Eli Lilly, and they used to love pot!" [laughs] And it's true.

In the late 1800s when everybody else was also on the cannabis bus, and selling it for a variety of things... like I said, it was in the pharmacopeia of the United States. You could find listed, marijuana for gout, rheumatism, tetanus, cholera, convulsions, hysteria, hemorrhage... whatever. Pain. Anything. It was sold and used for everything.

And so, it was a legitimate medication. And there was a particular member of the Eli Lilly company that was really interested in all the things that it can do, and though, y'know what, this could be a big part of our business, y'know? We've got the quinine, good. We've got a bunch of fake stuff. That's good.

**Justin:** Love it.

**Sydnee:** People love that. It's all in alcohol. But we need to sell more cannabis products. And right as World War I occurred, it became really difficult to import cannabis, which is what a lot of people were doing. They were importing cannabis from outside the US, and it became really difficult.

And so... they started to think... well, instead of importing it, why don't we just start growing our own? We can grow marijuana. We got the funds. That's what you need, right? You need the science. You gotta know how to grow some weed. And you need the money to like, have the land. Like, have an operation.

And so... first, in 1907, you can find that the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, which was the nation's first pharmacy school, approved a doctoral thesis that was called "The Comparative Physiological Effects of Several Varieties of Cannabis Sativa."

And it was authored by Eli Lilly, grandson of Eli Lilly, who was fascinated, and I mean, went about it in a very scientific way to find a new, better strain



of marijuana that he could grow. Like, a homegrown, American, 100% made in the USA....

**Justin:** Love that. So important.

**Sydnee:** Cannabis that they could grow, and start making medications out of and sell, since it was getting so cumbersome to import stuff. And so, in 1912, the Eli Lilly corporation bought a ton of land. It was like, a farm that the family used to own back in Greenfield. He bought—

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** He bought a bunch of land in Greenfield, and turned it into fields of marijuana. [laughs]

**Justin:** Hence the name that resides to this day.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** There is a huge, like, stucco... it's like a Spanish style kind of building there, at what was called Lilly Farms. Like, beautiful red tile and all this, where they would like, house the operations right next to the farms where they were growing all of the marijuana. You can still, by the way, like, that building still stands. I don't think there is any mention of the fact that this used to be where we grew a ton of weed. But it is there.

And they started like, cultivating these different things. They actually worked with another corporation, Park Davis, which was the precursor to Pfizer. So basically, Pfizer and Eli Lilly got together and grew great weed.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Justin:** A very chill time. A very chill time in American history.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And like, by their 1927 Lilly catalog of all their products and everything they were selling, they had like, 23 different products, based on cannabis, that they had grown on their farms and were selling for all kinds of

different things. So it was a huge part of their business. They'd invested a ton of time and money and science and effort and belief into, y'know, getting cannabis to the people.

And uh, you could get... so, it was six dollars a pint, which is a wild way, by the way. [laughing] I don't know anybody who sells cannabis by the pint. But for six dollars a pint, you could get some cannabis sativa, which was way cheaper than the imported cannabis that they were bringing in before. So it was also... it was out-competing the imported cannabis that was still coming into the country.

Um, and uh, in the early 1900s, they went onto cultivate cannabis at a whole other... they bought Connor Prairie.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** So they had like, three different locations where they were selling their own strain of cannabis, and like, y'know, selling all these drugs. And it was great... for a very short period of time.

**Justin:** Aw, no! Syd!

**Sydnee:** I know. I know. Which was the—

**Justin:** You had to see this coming, though.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And this story... I mean, we're talking about Eli Lilly, 'cause we're here. But this would be the same for any of these major companies, or even smaller companies, and farms, and chemists, and drug manufacturers at the time were finding new, better ways to grow cannabis, and which strains were good for what, and what strength, and how best to deliver it. Y'know, different... not just smoking, other ways to take in cannabis.

They were doing all this, and everybody got...

**Justin:** High.

**Sydnee:** Freaked out about marijuana.

**Justin:** Yeah. Yours too.

**Sydnee:** It was around the same time—well, no, they did. It was around the same time as prohibition. Everybody was really upset about alcohol, and people started to get really nervous about everybody getting high. And you started to see—and this is kind of like, we’re talking about like, reefer madness kind of like... people getting all worried, like, “What’s it gonna do? Everybody’s taking cannabis, I don’t know...”

And you started to see the government respond with more regulations. And in 1937, they passed the marijuana tax act, which made it so expensive to grow and produce and sell any of these cannabis-based products, that they just kind of abandoned it. ‘Cause it just wasn’t... I mean, you couldn’t make money.

**Justin:** The government doesn’t want you to have fun. There it is, folks.

**Sydnee:** I mean, that is true. [laughs]

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So, at that point, Lilly... they just had to make the financial decision, like, well, this is... y’know, we’ve invested all this, but there’s no way we can possibly make money. So they shut down the operation. They stopped growing marijuana. I think Lilly farms became an animal health company. Elainco? Elanco? Elanco?

And so, that is where that used to be. Where the marijuana fields were. No more. I assume. I don’t know what they’re—

**Justin:** I don’t know, we haven’t been there. Maybe look around.

**Sydnee:** I don’t know.

**Justin:** They can't have gotten all of it, right?

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, of course, Eli Lilly, the company, did fine for itself. Because... [laughs] Around the same time that, unfortunately, cannabis operations were shut down, there had also been a lot of pressure on bigger pharmaceutical companies to start doing some science.

