Nevada Test Site Oral History Project
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Interview with Richard Wyman

December 1, 2005
Boulder City, Nevada

Interview Conducted By
Suzanne Becker

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Interview with Richard and Anne Wyman

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Richard Wyman: I'm Richard Wyman and Anne is my wife. And we came from northern Ohio. I was from Painesville, Ohio and Anne was from Cleveland [Ohio], in Edmunds Avenue near Hough Avenue, and I was from Mentor Avenue in Painesville. Anne, do you want to say a little bit about your family?

Anne Wyman: No, not really.

Richard Wyman: Arthur Fenton was her father and Edna Fenton her mother. Her mother's family came directly from Scotland. And Arthur, or the father, his family was from Connecticut. Anne worked at Hough Bakery to put herself through college. How long did you work there, Anne?

Anne Wyman: I don't remember. It was—

Richard Wyman: About five years, I think.

Anne Wyman: Yeah, I think it was five or six years.

Richard Wyman: In the Hough Bakeries in Cleveland. I think the bakery chain is still there. And then she went to Western Reserve University and was able to walk to it. It was in the area of Cleveland where the art museum is. It was all within walking distance of where she lived.

I lived in Painesville, which is a rural town about thirty miles east of there. I was in the [United States] Navy and the Navy unit at Case Western Reserve for a while, and after the war [World War II] I went there to get my bachelor's degree. Anne already had her bachelor's degree in geology. She was the first woman graduate in geology.

At the university?

At that university, yes. She was a lab assistant in mineralogy, so that's where I met her. She taught me mineralogy. And we were married there in December 1947.

So you also majored in geology?

There. I started in civil engineering and I changed over to geology. So I graduated there in geology, and Anne was headed for the University of Michigan to graduate school. We both went to the University of Michigan to graduate school. We got married and went up there.

What was that like?

Anne Wyman: It was wonderful.

Richard Wyman: It was a wonderful place to go, yes.

Ann Arbor?

Yes. And we lived at Willow Run, which is the housing for the old bomber plant. We lived in first a zero-bedroom, they called it. It had a room and the kitchen and a very small bathroom with a shower. And we heated and cooked and all with a coal stove. It was amazing that Anne, she did such a good job with a coal stove. You don't set the timer or the temperature on it. You just get your fire going and then you watch to see what you're cooking, how it behaves. So different way of cooking, and old-fashioned way of cooking.

Right. Have to really control the heat.

You can't control the heat. You have to control—with what's in the pot. And our first child was born there, a baby girl. Her name was Anne. She only lived for one week. This is the most awful thing that can happen to a mother and father. It takes many years to get past this loss—.

We stayed at Michigan for a while, but we had a bigger apartment then, what they called a one-bedroom. It had a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen and the bathroom.

Moving up.

Yes. And there we had a coal stove to cook with but I put in a roaster oven and a hot plate so we didn't have to depend so much on the coal. And we heated with a round coal-burning stove **[00:05:00]** which was called a Dixie No-Smoke. It smoked terribly. You had to lift up the lid to put the fuel in and then the smoke would get out in your living room.

So it wasn't really a no-smoke.

No. We got our master's degree, both of us, at the University of Michigan in 1949.

What did you do your work in?

We stayed another year. We stayed another year and I got more coursework. I used up the GI Bill. And then we went to Peru.

Right after school.

Yes. We went to Peru.

What drew you to Peru?

We wanted to get away from things. Our daughter had died. We wanted to get a good start, and a good professional start it was. I had good recommendations and it's a very large, complex geology mine [Cerro de Pasco Corporation] high in the Andes, 14,300 feet.

That is high.

Anne taught the school for the English-speaking children at that camp.

Anne Wyman: It was fun to do it.

Richard Wyman: About 3,000 men worked at the mine, but of the professional staff they were Europeans and Americans. Maybe one-third were Americans and the other third were English and other Europeans and some Peruvians, Peruvian professional people. Many of them wanted their children to speak English. She had a school there with about a dozen children

usually, in different grades from kindergarten to the eighth grade. They weren't equally distributed, by any means. They were whoever happened to be there.

Now you guys were living at like a base camp?

There's a city there. There's an old city called Cerro de Pasco and a part of that town was where we lived. We lived in that town.

And then you worked in a—

The mine was there. The reason for the town was the mine. The mine had been operating for 500 years.

What were you mining?

Underground mine. Copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, bismuth, and tin.

Quite a bit.

Yes. We had lots of adventures there, some of which were not very healthy for us. For one thing, the air is very thin there. Pressure is very thin, so what happens is your blood thickens up, and in order to accommodate that air, your blood becomes very thick and dark, black, extra red corpuscles and things.

Were you actually living at 14,000?

Yes, that's where we lived.

That's pretty significant.

Yes. And it thickened up. Mine never changed after we left, so I have to have blood taken out here. It's called polycythemiavera.

That's quite a mouthful.

That's because I make too many red platelets in my blood, and they've been taking some out about every month, but it's quit quite a bit now and I only have to go every two or three months.

But that's ever since you returned?

Yeah. And that's a long-term effect of living in the altitude.

There was a very bad accident while we were there and I would say this happened—my job as a geologist was to discover ore in the mine and in the near vicinity and also to help the mining people mine in a safe way because of the rock situation—know the strength of the rock and everything. Well, in one stope—a stope is an area where they've taken the ore out or are **[00:10:00]** taking the ore out; it's an open area—in one stope they had some trouble and the mine foreman in that area, whose name was Jim Nodder, came to my office in the morning and he said, `Dick, I want you to look at the situation we have down there in 8180 number two.` He said, `I don't know what to do about it and I want your advice.` And he picked the wrong time to come because our staff had been working on our ore estimate, which was a big, big job, and it was due at noon that same day. So I said, `Jim, I've got to get this ore estimate out this morning. Right after lunch, I'll meet you in the change room and we'll go look at it.` Well, that stope caved in at eleven o'clock in the morning, with him in it and seven other people. Three of them were staff: [an] assistant superintendent, another foreman and himself. They were all killed. And when that happened, word came to the geology office and we had to muster to go and see what we could do about rescuing them. So I told the secretary of my department there, whose name was Cornelio Madrano—they didn't employ women there much; it was just men—I told him to call my wife and tell her there'd been an accident in the mine and that I was going down and I wouldn't be home for lunch. Well, whatever he told her got garbled up. She thought I was in the accident underground and wouldn't be home at all. And she and other women came over and there they

were worried about us, and up I came right from the mine, up I came. Resurrected. Walking out. You remember that?

Anne Wyman: I remember it very well.

Richard Wyman: Anyhow, those were very sad days then.

Anne Wyman: They sure were.

Richard Wyman: We were at the end of the railroad. The railroad went from Lima to La Oroya and there we took a different train, the train to Cerro. The Cerro train, this was a steam locomotive—they were all steam locomotives—and we would sit in the first-class car. The first-class car was something a little bit more primitive than a bus today. They cooked meals in there. Down at the end of the car there was a stove and they cooked meals and could have *churrasco* and eggs and rice, any combination: *churrasco* and rice, *churrasco* and eggs, eggs and rice, or whatever. *Churrasco* is a tough steak. It's not tenderloin, it's a beefsteak. And ride the train to Cerro.

We went on vacation one time there and almost got it again. This was see-how-lucky-I-was fate, or God was looking after me not to put me into that accident because if it had been on a different day, I would've gone. Or if it had been in the afternoon that it caved in, I'd have been in it. We were going on vacation to Lima one time and we got on the train and we went to La Oroya and in La Oroya you catch a different railroad. It's called the *Ferrocarril Central*.

