

INTERVIEW NO. 54
SOUTHEAST ASIA HISTORY CHRONOLOGY
ORRIS AND FRIEDA BURRILL, AND ALDEN JONES
August 8, 1977

AHJ

This is interview number 54 of the Southeast Asia History Writeup. Today is the 8th of August, 1977. I'm here at Marysville at the home of Orris and Mrs. Burrill and we're going to talk about their experiences over there in the Philippines, primarily. Orris, what were you doing at the time someone made the first contact with you and asked you and Mrs. Burrill to come over to the Philippines? How do you remember that?

OB

The story was that I was at Cottage Grove as a logging foreman down there for them and I was going to take an early retirement at 62. My birthday comes on the 11th of January so I told them, okay, the 11th of January I'm done. Well, they said, that's fine. So I told them I had six weeks of vacation, two weeks from the year before and a month for the last year I worked there. And they said, well, that was fine. So I says, okay, I'll take two weeks in December and the month of January and February, I'm retired. Well, they said that was fine.

Well, before we came home from Cottage Grove, Harry Morgan called me and asked me if I was retiring or if I was just getting out of Springfield. And I said, "Well, I'm getting out of Springfield. I know that much." So he said, "Well, we want you to go to the Philippines." He says, "I think I owe you something and I want you to go over there and see if you can straighten that out." And I said, "No." So we came home and then in January, they called up there three different times, four different times. I don't remember just how many now, and wanted us to come down there. They wanted to interview us. So we went down there and they were still wanting us to go to the Philippines. And I said, "No."

AHJ

Orris, was this in 1970?

OB

What year did we go over there?

AHJ

Well, when I first ran into you later in the year, it was 1970?

OB

Well, it must have been '70 that we went. When did we go there, in '71 or '70? It must have been '70. Well that was 1970 I was supposed to be retired.

AHJ

So your talking with Harry Morgan occurred right after the first of the year, in 1970 then?

OB

Yeah, not only with Harry Morgan as much as that feller that was - young feller that had the - kind of in charge of the personnel for overseas. What was his name? Oh, kind of a young feller?

AHJ

Was that Ted Nelson?

FB

No.

AHJ

I can't remember who that would have been.

OB

There was a little girl in there. Her name was Sandy.

AHJ

Oh.

OB

He had charge of getting all the tickets, and airplane fares.

AHJ

It wasn't Chuck Cereghino? I can't remember who it would be.

OB

Oh, it was a young feller. Quite a skier I guess, spent a lot of time skiing. Anyway, we talked to him and then Harry called and wanted to know if we'd come down and talk to him. Well, we went down, and I still told him "no." But they didn't give up. So the last of February when we're supposed to be retired, I put in for my pension, I put in for my Social Security. So here came my Social Security check, my pension check and here came my pay check.

FB

He better not put that in there.

OB

He called me up again and I told him, "We'll go." But I said, "When we go, there's no nothing. If I go over there and don't like it, I'm coming back the next day." He said, "That's fine." I argued with Bill Johnson about salary and one thing and another and finally we just decided to go. And we got over there in what? Sometime in March?

FB

It sure didn't take long for us to get ready to go. I don't know if they were afraid if he was going to back out again or what. It really was real easy to get ready to go. They were so congenial about it, you know.

OB

Well, that little girl down there. She knew more about the Far East than all of them.

FB

Orris had to have a birth certificate to get his passport. We had to send clear back to Maine, so we could get a passport for him.

AHJ

You had to send back for a birth certificate or something?

OB

Yeah. Anyway, we told them we'd go and we went over there and we got - oh I don't know. We left here, it was 14 hours on the plane going over. We got there and everybody on the plane was sick but us.

FB

Oh, that was a rough ride. It was a real experience.

AHJ

What route did you take. Did you go through Honolulu?

OB

Oh, no. We went up the northern route.

AHJ

The northern, route through Tokyo, huh. And from there down to Manila?

OB

No, we went up to Alaska then we went to Tokyo. That's where the rough ride was, between here and Tokyo, it was 14 hours. We got into Tokyo and we stayed there five days. We met that Bill Hayakawa and that fellow that was with him, Joe something. I didn't know him. He was one of them log sellers or something. And we stayed there five days and we went out to all them mills. When we left down here, they said, "Oh no, don't take no heavy underwear, don't take an overcoat." And there was five inches of snow at the airport.

AHJ

Where was that?

OB

Tokyo.

AHJ

Five inches of snow?

OB

And skidding around.

FB

I was fine, but Orris picked up a little slick raincoat. If I remember right, Mr. Jones, I think you were down there when they showed some pictures or something and you says, "Take an umbrella because of the rain."

AHJ

That sounds familiar.

FB

And when we were in Tokyo, that evening Orris went to bed and I thought "Well I'm going to--," - the snow was just beautiful - and I thought, "Well, I'm going to get some pictures of this." So I went down to get some pictures and we were supposed to leave then the next morning and we got on the plane and left. And I'll let you take over Orris, you can say that.

OB

We went out and went to all them sawmills that was purchasing logs there to see what they wanted and how they wanted them, and one thing and another and if we could improve conditions with them any. And we couldn't, because they wanted them peeled and squared and bark all off them and all the knots off and everything. And then when we got ready to leave, we left Tokyo in the morning and there was about 3 inches of snow there then and we set down in Manila

FB

Isn't it about a 4 hour flight from Tokyo to Manila? Of course we just got done with a 14-hour flight, so that seemed real short to us.

AHJ

You went to one extreme to the other for temperature, huh?

OB

You had to walk as far as from, oh, here down to that house, 1000 feet or so after you got off the plane, over to where you got your - gawd, I just had a little sports coat on and I peeled that off. And I was watching her and I thought she wasn't even going to make it over there. I was going to have to carry her. Well anyway we finally made it.

FB

He was too much worried about his wife than he was, I think, anything else. I was fine. I could take it.

OB

Then we got over there and here was a sign saying "Welcome Burrills, Welcome to the Philippines" or something. And there was that Elmer Renken. And who was with him? Max?

FB

Uh, no. Oh the taxi driver.

OB

Oh.

AHJ

Pio?

FB
Pio.

OB
No, not Pio. Pio wasn't... The feller was - Pio wasn't with him. That other feller that they let go for using the car for a taxi. The big feller that was, he was a pilot or something too. He was driving there, too.

AHJ
Well, I don't know who that could be.

OB
They claimed he was using the company car to take people out to the race tracks or something like that. And he was the one that met us. Anyway they took us up town. And we went to the hotel, and I can't even remember the name of the hotel.

AHJ
Intercontinental?

FB
Yeah.

OB
Could have been. Anyway, they had a room on the second floor reserved for us. And they'd had a riot there in Manila just a day or two before that, so what'd they do, they put us clear up on the top floor. Renken got us put up there.

FB
Well, this was Renken's idea.

OB
So we couldn't get hurt. And he said, "Now don't leave your room." And he said, "I want a talk with you." He said, "Whatever you do, don't turn your back on these Filipinos. They'll stick a knife in you. Watch them every minute. They'll steal your purse. Don't trust 'em at all. No Way!" So we set in the hotel room there for one day and I said that's a hell of a thing. So we got up and went downtown and the only thing I can see different between a riot over here, that we have, and over there, they knew enough to put veneer over the windows, so they couldn't bust them, and we don't.

Well anyway, he told us to go up to our room and get washed up and take a rest and he'd take us out to supper. So I don't know what time it was and he come and take us out to supper. He had a company car there, and he drove clear down, probably into the lower part of town, that was supposed to be some high priced joint or something and we ate there. And don't eat this and don't eat that and we're supposed to stay there for four or five days and went out to the guest house afterwards before we left. Did we stay in the hotel?

Well, anyway, finally we flew out to Davao and Buddy, the pilot, he met us there and took us out - well maybe I'm getting ---

Before we left the hotel, Renken, before he took us out to supper, he come up and he said, "Now, I want an understanding with you that the first thing that I want to get done." And I says, "Well go ahead." "Well," he says, "I don't care who sent you over here, George Weyerhaeuser, Harry Morgan, Bill Johnson," he says, "you're coming over here, your working for me." I says, "Well, wait a minute. I got the price of a ticket right in my pocket," and I says, "I don't have to work for anybody but Weyerhaeuser." I says, "I was sent over here to see if I could get this logging production up" and I says, "that's what I'm going to do." I says, "If I can work with you and do it, I'll work. If I can't, I'll work by myself." He calmed down then. He never would work with me. He wanted that Anderson, that feller I was supposed to take his place. He wanted him in there and he wanted to know if I'd work for Anderson and I said "no." After that we just never - you could just feel him, everytime he turned his back, you could feel him trying to bite you.

AHJ
Renken?

OB
Yeah, Renken.

AHJ
Yeah, he had a chip on his shoulder, all the time.

OB
All the time, cause the company told him to get that Anderson. I don't if know, you met him?

AHJ
Oh, yes. Irwin Anderson.

OB
Yes.

AHJ
What was Mrs. Anderson's name? Remember? It'll come to us after while. Okay.

OB
Anyway, we got out there. Course you know what they had there was nothing to work with. They was wanting 1970 prices on mahogany with 1792 equipment. And we went up and went to work and he said I could have Anderson around there 'til I got my feet on the ground.

FB
Well, they didn't even have anything for you to go out and work with, when you got there.