**Justin:** [groans]

**Sydnee:** And like, make medicine that works. And especially from the American Medical Association, the AMA, started to put pressure on, y'know, through their lobbying with the government. Like, hey, look, they're just selling all this cocaine, and... [laughs] Like, that's great. People love it. But there's probably other things.

**Justin:** [laughs] There may be a downside that we haven't even seen.

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So at that point, Eli Lilly hired their first, like, researcher.

**Justin:** [laughs] Wait... *does* it work? Hold on...

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Let me back up.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so, and at that point, they started to... [laughs]

**Justin:** At some point, they had a conversation. "Hey, does any of this work?"

"How would I know?"

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So they started to actually like, research medications that... one of the first things they did was actually partner with two scientists from the University of Toronto, Banting and Best, who had just started to synthesize this pancreatic extract that was doing wonders for diabetic patients, because it was insulin.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Justin:** Some fans. Alright. Love that stuff.

**Sydnee:** Y'know, it's just occurring to me... man, I should really think about these things ahead of time. That researcher—the first researcher they hired was named George Henry Alexander Clowes.

**Justin:** Oh. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Is that 'Clows'? Right? 'Clues'?

**Justin:** 'Clues'?

**Sydnee:** 'Clues'? Is that...

**Justin:** Like Blue's Clues. Yes. Thank you.

**Sydnee:** Oh, Clowes. Is that—

**Justin:** That's what we were trying to ascertain, whether or not it was like, Blue's Clues.

**Sydnee:** It's gotta be, right?

**Justin:** It's gotta be the same cat, right? But maybe not. Are there a lot of Clowes running around? Y'know what... we can't do this. You're not Wikipedia. You paid to be here.

**Sydnee:** I should'a Wikipedia'ed it.

**Justin:** We'll get back to you. [laughing] Next time.

**Audience:** [laughing]

**Justin:** You want me to Google it while you finish the show? [laughing hysterically]

**Sydnee:** No, that's gotta be right.

**Justin:** Let's go with it. I'll get it in editing. [laughing]

**Sydnee:** Don't tell anybody who wasn't here tonight.

**Justin:** Right. When you listen to this at home, there'll be a very smart sounding part here. [laughing]

**Sydnee:** Uh, anyway, so, they partnered with Banting and Best from Toronto, and they started producing insulin, which obviously, is a real medication that works. Should be a lot more affordable... uh, Eli Lilly...

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** It's not just their fault, but y'know, them too. Uh, and they started making that, and then after that, in the '40s when penicillin was discovered, they were part of the first companies that started manufacturing penicillin. And obviously, these were real medicines that really helped people, and really legitimized them as a force.

And I don't think I need to tell you that Eli Lilly is obviously a very big drug company now that still sells humulin, and they sell Prozac, and all kinds of

other medications that you've heard of, and they are the largest corporation in Indiana. But, they are also the largest charitable benefactor.

**Audience:** [cheers weakly]

**Justin:** That's the least we can expect from capitalism, but okay. That's good.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Justin:** Just admit that you used to sell a lot of weed! That's all we're asking! Just say it!

**Sydnee:** I mean, it is worth noting that, as I said, like, the insulin part of this... we've had this insulin since like, the '30s, guys. It doesn't have to be this expensive. We've known about it for a long time. Just saying.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** It's not new. But, this cannabis story... I felt like it was important to share with everyone. Because one, there was a long time where we were actually trying to figure out, what can we do with cannabis, as a legitimate medicine? And then we stopped, because we made it a schedule one drug that we can't do anything with, 'cause once it's schedule one, you can't give it to people, because that would be unethical.

So we can't do any good experiments to see what all it can do for people. But if we could reschedule it, then we could.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Sydnee:** And then we would know what it would do, and we could prescribe it for the things that it works for.

**Justin:** Sure. Reschedule it doesn't look as good on a bumper sticker. We agree. [laughs]

**Audience:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, science is where it starts. The research is the first part, which is what, kindly, Fred Pfenninger said when he introduced, at the annual shareholders meeting of Eli Lilly last year... [laughs] A resolution to, one, he just wanted everybody to recognize the history of Eli Lilly growing lots of weed. [laughs] And selling it.

**Justin:** Can we just all admit that we did just used to grow a lot of weed? I did—that's all my resolution says.

**Sydnee:** That's really—he stood up at the shareholders meeting, and just read the history. "I just want you all to know..." [laughs] And then, two, he said, "And I would ask, as a shareholder, could you lobby the government to reschedule marijuana so that Eli Lilly can continue its research in this area and start selling it again?" And apparently, it was voted down.

**Audience:** [groans]

**Justin:** [groans] Hey, we'll get 'em next year.

**Sydnee:** Hey, maybe next year.

**Justin:** Maybe next year, folks. There's always next year. Hey, thank you so much for joining us here, Indianapolis.

**Audience:** [cheers]

**Justin:** There is a... we owe a great debt to the Taxpayers for the use of their song, Medicines, as the intro and outro of our program. Thank you to uh, Paul Sabourin for all of his assistance here this evening. And uh, we are going to be back in a moment with My Brother, My Brother, and Me. There is going to be a brief intermission, at which point, you can help yourself to the restroom. But please do that. Please use the bathroom. Please buy some stuff. And uh, please buy our book on Amazon. It's called the Sawbones book.



That is gonna do it for us this week, so until next time, my name is Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:** And as always, don't drill a hole in your head!

**Audience:** [cheers]

[theme music plays]

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