Anne Wyman: Yes, I remember that one.

Richard Wyman: And we'd catch a train to Lima. The Lima train goes up over 16,000 feet, over the Ticlio Pass, then it goes down through a maze of tunnels and switchbacks and it drops from 16,000 feet to sea level in about sixty miles. So it's very steep.

Well, we were going along and all of a sudden, a man came through the car and he pulled down shutters on the uphill side to keep rocks from falling through the glass. He pulled down shutters all the way along. And then the train came to a stop and the lights went out because the lights worked off of generators in the wheels. The lights went out. So we're sitting in the dark on the side of a mountain and we didn't know what was going on. Well, they told us we'd **[00:15:00]** have to get off the train, take our luggage if we wanted to keep it. And it's raining. We got off the train. We had our city clothes on. We got off the train and walk[ed] along a path along the railroad track for a ways, I would say quarter of a mile. And then I'm carrying two suitcases and Anne's with me, in our city clothes, not hiking clothes. We walked a ways and we walked down the hill on a trail to a bridge, so called, that went across the Rimac River. The railroad follows the Rimac River. It's at the bottom of an 8,000-foot canyon. And in the bottom of the canyon, the river was just white froth because it had been raining.

It was flowing pretty high.

Coming across that was a suspension bridge that held a pipeline, and there's a little walkway on top of the pipeline, and no guardrail. This is how we're going to get from where we are over to the highway on the other side. The highway on the other side isn't really a highway by our standards. It's a gravel road, room enough for two cars to pass, but only. And it's a winding gravel road. Well, they had brought two-and-a-half-ton dump trucks, a number of them, down there. Those are to move us with if we get across. Hopefully we get across. We got across, and this wonderful woman that I have, we decided this is how we're going to have to cross. We're not going to stay on the side of this mountain. I walked across with a suitcase in each hand. There's no guardrail. Anne took a hold of my belt in the back, my belt on my pants, so we must

have looked like a big old camel walking across there. She was hanging on to me and I'm holding the suitcases and we walked across that bridge.

But you guys made it.

To the other side. Yeah. It's still raining all the time. We got to the other side, and I gave one of the truck drivers over there a little money, some money so that she could ride in the cab with him. The men got up in the backs, and some of the women. They're Peruvian Indians principally. And I stood in the back with the men. Many of the other men gave money to the truck drivers to put their wives in the seats, too.

Then we drove down the road for a long ways, several miles, and we came to another train. They had brought a train up for us. But when we went down the road, we could see why the train had stopped. A landslide just ahead of the train had taken out the railroad and taken it all the way into the river. And had we been a little bit sooner, it would've gotten us.

You're lucky.

Because it was intact when we left La Oroya, they would've not sent the train on that.

Anne Wyman: I remember that.

Richard Wyman: So we remember that. We got to Lima OK.

It sounds quite harrowing.

Anne Wyman: It was scary.

Richard Wyman: Those are a couple of instances. We had others, but those are some of the ones.

How long were you in Peru?

Almost three years. Anne taught the school there. She had experiences with that, too. Do you remember going to Goyllarisquisga?

Anne Wyman: Oh, yes.

Richard Wyman: See if you can tell her about that.

Anne Wyman: Oh, gee, I don't remember very much about it now.

Richard Wyman: They had vehicles—the roads don't go everyplace and many of the roads are so bad, you don't want to spend [time] much driving on them. And Goyllarisquisga is the name of the place. It was a coal-mining town that belonged to the company. But it had an incline through the coal mine and when they came out at the other end, there were gardens down there and lush tropical vegetation. Anne took her school kids over there on a field trip and on a picnic, to Goyllarisquisga. They took them in the automobile with railroad wheels on the railroad to Goyllarisquisga. So it's called an *autovagón*. It's an automobile with railroad wheels, and it took them over to Goyllarisquisga where they got out and **[00:20:00]** they went in the mine in a mine car and down through on this incline, through the coal mine, and out at the bottom. They came out at the bottom in the sunlight and had a picnic down there.

Anne Wyman: Boy, that was fun.

Sounds beautiful.

Richard Wyman: It is. We also went other places. When we went on vacation, we went to Machu Picchu. I'm sure you've read about that. When we went to Machu Picchu, you took a railroad train from Cuzco to a railroad siding that was on the Urubamba River down below Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu was up high. And then we got in trucks again. The two-and-a-half-ton dump truck was a standard transportation vehicle. It's small enough to negotiate winding road. And we went up to Machu Picchu. How many tourists were at Machu Picchu that day? Six. Now you have hundreds and hundreds every day. Thousands and thousands every year visit there. And they have regular buses that take people up, and they have a hotel there.

So did you go up?

We didn't have any hotel there or anything like that. We went in the way tourists did then, yes. We took lots of pictures. Machu Picchu is a very, very worthwhile place to go. We enjoyed that very much. And Cuzco. We visited in Cuzco. That's the capital of Inca Peru. It's the old capital. We saw many things there. Fortunately we were able to do these things while we had the chance to do them.

What was your favorite part of being there? What stands out most?

Well, the work itself was very good. I would have loved to have had that job at a different altitude here in the United States. But it was pretty wild. We have some nice things, like this coffee table, that came from there, and those three nested tables over in the corner are from there. They're three nested leather tables that you can see. We have a few other things here. Those brass candlesticks up at that end. We had two very ancient pre-Inca pottery jugs, until last year I gave them to a Peruvian young man that we sponsored to go to college here, and they're his. He's in Florida with his wife now. They live there. They have two kids.

We have friends in Peru that we've known now for over fifty years, and we sponsored two of them. There was a man that worked for me at Cerro de Pasco, Oscar Aguilar, and we sponsored him to go to Missouri School of Mines. And his son, we sponsored his son to go to UNLV [University of Nevada Las Vegas]. I told his son that when he got married, be sure and invite us; we'll come to the wedding. Well, he did. He married a French girl in France. So we went to France to the wedding just in 1998. That was a real good experience, too.

After Peru, we came back to the United States.

What made you come back here?

Well, the things that you mentioned, you see. It was a pretty dangerous place and we could do better here. Also the effect of the low pressure and the lack of air caused us to lose weight. Anne got down to eight-five pounds. I got down to 125. Can you imagine me weighing 125? Anne weighs 125 now. So we came back. We wanted to have children and we came back and we had our son Bill in Prescott. I worked in Prescott, Arizona for New Jersey Zinc Company.

What year was that that you came back here?

[00:25:00] In ’53. And New Jersey Zinc Company, they were exploring for ore bodies in central Arizona. That was a pretty nice job. It paid me about the same as I got at Cerro de Pasco, but Cerro de Pasco was cheaper to live. But while I was working for New Jersey Zinc, I was offered a job at a great big increase in pay to work for a uranium company in Utah, Western Gold and Uranium [Incorporated]. I worked for Western Gold and Uranium, and its sister company was called Golden Crown Mining Company. They were in Arizona and Utah and it was necessary for us to move to St. George [Utah].

You mentioned that. [In an earlier interview conducted 6/13/2005]

But in the meantime, while I was working for New Jersey Zinc, we built a house in Prescott. That was our first house of our own. Beautiful house. Small. Seven hundred square feet, and just so clean and new. That’s where Bill was born.

How long did you live out there?