OB
They didn't even have a pickup for me. They sent us over there with a security guard with a gun and said "don't get out of your pickup. Don't talk to nobody. And I rode one day, with that Anderson and the security

guard and said, "To hell with that. If they were that dangerous - the first time one of those Filipinos catches me without a security guard, they'll kill me for sure." And so we went to work and we changed a lot of his ideas, and one thing and another. We started the production up there and got it up going good. And they had a lot of real marginal stuff there that they had left, here and there in places. So I talked to Max. I told Max, I said, "Well, Max, the best thing for us is to just move out of here." And he says, "Well, we're obligated to the forest service or whatever it was to take it." And I says, "Well you can fix it, can't you?" And he said, "Well did you want to move or is it Anderson that wants to move out of here?" And I said I was the guy. "Well, I can fix it, he says. He couldn't even fix it for Anderson. But then we moved down to San - oh, what the hell was that?"

AHJ

Wasag?

OB

Wasag.

FB

Where you built the road?

OB

Well, they'd started on it, but they started building that road down there and they was scared of them Filipinos, I'll tell you.

FB

It just really was mournful how they were ascares of the Filipines and Renken had told me, he says, "Don't go outa the guest house, Frieda," he says. And, well, you know they had a Catholic church down there, you know. Well, I sat around there for a while. And I thought, "Well, geze, why can't I get up in the morning and go to church? It'd be something to do you know," or something, you know. And, well anyway, so I finally after, I don't know, four weeks or something, I don't know. Well, I got up one morning and I went to church.

And I don't know, he must have really watched us because he come back over in the morning then, when I came back for a while, and he says, "Oh, I see you walkin' down the road this morning." I says, "Oh, yes." I says, "I decided to get up and go down the road." He said, "Boy, you're really takin a chance." And I says, "Mr. Renken, there's just this much about it. I'm really not afraid of these people. I don't think that they'll harm me any and if I'm going to die, I guess there's no better way to die than if you're going to church." We kind of laughed and that was the end of that, then. There was nothing more said about it.

AHJ

You had the run of the village after that, huh?

FB

Well, I just went. It was something for me to do and I got kind of acquainted with the people, that way. Because he told me not to go for a while. But I don't know. That's what he said and that's the truth. He might deny it now, but,--.

AHJ

But anyway, you got the operation moved from the Kraan area down to Wasag, huh?

OB

Well, it was a four-ring circus getting it moved down there. They had a shovel up there that didn't have no walking gears under it and when you wanted to move it you had to hook onto it with a cat and it --. When I first went over there, they was moving it and they were moving it with a cat. And the little Filipinos were running around there and I seen them throwing rocks under the pads, you know, and I thought, "Those little buggers. They're making gravel out of that rock." They were throwing rocks under there when they were going to go around a curve. They'd go on this side or on the opposite side where it was short, and not moving so fast, and they'd throw rocks under there to throw that pad up, so she wouldn't walk off the pad. That's the way they'd move it.

We got all the equipment down there but that. And I kept getting a couple of cats up there and cleaned up everything they'd left for spar trees and everything, for a couple of weeks. I got two cats up there and we cleaned up everything and all the spar trees and everything that they'd left there since - that was any good. Took them down there for the veneer plant.

Then we got ready to take that shovel down. So I told him to hook on the low boy and bring it up. So he wanted to know what I was going to do with the low boy and I told him I was going to move the shovel. And they had never had that shovel on the low boy, all the time they had been there, all those years. We finally dug a pit there and got her on there and I put one cat in back and then one ahead. And that old truck driver's eyes were sticking out, you know.

"Get her over there. Get her over there."

"Well, she's going in the ditch."

"Well, she's got a cat in front of her and we'll just pull her out."

And we got down there and it was like a circus coming down. When we got down there, by the light plant, by the electric plant, everybody they was out there taking pictures of us.

AHJ

But you snubbed her all the way down off the mountain?

OB

Yeah, snubbed her with one end then pull the back end toward the curve but we did steer it with the cat in back, then took her down to Wasag.

AHJ

But you really didn't have any trouble, huh?

OB

No. She came right down there fine. We had the front end of the truck out in the ditch a couple of times, but we'd just pull it back out with the cat.

AHJ

Something you've done a thousand times, I suppose?

OB

Then we was - we had her made then, as far as the Filipinos. We had it made anyway, as far as the Filipinos was concerned. That one foreman Quinko, I knew about him because that feller that was there before, Art Carlyle--.

AHJ

Art Carlyle.

OB

Him and his wife Rosemary they come here and stayed with us for two days when they come back, before we left to go over there. So he told me just what the whole score was what we was up against. Because Carlyle, he was up there at Cottage Grove for a while, then he went to Springfield. He lived there at Cottage Grove.

AHJ

Where's he living now? Have you lost track of him?

OB

They live up in Idaho, somewhere.

FB

He was over there for quite a while. I bet he could tell you quite a bit.

AHJ

I'd forgotten about Art. Okay, I'll just put his name down there.

OB

The only Filipino there that I had any trouble with at all was that Quinko and Art had told me, he said, "I'd like to know how you make out with Quinko, when you're over there." So we moved down to Wasag and had been there probably a couple of months and we was getting big production. We was getting as high as 90 logs to one side and we had logs piled all over the 40 down there. One day I wanted to see Quinko

about something and I asked at all the sides, "Where's Quinko?" "Oh, him outside. "Him outside." - Outside - that was back in the jungle. So finally, I run into that Bob, what'd they call him? A construction man?

AHJ
Zile.

OB

Zile, and I asked Bob, I said, "Have you seen that Quinko" and he said, "He went home." He said he went to Milbuk. So the next morning after he got his crew out, I told Quinko, "Quinko, I want to have a talk with you." "Okay". So he come over and I says, "Where was you yesterday?" He says, "Oh, I was outside." I says, "You was like hell. You went home at 10:00." "Yeah," he says. "I was home." I says, "Okay, you walk off the job, you leave the job once more, no matter what it's for, without coming and telling me or letting me know, you're done." "Sir," he says, "Sir, if you don't like my work you can get somebody else," no he says, "you can give me my time." And I says, "Okay. Let's go get her now. I'll have it made out for you." "Wait now," he says. "Let's talk this over." I never had a bit of trouble with him, after that.

And them little Filipinos - you know, they'd work like niggers for you. When that bonus started coming up, them fellows couldn't do enough for you. They'd had that idea of cold decking and usually, when they'd cold deck, it would be a good level spot there. And them old machines, they'd rig 'em up and it'd take 'em a day and a half, or two days to put up a skyline, you know, and they'd only have 200 logs there to swing. So I kept telling them, "We're going to swing them with cats. We're going to swing them piles with cats." "You can't do it, sir. It won't work. It won't work."

And I kept watching that and watching that and I figured, why in the hell won't it work? And I thought, well, maybe the ground or something when it gets wet, you can't cat log. I watched them there and finally, we had a pile out there, oh, about 500 feet and a level spot out just as level as the floor. And probably should have put a road in but we didn't have ballast and it was in the wet season. They said they'd have to put the skyline up. And I said, "No, we're going to swing it with the cat." "It won't work. It won't work."

I thought, well, I'll try her once more and see why it won't work. So they rigged it up and they had one of them old yarders there I don't know what it was. It had been made out of about 16 yarders. It had Washington parts on it, and watch parts, and truck parts and everything else. And they got one turn and it broke down. I says, "Okay, that's it. Bring over the cat." "It won't work. It won't work."

Well, the cat would be coming in here to the road. We had the landing all built there and down there, just about 500 feet, was Y-19, one of this foreman's yarders was working there. I was going to walk the shovel back and forth between the two of them. And Samoa says, "It won't work. It won't work." And I says, "Okay Samoa, "Y-19 down around the corner?" "Yes, sir". "Okay, when you bring these cat logs in, you load them out and mark them Y-19." And they painted them Y-19, so they could keep track of their logs, see. I says, "You mark them Y-19." "Okay, it'll work." But he didn't want to say that they couldn't get their bonus, if

they had nothing to charge that to. After that, I'm telling you, Alden, you couldn't park a construction cat there or anything, or them little buggers had it. - It worked real good. But you couldn't.

AHJ

Everybody's got his angle.

OB

I just couldn't figure it out and finally I thought - well, that was the last thing I could think of, was that they couldn't get the bonus. I spent half of one night and I thought, "That's the matter. They've got no way of keeping track of that scale.

AHJ

And that turned out to be the key?

OB

That was the key to it. They could get their bonus. They did good there

AHJ

What do you remember about that bonus?

OB

I couldn't tell you. They never told me nothing. I tried to get cost statements and one thing and another. Aw, Renken told me, "We can't put out cost statements. The Filipinos would get ahold of it and use it." You never knew whether you was making any money or, - I knew we was. Construction had gone up, over doubled. So I knew something was coming up, but you couldn't get no cost out of them. When we got ready to leave there, I made up my mind I just wasn't going to stay there any longer. I couldn't fight that any longer. I was just too old to take that.

Of course, had I known enough to work like the rest of them - but you go over there and you watch some poor little bugger up there trying to hang rigging or something; those old kinky guy lines, 10,000 years old, and you see them up there, two or three of them, trying to hang a guyline and you finally tell one of them to come down and you put on the belt and spurs and go up and hang them for them. I went up there one time - Y-19 was up above - and I see no logs coming down and I thought, "What's the matter?" I knew they was supposed to be turning the blocks up there and I heard that little feller - they was up on top of a knoll - I had put a spar tree up on top of a knoll, trying to get them yardin' uphill. Always before, the yardin' was downhill, in that standing stuff, and finally got them to get that stuff coming uphill. I went up there - and that was before so I was going to Wasag. I just had an old two-wheel pickup and I could hear him, "Ho, ho, ho. Up a little bit."