We lived there for about a year and a half till we moved to St. George, because I was offered this better job. I never regret taking the better job because it not only gave me the extra pay but much more experience that was valuable all the rest of my life.

[In] St. George, we operated a mine at Silver Reef, which is seventeen miles north of there. [It was] a silver-uranium mine, and also a mine at Grand Canyon [National Park] called the Orphan. The Orphan was the richest uranium mine in the United States at that time.

That's pretty significant. So you did uranium mining. Tell me about that a little.

Yes. Uranium mining there and at Silver Reef. Silver Reef was uranium and silver. The values were about equal. We built a mill there and sunk a shaft, the first time I ever had part in that, sunk a vertical shaft and developed the mine to mine silver and uranium. And at the Orphan Mine, we built a tramway and then sunk a 1,550-foot shaft in order to mine that ore body. So this was the job, mining uranium and mining silver.

And what years were these?

This was from 1954 to '59. Five years.

Were you ever concerned about uranium?

No, this was a good job. These were good mines and the ore was rich and it paid off and made us money, made the employees money.

Where was it going to, the uranium?

All of the uranium was controlled by the United States Atomic Energy Commission [AEC]. They were the only buyer of uranium. None of it was sold to anybody else. It had to go to the Atomic Energy Commission. In 1958 they quit buying uranium ore from new mines. Only old mines. Well, we were also not able to get any new mines started then for uranium, so that was when I quit them. I wanted to do something else and I started a company called Intermountain Exploration Company, an independent exploration for ore deposits. And that lasted from 1959 to 1993. But we didn't have good financing and very soon I had to get a job someplace because we have to have money coming in. In the meantime we had a nice house we built in St. George. The

house is still there. 248 South 600 East—still there. We know the people living in it. And it looks as good as it ever did.

Now you lived in St. George for quite some time.

[00:30:00] Ten years. We moved there in 1954—the first of November ’53. November of ’53 to May ’63. In May ’63 we moved away from St. George, but in all that, ten years. Ten years, I operated uranium mines, and our son Bill was brought up there. Anne was bringing him up. She was doing the raising of our great son. Do you remember that?

Anne Wyman: You bet I do.

Richard Wyman: And that was in St. George.

Where does your son live now?

He lives up in Washington State, Yelm. And two grandsons.

How old are they?

Thirteen and sixteen. Teenagers.

So St. George. I started the Intermountain Exploration Company and we explored for porphyry copper deposits and gold and silver, not uranium. We weren’t looking for uranium, because you couldn’t sell it. If you got a new uranium mine, you couldn’t sell the ore. That’s all changed now. There’s an international market for uranium. There didn’t used to be.

But anyhow, in 1961 the Russians shot ten large atmospheric tests. And there had been a moratorium on testing from 1958. No tests were done in ’58 to ’61, then the Russians did ten of them in a week or so. And the [Nevada] test site [NTS] started up full bore. During the time we had lived in St. George, we heard these tests, we witnessed them.

I was going to ask you about that.

Yes. It's described in that other testimony [Interview conducted June 13, 2005]. Yes, they would tell us when there was going to be a test and what time it was going to be, and we would get up and go up on Red Hill just north of St. George. You could see to the west real good, and at the exact instant, let's say five a.m., you'd see the light go all the way up across the sky to the zenith, so the sky was completely lit. And we wouldn't hear anything or feel anything. Then we'd get in the car and drive back down to the apartment where we lived and we'd put on a pot of coffee and after about twenty minutes, along would come the noise. And then you'd feel the shock. Sometimes the shock would be about the same time, that is, coming through the ground. And sometimes the shock would be there ahead and make the window fly open or something.

That's pretty significant.

A hundred and twenty-five miles from the test site.

Yeah, that's pretty powerful.

So anyhow, when they started up again in 1961, I went over to look about getting a job. That's where I got a job as tunnel superintendent, first off just an assistant to the manager to do some work for him. But I was in charge of the Marshmallow tunnel, which was a large underground excavation and a large underground construction job. It finished under budget and early, and they were not used to that kind of thing at the test site. They were used to things being just the opposite.

So I made a name for myself that way, but I didn't want to continue at the test site at the time. I wanted to get back into mining, and I took a job with the Sunshine Mining Company [Kellogg, Idaho] and we went north. That's up in the panhandle of Idaho. What a wonderful place that was, too. It was a wooded country up there. There were elk, snow, all kinds of nice winter sports and things like that. Fishing.

How long were you there?

[00:35:00] We were there for a little over a year and we returned here January 1965. Don McGregor wanted me to go back to the test site because I had made a name for myself once, you see, and they were having trouble with Pile Driver, a large underground construction job to test different kinds of structures for what they would do in the case of a direct atomic attack. Two hundred underground structures. The man that was in charge of it was Glenn Clayton and he was a good miner but he wasn't doing a good job with this because it required some intense planning that he had no idea what to do with.

So anyhow, they got me back over there, to the test site, and that's when we moved to Boulder City. At the test site, I worked with Glenn Clayton and another man, Asa Morrison, who was a computer expert, as expert as they were at that time, with an IBM [International Business Machines] computer. We worked on scheduling every detail of that job. We worked nights for weeks. At the end of the day, we would go eat our dinner and then we'd set up shop in the Mercury camp, in a room that we had for it, and we'd put all this stuff on the wall and on bulletin boards and lay it all [out]. We had to schedule every bit of construction because these were 200 different kinds of construction. Each one required different materials. And they had to be done so you don't interfere with one of them while you're doing the other, and that was difficult. It took planning. But once we got that thing planned, we never lost another day. They couldn't catch up the budget that had been lost, but they never lost another [day] and they never got behind schedule again. It was for that reason they had promoted me to assistant manager of operations.

You had a reputation.

Yes. I jumped up over the people that hired me and everything, over McGregor and other people, and became assistant manager. And I was that until May 1969, when I left to go to UNLV. I taught at UNLV twenty-three years.

Now, let's talk about Anne.

Yes.

While I was doing this work at the test site, our son Bill, he has now gone into growing up and he is in the upper part of grade school. [So] Anne, she didn't need to be home all day, so she was wanting to get a job, and she got hired to teach geology at UNLV.

And what year is this?

This is 1966. She was the first woman to teach in the College of Science and Math. The first woman to teach at UNLV in the sciences. Do you remember that?

Anne Wyman: Yes, I do.

Do you remember what that was like?

It was wonderful.

Richard Wyman: The man that hired her was Herb Wells, who recently retired. She taught geology and geography, two fields, and then later mineralogy. She built the curriculum. She's a very clever person, very talented person, and she got the programs that other colleges, the best ones in the country, offered. She made a matrix of what courses and what universities did which, so that UNLV would require the same as the best. And those courses then, the program had to go to the [Board of] Regents and she took care of the whole thing. So they ended up with a geology degree.

So you helped to create the program.

She actually created it, yes. And then she taught several of the courses, [but] mineralogy is her specialty. We have some really nice mineral specimens in the other room which I can show you. She taught there for twenty-eight years.

[00:40:00] *That's amazing. Now being the first woman hired on into the department, were there issues surrounding that or was it pretty smooth?*

It was pretty smooth, wasn't it?

Anne Wyman: Yes, it was.

Richard Wyman: There were a few remarks but I told Anne just don't worry about them. Let it roll off. When they see that you do a good job, you'll be fully accepted. And that was the way it was.

And in terms of mineralogy, were there outside things that she did?

She did some work with another man on the mineralogy of storage of atomic waste at Yucca Mountain. She had a publication with him on that.

What year was this?

Oh, I'm not sure. Maybe 1988 or so.

OK.

But she was a teacher. She won teaching awards, some very impressive teaching awards. She was the first winner of the Spanos Award [for Distinguished Teaching], which is a university-wide teaching award. One time they published a directory of teachers, of the faculty as to how they teach, and she was the best in the university. She had some very fine teaching awards. She was the one that did the planning and the teaching. Research was not our bag. That's somebody else's job.

You taught also.

I taught civil engineering there, and some geology, the ore deposits.

Did you guys work together?

Yes, we always worked together. She's my partner. I help her and she helps me. We have had a fantastic life. From the time that we were first married, one of the things we always wanted to do was travel because neither of us had done much. In order to go and see something is a little different than going on a ship in the Navy. But we always took the opportunity to travel. We went down into New England and all around the country by driving. We crossed the country several times. But we took trips in other places. As you can see from the map in the other room, we've been all over. We've been all over South America, Europe, China and Australia and all these other places. We took advantage of any chance we had to go.

That's great. Did you take your son with you as well?

We took him sometimes, but as he got older he didn't want to do that. But we went where he was. When he was in Australia, we went down there to see him. He was there for five years.

What was he doing there?

He went to get his Ph.D. there in Tasmania and he did some work down there, too.

What are some of the places that stand out for you?

Well, I think Africa. I think it was 1985, Anne went to—we didn't always go together. Anne went on a University of Michigan trip to Kenya, on a two-week safari. It was a wonderful trip for her, and a real interesting group of people. It was all very safe.

[Pause to answer the telephone]

[00:45:00]

[00:45:21] *So Africa. Kenya.*

Oh, yeah. Actually Anne had an adventure down there that was wonderful, and she went to all of these places. Can you remember the name of some of them? Amboseli.

Anne Wyman: Yeah, I remember a lot of them. I have to think about it for a minute. I have this all written up at home.

Richard Wyman: We have some writing on it because she took extensive notes. Whenever we went on a trip, she took notes, so we have those notes filed away. Also a lot of pictures. But she saw all these different animals in their native environments. The tour, the group, would go out into an area where the different kinds of animals would live in their natural environment and they'd watch them.

That must've been amazing.

Anne Wyman: It was wonderful to do that.

Richard Wyman: She must've gone there for a couple of weeks. And some of the people that she met there kept in touch with us for many, many years afterwards. I didn't get a chance to go there. I did a trip to Africa about ten years later. I went to the hundredth anniversary of the Witwatersrand [South Africa]. That was in 1986. I don't remember what year it was you went to Kenya. It wasn't ten years later; it was just a couple of years later. The hundredth anniversary of the Witwatersrand, I went to Johannesburg. And I would have taken her along except for the stuff that I read in the magazine.

Which was?

It said there was chaos. It said there was a civil war going on. Blacks against whites. *None* of this was true. Absolutely none.

Really? So what was it like when you got there?

Everything looked perfectly normal.

There wasn't the chaos that they had described.

It wasn't at all. For one thing, this stuff is very political. It's political here, but the politics here [are not] true to what's really going on, and I don't understand why. But it made it sound like the whites had control of the country and they were beating down on the blacks. You've probably read the same stuff.

Sure. Part of history.

I got there, and here all the police were black. Well, this doesn't stand to reason, does it? When we got off the plane, they were all black police.

So there was no political tension or anything that you could sense?

I can tell you all of what I'll tell you, but it was nothing like it's been described. For their hundredth anniversary of the Witwatersrand, they had a program and I gave a paper at Witwatersrand University, which had [been] accepted. That was an international meeting, people from all over the world.

Anyhow, I went to the hotel that I'd made a reservation at and the receptionist was a mulatto (that's part black). Very pleasant, nice-looking woman. And she checked me in and everything like that as part of this convention and gave me some brochures and stuff. It was a Sunday evening. I said, `Can you get a newspaper around here?`

Well, the newsstand in the hotel was closed, but she said, `Up around the corner. You walk about a block south and you come to a newsstand. You can get one there.`

I said, `Is it safe to walk around at night?`

She said, `Of course. Why wouldn't it be?`

I walked up the street and there was a bus stop there and about twenty black people standing there waiting to get on the bus. I walked right past them and on up to the newsstand and got me a newspaper and came back down. No problem at all. And there wasn't **[00:50:00]** in any

place we went. We went in probably a dozen different mines, platinum mines, chromite mines, and gold mines. That was what I wanted to see, all this. No problem anywhere. None.

One of the things that's been described here is that they don't know what they're talking about. It is not blacks against whites in South Africa. There are two white tribes: the English speakers and the Afrikaans speakers. (Afrikaans is a kind of Dutch.) They don't get along with each other, those two white tribes. There are ten black tribes: the Zulu, the Xhosa, the Tswanas, and many others. Ten of them. Ten black tribes, two white tribes, and one Indian tribe from India, the people that came from India. They are neither black nor white nor anything. They are their own tribe. And these all people act like tribes. And the most civilized tribes are the two white tribes and the two big black tribes, the Xhosa and the Zulus.

[Nelson] Mandela became the president of their country. They did away with apartheid later. They had apartheid the first time I went there. And Mandela became the president. He is a Xhosa. Then there's another man whose name was [Mangosuthu] Buthelezi who was the leader of the Zulus. He was also the hereditary king of the Zulus. Both of those are very well-educated men, educated in England in college, both of them lawyers. And how Mandela pulled it off, it's amazing to me.

There are seven different states in the Union [Republic] of South Africa. He gave the Zulu state, Natal, to Buthelezi. The Cape Town state, he gave that to the white tribes. And the rest of them are under the Xhosa mainly. And it's been peaceful. They've got a lot of problems down there, but a revolution it is not.

As it was described to you.

And it wasn't whites against blacks. It's blacks against blacks, whites against whites, whites against Indians, Indians against blacks. It's just very complex. They're not fighting with each other so much as maybe stealing and things like that. It wasn't anywhere like it was described.

So there were no effects of apartheid?

Well, the effects of apartheid was that they lived apart. That's what it's about.

Right. But I mean as a result of that, there was no palpable political tensions that you—?

Well, this is all it was. They lived apart. And as far as the political tension, it didn't concern us. I was a visitor in their country. It did not concern us. They made sure it didn't concern us. And it certainly was not a civil war or anything approaching that. Nothing at all like they had in France just a couple of weeks ago [Paris Suburb riots Oct. 27-Nov 17, 2005]. Nothing like that.

[Those were] pretty significant. How long were you there?

Two weeks. I visited all these mines and things. Then later—see, Anne had been to Kenya and I'd been to South Africa. And Botswana. I happened to go there, too, because it's adjacent. But anyhow, we went down there, Anne and I did, and we took a cruise from South Africa all up the east coast of Africa to Egypt, to Israel, to Turkey, to Greece. It was a wonderful trip.

Anne Wyman: It sure was.

Richard Wyman: And we flew to Cape Town. This was after they did away with apartheid. **[00:55:00]** Cape Town is the old Dutch colony. The reason any Europeans were there at all was because of Cape Town. That area supplied the Dutch sailing ships that went to the Dutch East Indies. They had to provide them with fresh water and fresh vegetables and food. That's why they had the colony there, to provide the route to the East Indies. And that's under the control of the white people, the Afrikaners. Johannesburg is the gold-mining town. That [was] under the control of the English. Natal is under the control of the Zulus. And some of the small areas are

under different tribes, like the Tswanas, but they're all controlled by the Xhosa. So they've got kind of a situation, nothing at all resembling anything like the United States, whose history is *totally* different. It's more like these are native Indian tribes in the United States; they were already there. So it's a very, very different situation.