Old Quinko was up there and I asked him if he had another set of belt spurs. "Yup. Right there on the yarder." So I went up there and put the belt and spurs on, and I went up. When I got up to where he was tied up - it was where the bullblock was - and he hollered to stop. I said, "No, go on up." So I went up and and took the passblock walked it around the tree, you know. He was trying to turn bullblock without turning that passblock. I came down, went over to a couple of guylines, swung one a

quarter of the way around. I went on down and sent the chain up and he come down. Tears was running out of his eyes. "What's the matter, Joe?" I don't know whether you want this on your tape or not. He said, "Sir, why no son of a bitch show me how to turn passblock?" he says.

AHJ

And he had worked there for years and no one had shown him how to do it?

OB

He had been climbing for about two years, but nobody had told to turn that passblock. I was out there, I had Max with me one day and I come out there, and here was a set of fallers, just off the road. They had a big lauan gunned right down the canyon. I said, "Come on, Max. Come down there with me." I went down and told Max, "Tell them to hold it. Don't fall that tree." Then when Max told them, he said, "No, you can't fall it there." And they said, "Yeah, lean, lean lean." I says, "Yeah, it leans there but undercut her here and fall her a quartering down the hill, there." Sir, it won't go there. Well, I says, "Wedge it." He said, "Sir, we got no wedges."

AHJ

Oh, boy!

OB

They didn't even have wedges. So we got - I don't know. We got 300 wedges or something like that in there. And I come out there one day and there was another set. And they had, - wasn't too big a tree, but it was going straight down the canyon. And I told them, "no." And they could talk English. I said, "Wedge it." "Okay" they says. Well, they put a wedge in the back of it. One of them went down there with that knife and he cut him a club and started pounding that goddam wedge with his club and I says, "Where's your ax?" "We got no ax," he says. I'm telling you, there were times ---.

AHJ

That was a rough show.

OB

What the hell they ever - I don't know what the hell was going on. They didn't have absolutely nothing. You just took the clock and you just set it back 30 years, when you landed there. They had an old heel boom up there.

FB

Tell him about ordering the wedges and the axes.

OB

We ordered single-bit axes. They said they could get them right there, and I said okay, I want a 4-1/2 lb. single bitted ax. So then we had to go out. Where'd we go?

FB

To get our visas.

OB

We went to Hong Kong, three days, and I come back and Anderson said,

"Your axes come Orris. I gave them the axes." You know I went out there and I seen one of these fellers coming and he had one of them little single bitted cruising axes. That's what they ordered for axes, for them fellers to fall with. I gathered them all up and we sent them back and we got 4-1/2-pound single-bitted axes for them.

But there was something going on over there, I don't know what it was, but there was an undercurrent there, all the time. Even after you got things like production going, down there at Wasag, where there was twice the production they'd ever got, that Anderson and Renken were still watching you every minute.

We went out there and they had three cold decks piled up and they was right on ballast roads. They kinda got where the bugs was going to get in so I was saving them until we got into some wet weather. So when we got ready to go out, Renken come over and said, "Well, I'll send Anderson down there to run it while you're gone." I said, "You just keep Anderson out of the woods. I don't want him down there at all." He took and made an assistant manager out of him when I wouldn't have him, when he couldn't manage in the woods anymore. And so, he said, "Who do you want in there?" I said, "Send Max down there."

Max came down there, and when I come back, Max said, "Orris, we sure got some big production while you was gone." I said, "You did?" "Yeah. Anderson and Renken told me to swing them cold decks while you were gone, so we could get some production." Damned if they didn't take and swing the cold deck, about a million feet, I guess, there.

AHJ

They skimmed some cream, huh?

OB

But then it just got so they - I told them, "It's gone too far." And Harry Morgan, he called me and said, "You stay there until we get over there." He said, "We'll straighten that out." So they was supposed to come in on a Tuesday, or Wednesday. I don't know what it was.

AHJ

This was when George was with him and Charlie Bingham?

OB

George was with him and Charlie Bingham and Harry and--

AHJ

Bill Simm.

OB

Bill Simm. Well anyway they come up there. They wasn't supposed to come 'til the next day.

FB

They came a day early.

OB

I was up in the woods. It was one of the first times these fellers was cat logging, I had two young fellers there that - I didn't try to take a hook or nothing, I took two chokerman and was going to make cat hookers out of them. I started them, so what they learned, they wouldn't know nothing wrong. And so I was working with them, that afternoon, and I was from one end to the other.

FB

Wait a minute Orris. I want to say something in there. They came in and, course, Mr. Renken and Mr. Anderson was going to meet them. And they came in on the porch and we was standing there shaking hands and finally - I still could see Harry Morgan. He walked the length of that porch, you know there, kinda--

AHJ

The guest house?

FB

At the guest house. And he says, "Where's Orris?" He says, "Oh, I suppose he's working, as usual." Then somebody - they sent for him, I guess.

OB

One of the trucks - I came over to the trucks and one of the truckers stopped me and handed me a note that said, "Come to Milbuk immediately." I bailed down off that hill and I got out there and, you know, I was all mud and dirt. I came around there and here they all were. Harry, he come out there and shook hands and he didn't give me a chance to talk to nobody else or nothing. "Just come on," he said. "Let's go for a walk." And we walked down on the beach there. He wanted to know what happened. I says, "You know damn well what's the matter." He says, "Well, will you stay if we straighten it out?" I says, "Well I'll stay 'til we get that production leveled out and then I'm going home. As soon as we get Wasag straightened out, I'm going home. "Well, that's fine," he said.

I watched old Renken and Anderson and their ears stuck out there like an elephant's when they - worst thing he coulda done was when he took me off by myself there. But after that, I don't know what went on. I went down to Wasag. We ate lunch and I told them, "Well, I've gotta go to Wasag." He says, "Well, I want to meet with you fellers at such and such a time at the office." Well I wasn't even there, but the next morning I went over there. Renken sent over word with one of the security guards. He said, if I had time, he'd like to have me come over and talk to him. I told that security guard. "I ain't got time now, but I'll take time."

So I walked into the office and they was both settin' there, you know, with their chins way down on the desk. And nobody said nothing, and I said, "Well, what do you want?" He says, "Well, you know we had a meetin' the other day, when you went down to Wasag." He says, "We had a meetin' with Morgan and Weyerhaeuser and them and," he says, "we found

out a few things." And I says, "Yeah, you found out you's pretty small punkin when it come to Weyerhaeuser." I said, "All they wanted over here was production." "Well," he says, "That's it, you've got complete charge of the woods from now on." It was better from then on, but it never was - you know, you just never felt comfortable. Both of them was still there. You could just feel them ready to bit you.

One feller that really tried, over there, was that Bob Zile. He really worked, trying to do things. Where you come up from the waterfront, you know, that side hill, that long slope up through there 'til you get onto them first benches, up there--

AHJ
At Wasag?

OB
Yeah, Wasag.

AHJ
Yes, I remember.

OB
And we couldn't find rock, so I told Bob, "Hell take that beach rock and haul her up here." And we put it on there and right to the top and at the top a road went this way going on up to Milbuk and then the logging road forked off at an angle and--

AHJ
In the saddle right there.

OB
Yeah. Well, Bob was right there, and I got out of the pickup and walked over. One truck come up the hill, and another one went down with a big load of logs. I said, "By god, she looks pretty good, Bob". He said, "Orris, I wonder what she's going to be like when we get 3" of snow on this." He said just as serious as could be. "What's it going to look like when we get 3 inches of snow," he says, "on that round rock there." I says, "Do you suppose we'll get her here". "Oh, damn it," he says. But he was just as serious as he could be. Wondered what it'd be like with 3" of snow.

AHJ
Bob didn't tell me about that, when I talked with him the other day.

FB
Are they here?

AHJ
They're down at Castle Rock. Yeah he's working down there, at the Longview operation.

OB

He's a nice guy. Ruth kind of fouled herself up, over there, but - talked too much.

AHJ

Did she? Were her neighbors unhappy or something?

OB

Oh, she got Mrs. Renken unhappy with her.

FB

She couldn't get along with Mrs. Renken, I don't believe.

OB

Then we stayed there until we got the production up. Then we just told them we were coming home.

AHJ

So you did leave then and never went back? When was it that you left? Was it at the end of the year?

OB

Yeah, we only stayed there about 9 months.

FB

It really was a heartache to leave for me because - well, I don't know - I just felt kinda sorry for the people, you know. They were so nice to us. They were just - oh I enjoyed every minute I was there, really, as far as the Philippine people were concerned.

AHJ

They're nice people.

FB

They were wonderful to us. I even went to the dentist there. Boy, they were just--

OB

When we left there - well, what was that feller's name, Roberts?

AHJ

Lloyd Roberts?

OB

Lloyd Roberts. Well he came over there and, of course he's - all his history was over there before he was. Where they'd got it from, I don't know, but Quinko, and Samoa, them two foremans, they came and they wanted to know what was going to happen now. I said, "What do you mean, what's going to happen now?" "Well, four years in the woods and no logging experience. What's going to happen to production?" I says, "Well geze, that's up to you fellers. You've seen, for 9 months, how things is supposed to go." I says, "You've got to work with him and help him."

But them and the hook tenders and them two bull-buckers - I forget their names - they came and talked to me. How were they going to do a good, somebody with no experience. I says, "Well you gotta try it out and find out first." But the first thing he done, he got in bad with, well, while we were still there. We stayed there another six weeks or--

FB

I think it was several weeks, they asked you to stay after he came, to kind of - so he could get the ropes. I think it was about 3 weeks, Orris.

OB

That - down there at Palimbang that was on the road down there.

AHJ

I remember the village there.

OB

Well, that mayor there he was just a big bunch of B.S. He had his chest out and he was god himself. Well, we come up there and we had to take a bridge out, a culvert, we put in there, was too small. They couldn't get enough water there to irrigate. Max came down there one day and told me, "Orris," he says, "the farmers up there have taken the culvert out." I said, "By god they ain't." "Well," he said, "I'll go with you." And we went up there and talked to this one farmer. He did talk English. He said, "Too small, won't give us water enough." And I says, "Well you just wait a minute," I says. "The mayor wanted that culvert put in and we put it in there. Now you leave it alone 'til we talk to him." "Okay," he says, "Two days."

So I went and talked to the Mayor and he says, "Oh to hell with them. They no vote for me. We leave culvert there." So I says, "Well, you better talk to them fellers." Well he says, "I'll talk to them." So next morning I come down and he says. "Mr. Burrill, you can put bridge in?" "Yeah, we'll put a bridge in." Then he said, "Okay." So, I went up and talked to the Filipinos and I said, "I'll put the bridge in. I'll send up the timbers - the logs and the timbers and I'll send up one crane and a cat and men to operate them, and," I says "you fellows furnish the labor." "Okay" he says. And he says, "How many you want?" And I says, "Well, give us 20 men."

We went down there next morning and there was 50 men round there. They had sharp sticks, they had shovels, they had axes. So we put the bridge in. Then the irrigation ditch came down the ditch right in back of the Mayor's house. And there was a road going this way and our road crossed it out in front there. Then it came and just got under this road by the Mayor's house, then took a square turn and come across our road, but we had the same size culvert in up here, see. They was going to take his out, so after I got our culvert in - our bridge in - I had enough stuff there and he asked me if I'd put his in. I said, "No, do it yourself." "Well, we got no timber!" And I said, "Okay, I'll put it in."

We put it in and then I had a cat setting there, so we could fill the end up with rock and one thing and another. The cat was just sitting there. It wasn't doing nothing. They wasn't quite ready for it yet, so he asked

me, if they could take it up there by the schoolhouse. That crick was washing out. We'd been up there once and filled it up for them. He said it was washing out again and I said, "Okay, you can have it 'til 4:00 this afternoon, and then I want it back here." Well, he had it back there at 4:00, so the night shift could take it over. Well, it was the next morning and they had it all done and the cat was sitting there, and the cat skinner had it going. "That's okay. Bring it to Wasag." "Okay", he says.

So Max came down and he says, "Orris, the Mayor won't let your cat go." "The hell he won't." So I says, "I'll go up and see." And Max, he always carried a gun, you know. "He said, 'I'll go up with you.'" I said, "No, I'll go alone." So I went up and he always had 15 or 20 soldiers around. He had this one feller, Bob, was his first lieutenant or something and I asked Bob, "Where's that son of a bitch of a Mayor." He says, "Him down takin' a bath." I says, "Get him up here. I want to talk to him." So up he came with a towel around him, you know.

I says, "What are you holding that cat here for? I told that fellow to take it to Wasag. Why are you holdin' it?" He says, "All a misunderstandin'. All a misunderstandin'." I says, "Well that cat's going to Wasag, now don't think for a minute it ain't. You might stop that Filipino from takin' it, but" I says, "I'll take it down there." "All a misunderstandin'," he says.

You know, Quinko was coming up that night and the Mayor flatted him down. Old Quinko said, "I was scared. He was standing there. Istopped." And he says, "Quinko, you know that logging manager that Mr. Burrills?" "Yeah," Quinko says. He says, "Him a mean old son of a bitch, but I like him," he says. After that I couldn't go by there. I went in. "Have a cup of coffee." The coffee, they boiled it right with the sugar in it, so you'd have to drink a cup of that and have a cigar.

AHJ

You talked language that he understood.

OB

But him and Bob, I guess they got into trouble. He was trying to run over him or something. I didn't know Bob had had trouble with him.

AHJ

Not Bob Zile?

OB

No. Roberts, I mean. Then so, when I got ready to leave there, I stopped and Bob was driving. I'd been down to Wasag with him - Lloyd Roberts. I says, "Stop here a minute. I'm going in to see the mayor." "Oh, don't go in there. You'll get in trouble." "Hell no, I won't get in no trouble." So I went in and told him I was leaving. "Why you leave?" "Well, I'm going home." He says, "You stay. We kill that Renken. We need you. You stay." I says, "Naw, we're going home. You'd better get along here. Hell, there's nobody going to bother you." "Don't like that feller," he says. "He run you off." "No" I says, "I'm just going home. I'm too old to work over here."

So then we came home. And we told them we was going to leave on a Sunday and everybody in Milbuk was out there. Even them men standin' there and tears running down their eyes and talking, "Oh, what we do now? What we do now?" "You just get in and work. That's all you've got to do." I says, "Just like I told you, there's no tomorrow. We got to get it all done today and you'll get along." And the little girl Charlene, that worked in the guest house there, she rode over with us in the pickup, when we got ready to leave. And I said, "Charlene, you shed a tear, I'll get off that thing and blister your butt." She stood right there and she never shed a tear, but I looked just when the plane got ready to take off, she was standing by the pickup and she was crying. But she never cried, while we was waiting for the plane to get ready to go.

AHJ

Orris, there's a story that I halfway remember, that someone told me one of the times I was over there, and I'm just wondering if it might have been something you had told me. It has to do with the barrio there, the Milbuk barrio, where the little village was, where you had to drive right through the middle of it to come in from the airport to come into camp there. It seems that there was some head man there, that was inclined to be kind of radical or something. And there was one day when there were some of the brass, that they were bringing in from the airport and they were afraid that he might shoot them or something, and they detailed somebody to be sure that he didn't cause any trouble. And, according to the story, this fellow went to this - the fellow that was detailed to be sure that nothing happened - went to the place of business - this other fellow had a little store there or a barber shop or something? And the fellow that was to see that no trouble happened, just stood right beside him with a gun under his shirt, and he was ready to take care of it, if anything started. Do you remember any story along that line at all?

OB

That was the only time the brass was ever in there - was that time, they all come over there, that I remember while we was there.

AHJ

I don't know. It might have been another time. It might have been when someone else when someone else was coming in there. I don't know, but it was a little story that kinda exemplifies the trouble that was beginning to build up there.

OB

It was building up, all the time we was there. You could see - whole episode didn't come up, after we left there. But I got along fine with that Mayor. After I bluffed him, we never had one bit of trouble.

AHJ

No more trouble?

OB

No more trouble. I just told him - well, he come in there, one time Bob and I stopped down there at one of them little places there, at Palimbang, and we went in there and had a bottle of pop the Mayor came in there and, "Mr. Burrill," he says. We shook hands and he introduced himself and he says, "You no worry. I protect you. Nobody hurt you." I says, "You don't have to protect me. I'll take care of myself." And right there, I think, was the start of it, when he figured that he wasn't bluffing anybody. But I tell you, that Renken was so goddammed scared of him. They got up one Sunday and, someplace, there were signs that said "Yankee go Home." He come over and he said, "Don't leave the guest house for nothing," he says. "Don't nobody," he says. "They're threatenin' us. Don't worry about it tho, we've got the planes. We can get you out of here if anything happens," he says, and all this stuff. Well they had two planes. They could have taken him and his wife and Anderson and his wife, and the rest of us would have been stuck there.

FB

What kind of planes. The planes were never there to take off anyway, if something did happen. That got around somehow - that got around the village people, because they talked to me about it. And she said, "Frieda, if there ever would be anything that happened, you know, between the non-Christians and the Christians, or the civil people, you know," she says, "You come down to our house. I'll protect you." And I tell you, Mr. Jones, I just never forgot that, because she says, "If anybody shoots you," she says, "I'll stand right in front of you." And what more could you ever ask for.

OB

Half of that trouble over there was that security guard, I can't remember his name, Garski or something like that. He had Anderson and them bluffed so dam bad, you know, that - you know, he put on two-thirds of that stuff. They kept a ledger there and they'd write it up every night. Well, he put stuff in there, I know never even happened, so he'd hold his job. And they never got wise to him. I was telling you about that - they once said we couldn't leave the guest house. So I set around for a little. Well, I didn't stay there, I took the wife and, her and I, went down to Wasag. We drove down there and up in the woods and prowled around a bit, and come back and about 2:00 I told Bob, I says, "Well, let's go down and take in the rooster fight." "Okay," he says.

We went down there and that Milana, I think his name was - worked around there, was a millright or something, at Milbuk - he was running the rooster fight. And we walked in and, "Howdy, boys," he says. "Take in the fight?" "Yup." "Right up there," he says. So he set us down there and brought out - we watched a couple of fights and finally I told Bob, "by god, I'm going down and bet on one of these." So I went down and I put five pesos down. Bob says, "Which one you going to bet on?" They had a gray rooster and a red one there. I said, "I'm going to bet on that gray one." Some little kid said, "Sir, Sir, bet on the gray one." I put five peso on him, then he lost.

When I was walking back up I looked and here around us about four seats back was just a whole ring of the fellows who worked there in the mill

and in around. Old Milana had sent them up there to protect us, if anything happened. Well, we bet on three or four roosters. I bet on the one the kid told me. That lost and I said, "heck with you, I'm betting on the red one this time," and I made about 25 pesos there I guess. Renken came over and says, "Where's Orris and Bob been." And Frieda said, "Oh, they went to the rooster fights." "Oh, my god, my god," he says, "Them guys are just asking to get killed." Well, they'd had to have a 30-30 to kill me. Them Filipinos around there was watching and, but I can't remember any instances anyone got hurt there.

AHJ

Okay. Another thing I remember, though - at the time Weyerhaeuser and Morgan and Bingham came over there, either that day or the day before, Renken had received a typewritten death threat. Do you remember anything about that? He received a letter over - they had discharged some fellow and some---

OB

Oh, yeah. That was that lawyer or something when they let him go.