We went to Cape Town and we went around and saw everything to see there. Then we took the cruise ship to Durban, and in Durban we disembarked and went up into the hills, into the Zulu country. And there, these Zulus did some dances and things, put on a show for us. It was real interesting. And they put on a play for us, too.

Anyhow, we left South Africa and went up the east coast. We went past Zanzibar. We went to the port for Kenya. What's the name of that city? [Mombasa]

Anne Wyman: I can't remember it right now. I remember where it was.

Richard Wyman: And there, Anne took a special trip to another city while I took an inland safari for one day in Kenya. And this is pretty good that you can actually do a safari in one day. The driver—they're all Kenyans and the driver knows where the different animal areas are. You can't see everything in a day. There are about ten people in the van. `What would you like to see? Would you like to see elephants? Giraffes? Lions? Zebras?` In our van, we wanted to see lions. Well, he knew where some lions were, and we drove out there and when we got there, they had been eating a zebra. So they were stuffed. They were lying around napping. And the remnants of this zebra and its striped skin and all were there.

It [sounds] pretty amazing to see.

We didn't get too close. You get close enough so you can see what's going on. And it's out in the middle of no place. This is the big Serengeti Plain. You remember the Serengeti Plain?

Anne Wyman: You bet I do! I remember it very well. It was wonderful.

Richard Wyman: And then we went some other places, and it's the same kind of thing that Anne saw over two weeks, but she saw a much broader spectrum of the country than I did, but I got a taste of what she saw. We went to one place and there was a huge herd, we were told 15,000, of these water buffaloes. Fifteen *thousand*. It stretches as far as you can see. They were migrating from one water hole to another. And we drove up to maybe as close as the next street over here, which is back a couple of hundred feet from you, and there were two or three of these big, horned water buffalo [that] came out towards us, walking, then stopped. Our driver said, `We're not going to go any closer.` He said, `We're going to turn and go. Those animals can turn this bus over.`

Wow! How big are they?

[01:00:00] About the size of an American buffalo. They're big, and big horns. And 15,000 of them. About half are male and half female. Here, you know, we might have a herd of cattle but they don't do that here. They castrate the bulls and make steers so that they're not going to have aggressive males wanting to turn over your car. But with those wild water buffalo, it's a different thing. They'd just as soon fight amongst themselves and they'd just as soon tip your car over.

But anyhow, we saw the red elephant. That's called a tsavo elephant, is it?

Anne Wyman: Yes. That was wonderful. I liked it.

Richard Wyman: He puts red mud on his body. That's why they call them red. He isn't really red, but he puts this red mud on himself.

Sounds like quite the adventure there.

Yes, it was, and we saw lots of baboons. The baboons seemed to be everywhere in Kenya and also in South Africa. In the trip that I went in 1986, the Johannesburg trip, we saw one place that's called Baboonyar. The name of the hill is Baboonyar, Baboon Hill.

Anne Wyman: I remember that.

Richard Wyman: And anyhow, the man that was guiding us, he had another man with him with a gun. And the baboons are about the size of a seven-year-old child. They're not as big as a grown person, but they're pretty big.

That's tall.

And they're very strong. They're very strong. When I was on the trip in 1986, we stayed in some really nice rural motels in South Africa. Incidentally the desk clerks were almost always black, and they told us one place, `Don't walk out at night.` They said there were some baboons that live around and within the last week had killed a twelve-year-old child. They killed him.

They're aggressive?

Well, not really. They're very defensive. They don't understand what you're trying to do, even walking near them. We don't have a good communication line with them and they don't know what you're trying to do. So these boys tried to tease one of them. They were local boys; they were not visitors. They tried to tease one of them and the baboon doesn't take to teasing. He thought maybe they were going to hurt him, I suppose. And they're strong. And they killed him. So they said watch out, don't leave the grounds and don't walk around in the night. They're too dangerous. But they're all over, everywhere. Interesting animal, too. They go around in a family. Usually you can tell which is the father and [which is] the mother, and usually a couple of little kids walking along, maybe one of them on the mother's back.

Is it pretty common to see them when you're out and about?

In the rural areas. Not in the city. [But] in the rural areas, yes.

So we went to Africa. And we have been to Greenland. One trip we went was up the coast of Norway and stopped in all these nice places. And then we went up to Spitzbergen and

Svalbard [Archipelago], and then we went as far north as the ship would go until there's icepack, to the Arctic icepack. But we got off in the northern part of Spitzbergen and it was cold.

Anne Wyman: You bet it was cold. Gee!

Richard Wyman: And they gave us some warm wine they call gluwein. It was good. But first part of the ship's crew got off with rifles.

How come?

They didn't have to shoot anything, but they wanted to be sure that **[01:05:00]** there wasn't any wildlife around that would attack. There's one bear that considers man to be edible, and that's the polar bear. The polar bear is not afraid of man. If he gets the scent of a person, he'll hunt that person. So they're very dangerous. They're a beautiful bear and we like to watch them, too.

Did you get to see some?

We've been to where we can watch them, yes. We didn't watch them there. But they got these men off so that we could see the countryside and walk around in this glacier area in Spitzbergen.

What was that like?

The reason for the men with the rifles is because for a while Norway had a law that you couldn't have a gun on Spitzbergen because they were afraid you might shoot one of the bears. The bears were protected. It turned out that was a horrible mistake and they changed the law. It was a very bad mistake because there was a German geophysical party up there that was doing some geophysics. One of their members was sick one morning and stayed in the tent, and the others went out to do their work. When they came back later in the day, the tent had been trashed and there was a polar bear there eating their friend. Their radio was in the tent, too. They couldn't radio for help or anything. And so they had to try to stay downwind so that the bear wouldn't hunt them. Well, they should've had a gun. But they changed the law then and said that you

couldn't camp out unless you did have a gun. First, you couldn't have one; now you can't camp out unless you do. A certain caliber, and you have to have the training and everything like that. They're not trying to get rid of the polar bear; they want you to be safe.

We're coming close to the end of this particular disc and I don't want to cut you off, so let's switch this out real quick.

[01:07:36] End Track 2, Disc 1.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 2, Disc 2.

The place we saw polar bears up close, Anne and I did, was when we went to Churchill on Hudson Bay [Manitoba, Canada]. We decided we would like to go to Churchill. Churchill has whales and polar bears. It's also a seaport. It has a large grain elevator and a railroad that goes there. So we decided we would go to Churchill, and made arrangements to get in. The railroad goes from Winnipeg [Manitoba, Canada] to Churchill, and we got on the railroad and took an overnight train. That's a nice experience itself. It's a pretty good long trip on the railroad. We [then] flew to Winnipeg, which is a nice city. Always look around because you're missing something if you don't. Winnipeg has a mint for the Canadian government there. They didn't give us any free coins, though.

We went north to Churchill, and in Churchill we stayed at a little motel. We went out on a trip on a large vehicle with wheels probably as high as this room.

What kind of vehicle?