AHJ

Was that what that was? I recall when we flew in from Sabah to Isabela they had a call there to get on the radio and talk with Renken and he told them maybe he hadn't ought to come over there. So they talked it over, I remember, right there on the edge of the airfield at Isabela. They talked it over before they decided to come on, into Milbuk.

OB

I never heard of that. Of course, they never told me nothing. We was just outside.

FB

There was a couple - I remember now that there was a little bit of something said about that. But like Orris says, they never, ever said anything very much to us, but that just comes back to my mind now. To me it was nothing. It never matured to anything, as far as I heard.

OB

They was just so dam scared of them Filipinos. They said, "Don't talk tough to them. Don't get after them or nothing." Well, how the hell are you going to get work out of him, if you can't tell him, by god he's got to get his butt in gear and do something. I talked to them just like you would over here. If I thought they wasn't doing something, "All right let's either get going here or by god we'll get somebody that can." I really sailed right into them. Boy them buggers, you'd watch 'em, working 10 hours and by god, the last three hours they'd just plain run out of gas.

They just - I got after one one day - they had a track loader setting here. It was swinging a cold deck up and they - like 30 logs had slid back down. I told him - I missed Quinko so I told the loader." Okay, Frank. You have Quinko pull them logs up so you can load them out, before you move that yarder out. "Yes, sir," he says, "I'll tell 'im." Well I went down there and the track loader was gone and here was the

logs still down there. So they was up above. I had some cat logs piled up and they was up loadin' them out and they got to yardin' again. So I went up there and I says, "Okay, let's go back down and get them logs." "Oh, sir," he says, "So far." I says, "I told you to tell Quinko to pull them up." He says, "I forgot." I says, "By the time we get them out of there, you'll remember it, next time." Well, we went down there and they set the track loader up and when the little Filipino got on one point of the tong and one on the other, and one got under the scissors and the other had the line and they went staggering down there.

I had my pickup setting right there and I went down and put on my cork shoes. They finally got one log up and I took the tong - and right where they was going down, there was a full length tree had come in there. So I went out along that with the tongs and I went running along that and one of these little Filipinos, he got up in front of me to help me, and he had a big grin on his face. I said, "Get out of the road before I run over you." He got out of the road. I went down there and I yarded all of them up for them. I come up there and told this one little second loader, "What's the matter Filipino." "Yeah," he says, "white man beefsteak, Filipino rice. White man cork shoes, Filipino tennis shoes."

AHJ

Yeah, they were pretty sharp.

OB

I went up there one day, and coming down off the hill - coming down off the hill, into the waterfront down there, and glanced down over the hill and thought I seen some chips down there. I thought, what the hell was that? So I got out of the pickup, parked there and I walked back up and here was fresh chips down there. I looked down there, and here was a - they'd felled a tree and was hewing out a canoe there. So I went down to the waterfront and there was a feller had a little banana stand there, store he called it. He had three bottles of pop and four bananas there. I went in there and I always called him "the smuggler." I never did know what he did for a living, but he always seemed to have money.

I went down there and I says, "Say, Smuggler, who's building that canoe there?" "Oh, nobody build a canoe." I says, "The heck they ain't." I says, "It's right there. They've got her about half done. I'm going to rustle Bajada up and we'll get the marshall up and get him arrested." "Oh, sir, no. He got big family and can't work and he needs a fishing boat. His fishing boat broke up on him and he needs a fishing boat." I says, "Okay, I want to talk to that fellow." And that was on a Saturday. He says, "I'll have him there at 10:00 Sunday morning." He says, "You come down."

So I went down there and picked the smuggler up and we went down to the beach and back up the beach. There was another little store there, and he asked the kid there something in Filipino, Spanish, whatever they talk. The kid shook his head "Yeah", and the kid took off running and, pretty soon, here come this fellow. He got within about 100 feet of us and the Smuggler hollered something at him and the feller stopped and untied his knife and hung it up in the tree there. He come over and I told the Smuggler, I says, "Now you tell that feller, to finish that canoe and get it off of Weyerhaeuser land and, if I ever catch him on

Weyerhaeuser land again," I says, "he's going to be in trouble." The fellow shook his head "yes," with a long face, you know. So we started to walk away and I said, "Now listen you son of a bitch, if I ever catch you on Weyerhaeuser land again, I'll have you arrested." "Yes, sir!" He talked just as good English as we did and this whole performance with the interpreter was nothing. "Yes, sir," he said.

AHJ

He knew what it was all about?

OB

He listened to the whole thing and then he says, "Yes, sir."

AHJ

This wasn't a fellow that worked for us then?

OB

No, no, he was a fisherman from down there.

FB

You didn't tell Mr. Jones about - what was that young fellow's name that came there and he says you reminded him of your dad. They were doing some inspecting in there? Over there at the - where they kept the supplies. His name was Joe, he stayed there for a long time? Yeah, they had a meeting

OB

He wasn't inspecting nothing, he was just - oh some fellow Renken had on that seminar. Didn't say nothing.

FB

Well, he was going to. He went to work for Weyerhaeuser, remember?

OB

Well, he didn't stay.

FB

He had that little boy, him and his wife and they were going to fix that house up?

OB

He come there to put that seminar on. He didn't have nothing to say. He never said nothing to me about putting that seminar on. I went down there and things was slowed down up there, so I went looking for a foreman and I went looking for a bull buck and asking where the hell they was at. "Oh, them at Milbuk at seminar." Took the whole crew for two days and took them up for a seminar.

AHJ

Took them from Wasag?

OB

Yeah. To Milbuk for a seminar.

FB

He sure wanted to work for Weyerhaeuser.

OB

Well, Renken was going to have him come out there and put him on as personnel manager, or something.

FB

He was a smarty.

OB

I told him, I says, "Now if you want to go to work for Weyerhaeuser," I says, "Don't monkey around here." I says, "Get in touch with them in Tacoma," I says, "And find out something over there." But he used to work for one of them other logging outfits over there, Georgia Pacific or Boise Cascade, or somebody. Personnel Manager or - he was a smart cookie.

AHJ

I don't just place him. I may not have run into him.

OB

I don't think - he was only there for just a short time. He was the one that his wife was out there with him. She was a good looking little girl and they had a little boy and I told him to get in touch with them right in Tacoma, right at the head office there, "Go to Harry Morgan or Charlie Bingham. Get over there, as a personnel man or something," I says. "If you want to go someplace with the company." And she spoke up and she says, "Move to Washington, United States?" And I says, "Yeah." And she says, "How bout them Indians?"

AHJ

What about the church business that Mrs. Anderson tried to get started over there? Did that add fuel to the fires?

OB

It was right in there. You know, everybody there was saying, well they couldn't work for - two or three of the different women there would tell them about, they wouldn't hire them to like do the laundry or work in the guest house or something, because they belonged to the Anderson's church, or didn't belong to it or something. It was quite a problem, that religion around there.

Most of the time, them little Filipinos - you wouldn't believe it, but after we got production going there and they seen that, you know, things was smoothing out, and you'd go over to that Marshalling point, to where you sent the crew out, every son of a choker was "Good Morning Sir," "Good Morning Sir." And finally I told one of them, "god damn it. Don't you call me sir." He said, "What we call you?" I says, "You call me Orris." "Oh we can't do that." They figured it had to be sir or mister,

you know. I told them, "You don't have to mister or sir me. I'm working here just like you guys. My name is Orris." No, they couldn't do that. The Spanish had held them down, then the Americans kept them right under their thumb. One little feller was running shovel there. I don't remember his name. Manobo was his last name.

AHJ

Manobo?

OB

Yeah, and he started calling me "Pop." And after that, "Good Morning, Pop", "Good Morning, Pop".

AHJ

Broke the ice?

OB

Broke the ice. After that everything was pretty good

FB

Mrs. Anderson one time - and that's the only time she came - and we went down into the village kinda. She took me, and we kind a went down the back way at night. She brought this up, she mentioned church to me and she asked me if I knew anything that was said about the church, you know. And well I wasn't going - I had heard a little bit but what I had heard didn't amount to anything - and I said, no, I hadn't. She said that she heard that Weyerhaeuser was paying for the lumber that that church was being made of, that she tried to start over there. I said, well, no I didn't know anything about it. They had a little church over there, that some of the people went to. I don't know if they had a minister, maybe or not.

AHJ

That was the little church they built down the other side of the barrio, towards the airport?

FB

Yeah.

OB

I had them call somebody up here at Tacoma and send me down 100 cigarette lighters, Weyerhaeuser cigarette lighters, and, if you had a feller that was really putting out tending hook, or running yard or something, you would go up by him and slip him one of them cigarette lighters. Boy, he'd get on that crew truck and he'd go to light a cigarette and take out the cigarette lighter and light it and hand it to you. The 4 bits it cost - they'd get more money than that from the extra work.

AHJ

Yeah, that was a good deal.

OB

Before we went there, though, there was a lot of monkeyshines going on, there. They, well - you can know what they do when a feller walked

around there with a pair of them Bermuda shorts on and a pair of them Red Wing shoes and white socks, and never got them dirty for months at a time. They never do it - I'm telling you, I'd been there about a week, and they had a cold deck way down in a hole there. I thought, well, I'd go down there and see what they're doing down there. And they'd moved a triple-drum down there and they'd built a cat road to take the triple-drum down and they'd come right in onto a knoll. The machine was down in there yarding, and I walked out on this knoll and was standing there watching them. And the chaser happened to look up there and he seen me and I seen him point to the engineer and then point up there where I was. The next morning, it was, this Quinko come to me and he says, "Yeah", he says, "I hear you walked down to the cold deck?" "Yeah, I walked out there to see what was going on." "Huh," he says, "Everybody say first time white man get off the road," he says.