They called it a tundramobile. It has huge tires so it can drive through this wet, swampy tundra. We were there in the summer and the polar bears are not in the ocean then, they're on land, and they're on land at Churchill because it turns out that when they built the town, the port and the fort and everything, they built it in a place where the bears like to spend the summer. The bears

were there earlier. The bears thought that was a pretty good place, too. And they still do. So we got out in this tundra buggy, tundramobile, and driving across, you can look out and see. And we saw this very large kind of a yellowish-looking outcrop and it turned out it was a bear. It stood up, and oh, it was a big one. You remember that?

Anne Wyman: I do. I sure do.

Richard Wyman: Beautiful big bear. They're one of the largest bears in the world. The polar bear grows to twelve or fourteen feet high if he's standing up, which is higher than this room. They're huge. And it was sleepy. You see, it's summertime and he's just wanting to stay out of the way, not aggressive. And there were a number of them around there. They're in the way because the town is there and the polar bears have always lived around there. They catch them and they take them way out someplace and turn them loose. [But] they come back.

And then we went on a boat there at Churchill to see the beluga whales. The beluga is a white whale, not the biggest in the world but he's a very large animal, and they're signaling to each other under the water. Do you remember listening to them?

Anne Wyman: I remember it very well.

Richard Wyman: They're talking to each other under the water, the whales are. Very interesting trip, with the white whales and the white bears.

Now how long were you guys up there?

We were just there two or three days. A few days.

Enough to see a bit, though.

Yeah. That's what we went up for. And it's in the summer that we had to go. It was our opportunity to go.

We also did other trips into the Arctic. One of them [was] in 1972, the Arctic Islands Field Trip for the International Geological Congress, in which I went up into the north end of Ellesmere Island. Ellesmere is the northernmost island in the Canadian Arctic. So it was to the area where [Admiral Richard] Parry took off with a dogsled to go to the North Pole. We went that far.

Anne Wyman: Yes, I remember that.

Richard Wyman: And it was snowing up there. This was in August and it was snowing up there. But anyhow, I saw polar bears there, some of them from the air. But Ellesmere Island is the **[00:05:00]** home of the musk ox. Big herds of musk ox live in Ellesmere Island. They're an interesting animal. They have two layers of fur, and they shed the underwear in the summer. The underwear, just think of it that way, the under layer of fur is very delicate, soft fur, and it's a saleable product. They make things out of it up there. But in the summer, the soft underfur works its way out, so everything looks moth-eaten because they're losing that fur.

That's funny. So they've got patches on them.

And then the coarser outside fur remains. They're an interesting animal, the musk ox.

I went up there and Anne, at that time, drove with our son. They went back east. They went to Boston [Massachusetts], they went to the Naval Yard to see the [USS] *Constitution*, they went to the Wyman House for the first Wymans that came to the colonies a long, long time ago and saw that, [and then] visited some friends in New York State and back there. That was what they were doing when I was in Ellesmere Island.

And what brought you up to Ellesmere? You said you were with a—

It was the International Geological Congress.

What were you guys doing up there?

It was just to visit the geology.

OK.

Also on that trip, we went to Inuvik [Northwest Territories]. Inuvik is in the mouth of the Mackenzie River on the Arctic Ocean. And there's another town there called Tuktoyaktuk. And also we went over onto what's now the controversial Arctic game preservation [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge]. There's nothing to see there. It's flat country. From a plane, you can see for many, many miles because there's no topography or anything. It's just *flat*. Flatter than anything you can imagine. And it's caribou country. That's where there's oil reserve that they've been talking is somewhat controversial. But yeah, we went there.

So you guys have really been to lots of parts of the globe that a lot of people don't quite make it to.

Yes. And we also went to Antarctica a few years ago.

That must [have] been something.

Anne Wyman: That was wonderful.

Did you take a cruise there?

Richard Wyman: Yes, a special cruise. Cruise ships are not built for that. This one held maybe 150, I think.

Anne Wyman: Yeah, that's about right.

Richard Wyman: A hundred and fifty people. And we went on the Antarctic continent, then to various places: The scientific stations of the British, the Americans, and the Polish, and the Argentines. There's a place that they called Esperanza, the Argentines do. They wanted to have some reason to claim some title to land down there, so they transport pregnant women down there to have their babies, so they could say this baby was born in Antarctica. Of course, it

doesn't work. There's an international treaty, there's several of them as a matter of fact, that cover Antarctica, and nobody gets to have any land claims really.

That's very interesting.

But we were there, and we saw the whaling and everything. It was just a very interesting place. And millions of penguins. I want to tell you, the penguin is a very interesting animal. He's not afraid. You walk around them and they walk up to you. You have to watch out you don't step on what they've done. There were several different kinds. One's called the Chinstrap. He's got a little black fur under his chin and he's black on his head, so he looks like a chinstrap. That's what they call them, Chinstrap. And some of these penguins are real actors. They want your attention. If you're not giving them your attention, they'll chase after you.

[00:10:00] *So they want to perform for you?*

Yes. And also they play with each other. We saw them where they would climb up on an ice floe and slide off. There's a slope. They'd climb up on top and then they'd slide off into the water, then they'd come around and go up on it again and do it again. Just like kids on a slide in the playground.

Anne Wyman: And they had a good time doing it.

Richard Wyman: They were having fun.

Anne Wyman: I guess they were. It was fun to see them.

Richard Wyman: Those huge, huge seals, sea lions and things that are as long as that doorway, just huge. Very, very large animals. But they're awfully awkward on land. They're a sea animal. The buoyancy of the water makes them very easy to move in the water, but they can't do much on land except kind of scoogie along.

They're kind of awkward.

Very, very awkward on land.

We went to Greenland twice. We've been in those towns on the coast of Greenland.

How was that?

And those are Danish towns with Eskimo population. Really pretty, very beautiful country. Well, it's a very small population. The entire Greenland island only has 50,000 people.

Really!

Yes. And when you think there are a million or more right here in this valley, it's not very many.

That's tiny.

The biggest cities in Greenland are about 5,000 people, and Boulder City's about fifteen [thousand]. So they're not big cities at all. But first time to Greenland, we went to Narsarssuak. It was an old [United States] Army-Air Force base during World War II, and they made the landing field there. It's now a Greenland airport. The Greenlandic Airline can land there. And we stayed there in a hotel. We walked up onto the Greenland glacier from there, Anne and I did. The glacier covers almost all Greenland. Some places it's close enough to civilization that you can get onto it. We got onto it there. Walked up onto it.

Anne Wyman: Oh, that was wonderful.

Richard Wyman: We sat on the ice. Walked on the ice.

Anne Wyman: I remember that very well.

Richard Wyman: And they export a lot of fish and things from Greenland.

That would be their main industry?

Yes. Another time we went to Labrador [Canada] and we went to the place on Labrador where the Vikings came. They know right now where Leif Eriksson landed. It's called Point of Meadows, isn't it? [L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site]

Anne Wyman: Yes.

Richard Wyman: It's northern Newfoundland. And we went there to see the Norse ruins. They didn't recognize them for a long time as ruins of anything. That's because they were looking for something like buildings.

What did this look like?

Mounds of earth. When you see Greenland and you see southern Norway, then you see the kind of buildings that they had. A thousand years ago, they were heaped-up earthen walls, and then they put wood on top and put earth on that, so they were earthen houses. But when that house collapses because there's nobody using it, it looks like a big pile of dirt. And there they were, right there for everybody to see.

That's amazing. I actually did not know that.

Yes, it's Point of Meadows. And you don't just go to those places. You got to figure out how to go. We rented a car. The guy didn't want to rent a car, really, but I talked him into it. We rented at one place and left it off at another place and drove all over Newfoundland. And **[00:15:00]** we took a boat from Newfoundland to Labrador. It's an overnight boat. They have a slogan, "Don't miss the boat."

Anne Wyman: "Don't miss the boat." Yes.

I bet that's it [laughing].

Richard Wyman: It's once a week.

Anne Wyman: No, we didn't miss it.

Richard Wyman: You miss it, you've had it. We went to Labrador, and Labrador has very few people. It belongs to Newfoundland now, part of Newfoundland. It's on the east coast of Canada. You know where Labrador is. It's very interesting geologically. While we were there,

they discovered the largest nickel deposit in the world. It was discovered in Voisey's Bay. We went out then to the iron mines west of Labrador to see what was going on. Got to go to these places, that's all.

Now you guys have done so much traveling. What initially inspired you to do it?

We love it!

And it's amazing that both of you love it so much.

Yep, that's one of the reasons we got married.

Really. Now I know you met in graduate school and she was your lab assistant. That's a great story. So you just met in class?

Yeah, she was my mineralogy lab teacher. And I dated her and we got married. And I'm not sorry a bit.

Anne Wyman: And I'm not sorry a bit.

Richard Wyman: Almost fifty-eight years.

Anne Wyman: I love it [him].

That's fantastic. You guys are lucky.

Richard Wyman: All these different places. Our son, he pretty much took up the same interests, and he went to Australia. He was offered a job down there and to go to grad school at Tasmania, the University of Tasmania. He got his Ph.D. there in 2001.

[00:17:26] [Telephone rings. Pause]

[00:19:09] The first northern thing we did, I think, was we drove to Alaska.

That's quite a drive.

When we lived in Kellogg [Idaho] and I worked at the Sunshine Mine, we made first a little foray into Canada and we went up to Canadian national parks, remember that?

Anne Wyman: I do.

Richard Wyman: The Columbia Glacier. We went there on a weekend, from Kellogg, so I knew that if we could go that far on a weekend, we were going to drive to Alaska. So we did.

Anne Wyman: We did [laughing].

[00:20:00] Richard Wyman: I had a week's vacation coming along and we went to Alaska, up the Alaska Highway.

Anne Wyman: Yeah, that was wonderful.

Where did you go?

Richard Wyman: We went as far as the Alaska Highway. This one we went up into the Yukon, and then up to Haines and down into Ketchikan and Juneau and down on the boat and then back across British Columbia. It was quite an interesting trip in our automobile. We drove to Whitehorse, Yukon [Canada]. Whitehorse is the capital of Yukon [Territory]. And we put our car on the railroad then and went on the Yukon Railroad to Skagway. The car was on a flatcar and we were in the railroad passenger car.

So you could bring your car with you.

Yes. Because at that time there wasn't any road.

Right. When was this that you did that?

Sixty-four. The Alaska Highway we took as far as Whitehorse, and then over to Skagway. And Skagway was a port. At Skagway we were able to get what they call the Alaska Ferry, and it goes up the coast of Alaska. You can put your car on that and then you can get off anywhere you want to. We got off at Juneau and Ketchikan and Petersburg, and finally we got off down at Prince Rupert. Prince Rupert is in British Columbia. There, there was a map. The road map said it was a paved road east from Prince Rupert to Prince George, and then you got a highway right

down towards Kellogg, where we were living. Turned out that was [in] somebody's imagination. It was going to be paved, they planned it to be paved, but they didn't have it paved yet.

That must've been quite the trip back.

Yes, that was an interesting trip back. We stopped at Babbine Lake. Bill was with us all the way on this. And we stopped on the way up at Contact Creek and fished for Arctic char in the stream, and we'd fish and camp and fish and camp all the way up. Then we did it at Babeen Lake in British Columbia. And then we came back down to Kellogg and we returned. We made it just on a week's vacation.

That's quite an action-packed week.

I would say it is.

Anne Wyman: You bet. It was fun. We had a wonderful time.

It sounds like it. What a great experience for your son, too.

Richard Wyman: Yes. Oh, he lived in Alaska, then, later. He got married and he lived in Anchorage. We spent a Christmas in Anchorage with them.

Anne Wyman: It was nice.

Richard Wyman: It was in 1980, or '81. I think it was in '81, wasn't it?

Anne Wyman: I think it was, yeah.

Richard Wyman: Because they got married in 1980. So it was in 1981 we spent Christmas with them up there.

That must've been a cold Christmas.

Yes. We have another big thing that we did. The first cruise we ever went on, we had done a consulting job in South America and I had to make a report in Spanish in Caracas, Venezuela on January 11, 1978. And Anne said, `Instead of flying down, why don't we take a cruise?`

I said, Oh, you can't get a cruise this late. They're booked a year ahead.

She said, We could try and there might be a cancellation.

[00:25:00] There was.

Anne Wyman: That's right.

Richard Wyman: That was my first cruise. We never quit after that, did we?

Anne Wyman: No, we didn't. I had a wonderful time with it.

Richard Wyman: Yeah. And we made our report—

Anne Wyman: Went home.

Richard Wyman: That was for the *Corporación Andina de Fomento*, the Andean Development Company.

Anne Wyman: That's right.

Richard Wyman: On pig iron resources, pig iron in the Andean subregion. Anne made the maps and I did the interviews with the people that had the production. That was a pretty good consulting job. It took parts of two years and a summer, and we just went around in these Andean places. That's good.

Anne Wyman: It was a wonderful time.

Richard Wyman: It took us into Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile and Bolivia.

Anne Wyman: Wonderful. That was nice. It was a wonderful trip we did.

Richard Wyman: Bolivia sits on top of the world there with its beautiful mountains and mines and vast wealth of minerals. The people are quite poor but they're also primitive. It's still a primitive country. The part of Peru that we lived in is very much like Bolivia. Argentina is very European. Venezuela was the most prosperous of the Andean countries. It was then; it's not

today because they have a government there that has ruined their economy essentially. And Colombia is today quite dangerous, from the things you read. But those were very interesting times. We had a good, interesting consulting job, of all things, you see.

That's the way to do it.

Later on we went to Brazil on the Amazon [River]. We hadn't been to some of these places. So the way that we have done [it] is, if we haven't been there, we decide we'll go. Make arrangements and go. That was the first time we did that. We were sitting here in this room. Yucatán is a part of Mexico we hadn't been to. Very interesting. The Mayan country. So we decided we would go. I called up our travel agent, she suggested a hotel, we got air fare and three days later we were in Mérida.

Wow, you really do make quick decisions.

That's how we did [it].

Anne Wyman: We did.

Richard Wyman: We decided we would go to Punta Arenas, southern end of Chile, the same way. We hadn't been there, and the Straits of Magellan goes there. Have you ever seen the Straits of Magellan? The way you go there is to go to Punta Arenas. It's on the strait.

Anne Wyman: You bet.

Richard Wyman: And in Punta Arenas, we wanted to go across to Patagonia, the province to the south, and there was a little ferry that crosses the Strait of Magellan. Remember that ferry?

Anne Wyman: Oh, yes, I remember it.

Richard Wyman: It's a boat probably as long as this house, and it has a gasoline engine that they couldn't get started part of the time. It's loaded with people; It's like a great big tub waddling across.

Anne Wyman: That's just what it looked like.