AHJ

And everybody knew about that right quick, huh?

OB

Right now. There was a time when they was turning that triple-drum around and they was having a hell of a time. So I got in there and grabbed a block and put it out on a stump and was tightening the guy lines. They were just monkeying around there and just burning the base of the tree trying to tighten the guy lines. I grabbed the yardin' block and took it out up there and throwed it down and put a strap around there and run the main line in and put it in and stayed there and helped them raise the tree. This little engineer that started calling me Pop, he went into Bob Zile and he told Bob, "Yeah," he says, "Pop up there. He grabbed block, throw 'em around, grab line, Pop tighten guy line," he says. "Don't do Pop no good. He just get tired." He says, "Filipino only got so much gas," he says. "Filipino only got so much gas."

AHJ

They know what's going on.

OB

Damn right. They knew what they's doing. I think that was Carlisle's big problem down there. Anderson's church caused more friction than anything else.

AHJ

Think so?

OB

Yup. That's what Lars told us. He said, "Hell, he put on a Christmas party there for the kids and Anderson told them not to show up." Lars told us. You could see that thing blowing up, even when we was there. It was building up. If you'd ever lost your bluff, on that Mayor down there, you could have been in trouble.

I don't know whether you ever heard about the time they was bringing a raft of peeler logs from Wasag up to Milbuk and, I don't know whether, they went to sleep or anything, anyway, they grounded there and poked a

hole in the tugboat and the logs, they got loose. They come right into Palimbang, right into the Mayor's back yard. Well, they went down there and Renken, he went down there and he hired the Mayor's son, he gave him a contract for so much a thousand to gather up them logs and raft them for him.

Well, he got them rafted and, instead of taking the tugboat down there and getting them as soon as they got them done, they let them sit there for about a week, I guess. And they went down one morning and the logs was gone. Well, they come back up to - I think, that was on a Sunday morning, they found they was gone, and they were there like Saturday. So they went back up and got Buddy in the plane and they took off down there and they seen the tugboat with the raft of logs and they took them into this mill. So they sat down there and they was going to arrest them. It was the Mayor's son that was doing it and they was going to arrest him. And the Mayor told him, you arrest him and Milbuk was in trouble and all this other stuff. They finally send Max down there and told Max to make a deal with the Mayor. I think that when they got all done - they took, the company got 25% out of the logs that he sold and the rest of them he give to the Mayor's son - stuff like that. He just asked for trouble, but he came there one day and wanted to know if I'd go down to Palimbang with him. I said, "What we going down there for?" He said, "I gotta go down and pay the taxes," he says. "All right," I says. We got down there and he wouldn't get out of the pickup. So I went in there and asked this Bob - I don't know what his name was. He was the staff man there in his army or something. I asked him where the Mayor was at. He says, "Him over at his other house." His other house was across the river, so I said, "Could you send word over and have him come over?" Yeah, he could do that. "Probably take 20 minutes." "All right. That's okay." By god, we waited there 20 minutes and Renken looked at his watch, you know. It got to be a half hour and he says, "I think I'll get out of here. I don't like these things. There's something. Let's get out of here." I said, "Well Christ, the man's got to get over here." "No, no. I ain't staying any longer." We went back to Milbuk. He was so damned scared of that Mayor.

He was there when we was on the - when we moved on to Wasag there. We had a little rash of flat tires there. God Almighty, they wouldn't throw them rocks off for nothing, you know. They would just run over them. And Anderson said, "Oh that's a Filipino. Somebody's got an ax up there someplace in the road. They run over an ax up there. Somebody was sabotagin' them. I put a couple of fellows up there, throwing them rocks, that come down off the bank, off there and no more flat tires. - He said those Filipinos was sabotagin' them. I don't think you could of got them Filipinos - them Filipinos knew that was a living for them and, if Weyerhaeuser moved out of there, it was going to be rough for them. They wasn't that dumb. They was smarter then they thought they was.

AHJ

Sure. This Mayor, down at Palimbang. What was his position when they finally had this uprising trouble, later on?

OB

We wasn't there.

AHJ

Well, I know, you had left, but how do you figure him? Where would he be in it?

OB

Oh, he was a son of a bitch, if you didn't have him scared. He had the power, you know. He was lord, god and master there. He didn't have to have a title or nothing. He just wanted - if some drunk was raising hell around there or something and he wanted him throttled - well, that feller just come up missing, that was all.

AHJ

Can we assume that he probably had an important part in that uprising trouble that came on, later on?

OB

No, I wouldn't say that he didn't help it any, but I don't think he'd instigate it. I think he was too damn smart for that. What he wanted, he wanted, just like a salary for keeping the peace around there. He come to me and he wanted 4,000 pesos a night for keeping peace around there. I told him we could keep our own peace. Then he told me about some other company, what they was paying the mayor for protection and one thing and another. I think he was too smart for that. Of course, what started that thing, was - you see we had all them people, had been working there for Basilan Lumber Company for years. Well, then when we moved down to Wasag, down there, well them fellers figured that they should have jobs down there. You moved down into their territory, well there should be work for them, down there at Wasag too. There should be something for them, there too. And that was one of the things that never set right there.

AHJ

We never tried to make jobs for them?

OB

Well, we picked up a few of them, when you had an opening. But you never had an opening. Them fellers stayed right there and you'd work there as a hooker for ten, twelve years and your son come and he worked for a chokerman for you and it stayed right in the family, you know. We probably had a dozen of them working there, but them cutters and all them stayed there, all the time. The only way you could get one was when you canned him. Then you'd get rid of one but that's the only way you ever had a change around there.

No, I'd say all the years, whatever his name was he probably didn't try to stop it any, but he - them Moslems - they was a breed of buggers, all by themselves.

AHJ

Umhum. They're bad ones.

OB

But I never had - I come up from Wasag - I was down there and we had a little feller down there who was a security guard. And just before they built the shop there and there was a big old tree standing there and there was some fruit on it, just like that. I was standing there talking with him and I asked him, "What are they?" He said, "Them monkey orange."

AHJ

Monkey orange.

OB

Yeah, and I says, "Are they any good to eat?" "No," he says, "no." He had just a little old grass shack and he went back in there and he come out with his knife, you know. He was going to cut one in half and, when he come out, I just motioned, you know, "Don't hit me with that knife." He grinned and took the knife and cut it open and it was just all pith like in there, and there was no meat or no nothing. A few days after that old Renken called me in there. "Orris," he says, "I know you got complete charge of that down there, but god," he says, "some of them things that happen, you should let me in on it." "What the hell's the matter now?" "Well," he says, "that feller pulled a knife on you, down there, the other day. You should have told me about it." Somebody come up and told him that kid pulled a knife on me.

AHJ

That's the way stories get started I guess.

OB

Only one time, I was ever really scared over there. I was coming - going to Wasag and I stopped and seen these three or four women there, and they had this one old lady there, just could barely walk, you know, so I stopped and picked them people up. I let them ride in the back but I wouldn't let them in the cab with me unless it was somebody I knew. I'd keep the door locked. So, they wanted to put this old women in the front, see, and I - "No, no. Right there." I didn't know whether she had some contagious disease or what, but I said, "Okay. Back there." So we didn't go like four or five miles and here come an old - one of them old army surplus trucks that them Filipinos had there - and so they started patting on the top of the window to stop, stop.

I stopped, so they got out and went over there and took this old woman with them and they put her in the god damned cab of that army rig. And here a feller came walking back. He had a .45 on his goddamned hip, you know, and he come walking back and looked in the pickup. I thought he was coming back to complain about me not letting anyone in the cabs. I didn't have a gun or nothing and I reached around back of me and got the goddamned jack-handle there. It was about that long and I got that. I thought, "Don't you try to draw that gun or I'll wrap you right alongside the bean." He just come back there and thanked me for hauling his grandmother down, but he looked so goddamned mean. But boy, I was kinda sweating there.

AHJ

Yeah, happy ending though.

OB

One time I was coming out with Buddy. We called up our daughter. She'd had an operation and I was kinda worried about it. I thought, "I'll keep track of it and when she has her operation, I'll get in touch with you. So he sent a Telex over there, for me to come to Davao and call him on the telephone. So I flew in with Buddy - and Anderson was in Davao there - and we was out over the jungle someplace, you know.

Buddy was sitting in that seat and we was purring along alright, but Buddy, he was looking all over everything. He wiped the sweat off his head, you know, and I thought, "What the hell's the matter, Buddy?" He said, "Well, by god, I don't know, Orris. I think we better find a place to see if we can set down." He reached over there and a darned little kid had been in there and turned the switch off, on the auxiliary gas tank. We were running out of gas. I couldn't hear, but old Buddy, he picked it up right now. They turned that on and everything was all right, but I was kind of wondering what we was going to do when we went down in that jungle, how long it would be before they found us.

AHJ

Oh, boy. You had a whole load of people there.

OB

No, there's just him and I.

AHJ

Oh, just the two of you?

OB

One time afterwards they was telling us before we left there, Mrs. Roberts, she was going to Davao after groceries and they had that little boy in there and that little kid had gotten down in front and turned that auxiliary tank off.

AHJ

Oh, it happened another time?

OB

Yup. But that kid, that time he was in there with his mother and was tinkering around down there.

AHJ

Oh, this was when you first came to Milbuk was it?

OB

Yeah. We was still in Davao when they called. "Get out there immediately." They had a plane wreck at Milbuk. The pilot was hurt but that was all. The pilot broke his arm or some damn thing. Just before you got into town, there was a plane cracked up, under a tree there. He'd come down right into the tree. It was still laying there. They

hadn't picked it up. Come to find out, it was somebody from Georgia Pacific, or somebody. They were out there looking at some timber and they just landed there and then they was going to pick up a boat there and go off up the coast, there someplace to look at some timber. And they had a brand new plane, and this feller whoever he was that was looking at the timber, it was his plane, and he was the pilot and he flew it in there. He had this Filipino pilot was going to take it back to Davao or wherever they was from and then he was to come back and get him when they called him.