Richard Wyman: And all these people in it, and a couple of dolphins escorting us across the strait—

Anne Wyman: I remember that. Gee! [Chuckling]

Richard Wyman: —to Patagonia. That was the first time we went to Punta Arenas. The first time we were in that end of South America.

[00:30:00] *Is a lot of your traveling motivated by your guys' interests?*

Yes.

It seems like you tied in a lot with the work and your interests.

Yes.

Anne Wyman: We like it. Sure, we like to do it when we can.

That's pretty great, to be able to do that.

Richard Wyman: I think it is. We did it while we could. The last big trip we went was to China, and that was in 2001. We had a chance to go first-class air fare round-trip for the price of a tourist fare round-trip. It was one of the Chinese airlines. Our travel agent friend put us onto it. We would connect up over there with a Princess cruise, which we did. And then we went into China, into Beijing and Xi'an. Beijing is the capital of China. You know, that's where Tiananmen Square was and everything. They've come a long way since then. And there we went through the royal palace, the Forbidden City. We went on the Great Wall of China. We went to their summer palace. We saw Beijing, and they even put on a show for us there. It was pretty nice.

Anne Wyman: Oh, yes. It was wonderful.

Richard Wyman: And then we went to Xi'an. That's where the terracotta soldiers are. The first Emperor of China had terracotta images made, full-sized people, and they're individual ones. For example, each face is different. So they're not like a bunch of China dolls; they are images of individual people, and there are thousands of them. They've dug up six or seven thousand, but they think there are about forty thousand. They stopped digging them up because they have colored paint on them for their clothes, [which] dries out when they unbury them, and they're trying to figure out some way to preserve it. It was a very interesting place. We also went to Shanghai, to some old jade Buddha temples and things like this.

We'd been to China before. We went to China in 1985. We went to Canton, which is Guangzhou now, they call it Guangzhou, in southern China. And we went to Hong Kong two or three other times. We also, on a cruise in that part of the world, went to Bangkok [Thailand], Singapore.

You guys really do travel when you go somewhere.

Yes.

Anne Wyman: We enjoy it very much.

Richard Wyman: We've been there to Bangkok and they showed pictures of the temple there. Yes, we've been there, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. It's in a large enclosure they call a *wat*. And the capital of Thailand is in that. They have a king. And when the Chinese Communists chased all religion out of China, Mao Tse-Tung didn't want to have any religion of any kind, the Buddhists moved their headquarters to Thailand. They still have Buddhist temples all over China, but they've released it. It's all right to have religion in China now, so all of a sudden these temples appeared. The Buddhist carvings appeared. Here was this, they call it the

Jade Buddha, we saw in Shanghai. It's a carving of the Buddha that's about as long as that window, all beautiful jade. Their artwork is superb.

That's a pretty amazing place to go to, I would imagine.

Yes, we saw some [of] China. We had a good visit to China. We also went to Vladivostok, Russia at that time, so we saw both ends of Russia. On an earlier trip we had been to Leningrad, which is now called St. Petersburg. So we went to there, and we went to Finland, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark.

You guys have really covered the world.

Yes, we have.

And so as teachers, as educators, do you think that enhanced your [teaching]?

[00:35:00] It did for her. Anne taught geography, and she had personal visits to all of these places that she taught about.

Anne Wyman: It was wonderful.

You're very lucky to be able to merge your academic interests in geography and geology with these places that you've been to.

Richard Wyman: Yes. It's all part of the same thing.

Yes. Quite the amazing ride you guys have had.

We have had a wonderful life and we still hope to continue it.

Absolutely. Are you wanting to take a break at this point?

I think so. I don't know what else we need to do.

[00:36:02] [Pause. Sound of papers or pages turning.]

[00:36:50] The Baltic Sea. I just mentioned the Baltic Sea, Poland, and those. We went to Leningrad when it was still the Soviet Union. And at that time they had Communism in Russia.

That was in 1989. And it's now St. Petersburg. But the Communism was falling apart at that time. They couldn't maintain it, you see, it was so phony. Our cruise ship went into Leningrad and we went through fifty miles of decayed docks. It was the sewer. Leningrad didn't have any sewage treatment. This is a modern city of three or four million people that dumps its sewage raw into the ocean. It really makes the Finnish very upset.

Anyhow, at Leningrad, as it was called, there was a man [who] came on board the ship to talk about these things, talked to our group on board the ship. [We] asked him all kinds of things about how it was to live under Communism. This is before it fell apart. He said, We can't go anyplace. He said he is a professor of sociology in the university. He said, I could go, for example, to France, probably to a convention, but my wife wouldn't be able to come with me. They'd keep her as a hostage.

So he comes back.

Yes. He said there isn't any way that a Russian could possibly travel the world like we were doing. We made a little trip by bus in Leningrad and we kept [seeing] these very homely three-and-four-story concrete block buildings, large, ugly buildings. Those are the apartment houses. That's where the people live. I mentioned that evening when this guy was talking, I said, We never saw any free-standing houses. He said, We don't have any except in rural areas, resort areas for the officials. Those are the only ones that have a free-standing house at all, and it's away from the city. But he said, We hope in about forty years that people will be allowed to have their own homes. In about forty years. I said, In the United States, it's the opposite **[00:40:00]** problem. We have too many houses. Urban sprawl, we call it. Anyhow, he was quite frank about all this stuff, what they could or they couldn't do. It was an interesting trip there.

I bet, particularly with having your background.

And then this last time in ’01, we went to Vladivostok at the other end of Russia, and there, their navy sits, all rusting. We sailed around the navy yard in the cruise ship. Take pictures of all you want. It’s done. Their navy is kaput. They can’t pay them, so they don’t have them. They just let them sit. But the people that we saw there were really friendly there. They came out on board the ship and they were good to meet.

Was it a different kind of atmosphere from the last time that you were there?

Oh, far different. And China, too. The first time we went to China, we went into Guangzhou. We went to what’s called the Greater Friendship Store. It was a store that sold only to visitors; no local Chinese could go. It was surrounded by razor wire. Greater Friendship Store. OK? So that was where we could buy our souvenirs. And we couldn’t use the local money. They had some scrip that they sold us for dollars, so it was priced according to that scrip. That way, we never were able to figure out what the exchange rate was because there wasn’t any.

Other than this, we ate in a very nice hotel there, ate lunch. And beautiful waitresses. Things in their hair, really pretty red and yellow and Chinese, little collar up around. Beautiful. This waitress brought our food and I had my phrase book, and I said to her in Cantonese, “Thank you,” in Guangzhou or whatever it was, and she seemed kind of taken aback. Then she came back in about ten minutes and she said, `You’re welcome, sir.` [Laughing]

Anne Wyman: [Laughing] That was good.

Richard Wyman: And there were no cars. There were just trucks and bicycles in Guangzhou. When we went to Beijing this last time, there were cars everywhere, and their biggest accidents are between cars and bicycles. There are people with bicycles and they swoop around amongst the cars and get hit.

But we went up on the Great Wall. Anne climbed up on the Great Wall of China there. And we had a real good visit.

Anne Wyman: It was fun.

Richard Wyman: We liked that.

Anne Wyman: That was real fun to do.

Richard Wyman: And then we went to Xi'an and saw all those [terra cotta statues] and then we went to Shanghai. We went to Pusan, Korea.

Wow. All over. We can do another session. I know Anne is getting tired.

OK. I think that's enough for now.

OK.

Anne Wyman: That's fine.

[00:43:41] End Track 2, Disc 2.

[End of interview]