And that was one of them brand new ones and supposed to take off and go right straight up. Well, the fellow, he had it parked there, right by the little depot by the plane-port and, instead of going to the back end like Buddy always did and then come out and take off over the bay, he just cranked her up and took her right into that hillside and started climbing her and she died out on him. He just goosed her back and she just come back in and hit that tree. Probably was a broken arm, that's all.

FB

He was cut on the face a little bit, but he sure didn't get hurt very much. That was our-

OB

Welcome to Milbuk.

FB

I'm telling you, we weren't used to flying these little planes either and oh, boy we -

AHJ

Well, you weren't used to flying into strips with the grass growing in them, and the water caribou grazing there in the grass.

OB

Buddy, he'd come in and call on the radio to get the caribou and goats off the field, so he could land.

FB

I tell you, I think sometimes we sure had a whole lot of faith and everything when we went, over there.

OB

Same thing when we was talking about that, when we put that, fixed that river for them so they could back in there. They offered us chickens, and that thing went on for months and months. Every time they'd see you, "Sir," and they'd want to give you something, they had raised there. I like fried chicken and this little girl, at the guest house, she could really fry chicken. She may have been Filipino, but she could really fry chicken. So, she'd order like a dozen hens, when she'd put in for groceries, see. Finally, Mr. Renken says, "No, we can't get any more chicken." And she says - Charlene, she was all broke up and she come

over to me - and she says, "Daddy, we can't get any more chicken." I says, "The heck we can't. Why not?" "Well, they don't have it." I says, "Well, I'll get it." So I went down there and Bajada went with me and I told him what we wanted. "Okay, we'll get it," he says. So we're pulling up an old trail and hiked up in there and come to this place. Bajada asked them if he had any fat chickens, young ones. No, all skinny. We finally rustled around and found one feller there and he had some and what'll they get, half a dozen? "Give me half a dozen. How much you want?" "Two pesos a chicken." "Okay."

FB

It was seven pesos for a dollar.

AHJ

Yeah, about 15 cents, per peso.

OB

Yeah, 15 cents and I paid him 30 cents for a fryer. Good fryers, 3 or 4 pounds. No sack, no nothing to put them in. They tied them up with that rattan bark around their legs, see. No place to put them except in the cab with me. I put them in there. I got there and rolled the window down and called for Charlene. She came out and I says, "Here's the chickens." Her and that little girl there in the cab catching chickens, laughing their heads off.

OB

Another day, I's walking up the road and picked up two women and a man. They had five or six fryers throwed over their shoulders, knotted upside down with a string on and I said, "How much for the chickens?" She wanted 6 peso or something. "Ah, too much money." Finally she comes down to 4 peso. "Okay. I'll take three." So I handed her an American dollar and she took a look at that and the fellow says, "She got no change." "Okay, I'll keep the American dollar and you keep your chickens." And so she brought out a stack of pesos.

AHJ

Orris, you were telling me about the time they needed some cat work done there around Palimbang and how you managed to do it, later on. How does that go now? What was the problem, to begin with?

OB

Well, they had this slough that went down there through for - a dike that went down through there into a flume, and went over beyond Palimbang there. They had a high water and it washed it out and the river went straight across instead of making this bend. So, they come up in the woods and wanted to see the construction foreman, and I told them it wouldn't do any good. We were just too busy building roads. We were over there to log, not to build dikes. They said, "Well, Filipino go hungry." And I said, "What would you do if Weyerhaeuser wasn't here. You wouldn't have a cat." "Well, go hungry." And I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. If I ever get a cat going in there for repairs or something, up to Milbuk, when I come back, we'll fix it for you."

So they left and just the next day, or the next day after that, we had to take one up to do some work at the mill, so when we come back down, I

told the foreman to dump it off and fix it for them. "Now fix it so it'll stay. Go up there and get a couple of trees and drag them in there and put some gravel over it and put it back over there in the other channel where it belongs." He did that and that night, when I went through Palimbang and got up to the sugar mill up there, 25, 30 Filipinos were out there. They had chickens and pineapples and eggs and wanted to give them to me for fixing their road for them. I told them, "Well no. You take it." Tears in their eyes, so I took it and give it to Filipinos up there, and that thing went on for months. Every time you went by there, somebody wanted to give you a chicken or pieces of eggs. They didn't call them eggs, they'd give you three pieces of eggs.

AHJ

They were still showing their appreciation, huh?

OB

Yeah.

AHJ

Well, that's a good story.

OB

Well, them old farmers would be out there plowing with that little plow and they'd see that red pickup and he'd just jerk the plow out and wave.

AHJ

Very responsive. You were telling me, too, awhile ago, Orris, about the little old sawmill, that they had up there. Let's describe that, as part of the facilities you had there.

OB

I talked to Harry Morgan and Bill Johnson about production and I said, "Well, what are they gettin', over there?" And they said, "Well, 17 logs a day to a side." And I said, "You mean 17 loads." They said, "No, 17 logs." I said, "Well, what have you got to have? What production do you expect?" Then Harry or somebody said, "Well they had to keep the mill going and the rest of it was all export, that went out." I was there for five or six weeks and I kept looking for this sawmill. Then I seen a little shed over there and I went over there and there was the sawmill. There was a carriage there and they just rolled the log up on the carriage. The head saw was with a little engine on it and it just come "putt, putt, putt," cut off a slab and lay it down, rolled the log off the carriage and run the slab back.

AHJ

That was a real horse and buggy.

OB

I was trying to find to find that sawmill for six weeks before I found it.

AHJ

Right.

OB

I tell you one thing about that, I can't remember that feller's name that was shop foreman there, he was a Filipino. And I'm telling you, Alden, you wouldn't believe it, but you'd break something and you'd say, "Well we're down." You get that part from the States or like on a Washington track loader. They'd get it on the pickup, and he'd say, "Well, we'll have it ready in the morning." And by god, it'd be round when you took it in there and when it'd come out it would be square, but by god, it would work. They could take that cutting torch and welding torch and they kept all of that. Them old yarders, god it was supposed to be a Willamette but you'd be looking at it and here'd be something with Washington Iron Works on it and - the way they could patch that stuff up and keep it running.

AHJ

They must have been resourceful and ingenious about it.

OB

I come up there with something off the truckloader - I forget what it was now - it was a cam shaft of some kind. I asked him if he could weld that for me. "Yeah, we'll fix it." Then the next morning, he had that welded up just as smooth and you'd put it in there and she'd work fine. A day or so after, I happened to go through the shop. He was in the office and he motioned for me to come in. I walked in there and said, "What do you want?" He said, "If you break the mainspring in your wrist watch, bring it in and I'll weld it."

AHJ

I'll bet he could, too. Art Maki, one of the cruisers was telling me about when you went over there, to Sabah.

OB

Those old the crew buses and stuff, you know - that salt water there would just eat them up in a year, with them metal cabs on them. You'd run one of them in there and they'd have it in two months and they'd make that whole thing out of wood and put them sheets in everthing out of wood and it'd look just like something that had come out of a manufacturer over here.

AHJ

More power to them. Orris, you've spoken of the difference in your approach to the work with Erwin Anderson over there, and that your conclusion was that he just didn't have a handle on his respnsibilities over there, but I recall something that you said to me, at the time I was over there once. I was over there, I think, three times that summer. I remember at the time they were just about to run Erwin out of there or change him or something. You came to me one evening and very confidentially said that - as I remember it now - that you felt that he had some qualities that might be useful over there and that you wondered if they shouldn't try to hang onto him but to get him into a place where they could use the qualities that he had. Do you remember anything about that?

OB

You must have me mixed up with Renken, because Renken--

AHJ

No, it wouldn't have been Renken. It may have been someone else, but it wouldn't have been Renken, I'm sure. Okay, this is fine. It's just something that occurred to me, about that situation over there.

OB

Renken thought that, he said he had to have him there. And Bill Johnson told me, well, if Renken had to have Anderson there, that they better get another manager over there. He couldn't see where anybody needed Anderson.

AHJ

Okay, fair enough. Incidentally, I believe that Anderson is still over in that country, working in a mill farther up the coast, up above Milbuk there.

OB

He went over there someplace. He got that feller in Davao that had a bunch of trucks and second hand equipment - the same feller that sold him that old junker of a shovel they bought while I was over there - and he got him in with him and they went up someplace on one of them island there.

AHJ

Was that Palawan?

OB

Could be. I remember that Max had wrote and said that they wouldn't go in there on account of the mosquitoes and it was primitive. And I understand that they went up there and went up there logging, but they went broke up. But I don't know.

AHJ

I heard a little bit about that. He went out there and I think he had Bert Academia one of the Filipino forester fellows and also the fellow Christmas Smith. Did you ever hear that name?

OB

No, that Christmas Smith, I heard of him, but he was there when Carlisle was there.

AHJ

Yes.

OB

Well, I heard two or three different stories about it. He was supposed to be monkeying around with Carlisle's wife or something and Carlisle was going to kill him, so Anderson sent him up there. I don't know whether there was any truth to it or not. Anderson told me that, that Christmas Smith was plumb innocent, that it was all in Carlisle's head.

AHJ

But I did hear, later on - it must have occurred around '71 or '72 - that some of these fellows had kinda got together and gone out on Palawan, which is off to the west there, and tried to make go with some kind of a timber deal. It fell through later on.

OB

I guess somebody else had been there and opened it up once before and was broke or something. He couldn't make it and Anderson, and, I never did know this fellow. He was some feller that sold them a lot of equipment and had a bunch of old junk trucks in there. He had three or four of them when I was over there and I kicked him and told him to take them the hell out of there.

AHJ

Okay. Well do you think maybe we've touched the bases Orris, or does something else occur?

OB

Oh, I think I'm all outa stories.

AHJ

Well, gee whiz,

OB

It was an experience, I'll tell you that much, to go over there. I thought I'd seen rough country but It's so damn primitive. And then, I don't think Harry Morgan or anybody knew the circumstances we was living in there. When we went over there, they was supposed to have a house for us. We was supposed to move into that house that Carlisle moved out of, the one right next to the guest house.

AHJ

The first one above the guest house.

OB

Where Renken was living, when you was over there. And Renken was supposed to have moved into Anderson's house. Well after that they decided they wanted Anderson to stay there and we stayed in that guest house all the time we were there. The first two or three months, we never even had a bathroom.

FB

It was longer than that.

OB

We had to use the bathroom with all the guests that came there.

FB

When I left here, I just figured I was going to accept anything, as far as I was concerned, and because I knew they wanted Orris to go over there pretty bad and I just, well I'm just that type of a person, but I don't think another woman would have used the same bathroom that the men were using. I don't hold that against them. Nobody. The tape ain't going?

AHJ

That's fine.

FB

Erase that. But it just, it really, actually that's why I just thought to myself, the Filipino people coming in there and what Renken had told me. And I was using the same bathroom that they were using, why I do think if it had been anybody else, I don't know what would have happened, you know.

AHJ

Something, though.

FB

Good Lord. Had to knock or peek to see if anybody was in there, and as far as the Philippine men that were there, well it was all men that came and went there you know. They were perfect gentlemen.

AHJ

No embarrassments, at all?

FB

Not one bit. No, not one bit.

OB

And after we was there, they fixed the house and give that to Bob and Ruth.

FB

Well, wait a minute. But they asked us. You had already made up your mind that you wasn't going to stay any more.

OB

They moved into that house before I told them that I wasn't going to stay. And then they fixed another one and gave it to Davis and his wife.

AHJ

Nick and Pearl?

OB

Yeah, Nick and Pearl. Renken said, "This guest house, that's your home. You just run it any way you want it. We'd wake up in the middle of the night and, there, they'd have a big party going out there.

FB

I think, well, there was another thing there, about us staying in the guest house. We went there with the idea that we were going to have a house of our own. Okay, all right. Orris would get up early in the morning and late and night. All right, there was all this confusion at night, in the guest house. I mean, people coming and going and you know, you don't get your rest the way you should. So well, we put up with that. And I never, ever said anything, but by gosh, I'm telling you, I

can't help it. But when it come to the idea that they weren't putting out the food that the rest of them was getting. I didn't say nothing, but I just figured myself, that it was time for us to move.

OB

I never seen so much hamburger. I had to come home to see if there was anything besides hamburger on a cow. If it hadn't been for that Filipino girl being able to cook it about 15 ways.

FB

That girl was the most marvelous cook. I don't know why, but she just really was. You just didn't, I don't think there is another human being that could cook hamburgers like that.

AHJ

What was her name?

FB

Charlene.

AHJ

Charlene?

FB

Uhuh.

AHJ

She was a genius.

FB

She sure was a good cook.

OB

I like ice cream after supper you know, before I go to bed. Well, she always had ice cream. All of a sudden, we couldn't get no more ice cream. I asked her why. "Oh, Mr. Rankin said we can't get no more. They don't have any." And we flew into Davao to get a shot or something.

FB

I can't remember what that shot was for.

OB

I can't remember, but we had to go get a shot, anyway, because we had to get a renewal on it. So Buddy, he asked us if anything we wanted him to do. I said, "Could you do something for us?" He said, "Yeah." "Get us some ice cream."

FB

So, we decided that we wanted food. We believed that it was hard to get, you know, that they couldn't get it. Because when we went to Davao, we never went downtown. We just went to the airport and just switched planes and went to Manila and then from Manila, we had to switch and get out. But anyway, you couldn't get ice cream, that was it. So, I said to Buddy, "Would it be possible that I could get a couple of gallons of ice

cream and take back?" "Oh, yeah," he said. And where we went for our shots, we were right across the street. I said, "Well, you go get it. Here's the money. You go get it." He says, "Oh, no. It's right across the street, come on, you can pick out what you want." I went over there and I was never so shocked in all my life. It was just like walking into one of these ice cream parlors, that they have here. By the gallon, open on the counter. You pick out what you want.

AHJ

Same thing?

FB

Same thing. We went there and got it. Then they told us that they couldn't - well I don't know if they could have gone there and got it, but I don't know, maybe they couldn't go there and buy it. You'd think the manager, or somebody like that, had the right to go and get the ice cream.

AHJ

Wherever he had to go.

FB

Yeah. Let's see what else was it?

OB

They never figured out when we was staying in that guest house.

FB

Oh, bacon, the bacon. That's what it was. That ice cream and the bacon it hurt me. The others I didn't care about it, anyway. And Orris likes a little bit of bacon with fried potatoes and eggs. That's about his breakfast and, by gosh, you couldn't get bacon. They said there was no more bacon. So this pilot come in and he looked like quite a young fellow but I don't see, I think he was older than what he looked.

OB

When both our planes was in the shop in Davao and we rented this plane, the only way they could have it, was if they took the pilot.

FB

So we got to talking. He stayed at the guest house at first, and the Renken made him go over and stay in the Filipino guest house and then I don't know, one morning we got up and there was a sign on the kitchen. Nobody allowed in the kitchen, you know.

OB

Only the hired help.

FB

Yeah, only the hired help. So, of course, that meant me, I had to stay out of the kitchen. Well, if I wanted a glass of orange juice or something, I couldn't go in the kitchen and get it. But this little Filipino man, he come and he turns the sign over and it was just a piece

of paper hanging there. I don't know why, what the idea was. It was Mrs. Renken that put that sign up there. I don't know why she put that sign up there because I really didn't go in the kitchen that much, to help myself to food or drinks or anything. And when Orris came home, Orris was thirsty. Charlene always went in there and got him a bottle of pop - orange or whatever it was - but the bacon, so we was talking to this pilot about the bacon and Orris asked him if he could get us some bacon that we would give him some money for it. "Oh, yeah," he says, "I can get bacon for you." So Orris gave him some money and he wanted to know how much and Orris says to get several pounds, you know, whatever it was. So he brought the bacon back and, boy, there was a big squabble about that damn bacon.

AHJ

About storing it in the freezer, huh? Well, that's kind of small.

FB

I really thought it was. I didn't say very much about it but I just kind of thought that well, that was being kind of small, when we bought it ourself and you know put it in that freezer, just to keep it.

OB

It worked out pretty good, that staying in the guest house. I don't know what you know what their salary deal was there, but you got so much and then you got 10% for overseas and then you got \$90.00 a month, \$90.00 apiece for hardship. Well, that was supposed to be going for the extra cost of food and one thing another; and we drew our \$180.00 and they furnished the room for us, all the time we was over there. I don't think Renken ever caught up with that one.

But she was telling you about that bed that they had in there. When we finally got it out there, it was just a mattress and springs and so we got it over there and that wood-shop man down there, he was going to make us a frame for it. You should have seen that frame. He made mahogany posts out of six-by-sixes and rails along there, 2x4's. I don't know what the hell. I asked him what the hell he thought went on when you was 70 years old. "Well, that's a husky one," he says.

AHJ

He must have been afraid of earthquakes.

OB

Will you see old Harry, when you go back down?

AHJ

Yeah, I'll see him.

OB

By god, tell him we're still alive and kicking and tell him "Hello."

AHJ

All right. I'll certainly do that, and he'll be glad to hear from you.

OB

I always liked that little bugger, I don't know why.

AHJ

Okay.

FB

He sure, why, I'm not much being around people that have such a high position, though I sure liked him.

OB

As far as I'm concerned--

FB

George Weyerhaeuser was just, I, you know, that's the first time I seen that man, when he come to the Philippines and I just, well, pictures you know, but they're sure down to earth people.

AHJ

Just good neighbors when you get to know them. I had an interview with George himself the other day, you know.

FB

Oh, did you?

AHJ

Yeah, and he is terribly busy, and there were other people that kept putting me off, but once I had George on the schedule, well, he held it. He was a half hour late coming to the meeting, but he stayed for about an hour and a half there, stayed beyond the time he was supposed to. He got interested. Harry came along with him. We had a real good visit.

OB

Harry's secretary called up and wanted to know such and such a thing and wanted to know if we'd have lunch with him. We went down there and that's the last time we seen him.

FB

I think Harry Morgan's got a relative that lives in - a shirttail relation - that lives down the street here.

AHJ

Oh, close by, here?

FB

Yeah, just down the street here.

AHJ

That's interesting.

OB

His, or his wife's relation?

FB

Well, a shirttail relation, I says. I wouldn't know if it's on his wife's side or if it's on his side.

OB

Her husband has a cabinet shop here in town and then she's got a women's apparel shop or something.

AHJ

Say, they had a picnic here last Saturday for the people who have been over to the Far East country and come back. Did they notify you folks? It may be that they just don't have your address, but they had one last year and again this year and they plan to have one next year. You folks would like to know about it, wouldn't you?

FB

Yes.

AHJ

I'll see that they have your address, so they'll notify you.

FB

I think I heard about that, Orris. We heard about that once, that picnic too, a couple of years ago, but we weren't notified or anything. I don't know, the grapevine or something.

OB

That feller that went over to Borneo at the same time we went over there, is he still over there, or has he come back? He must have come back. Big feller and his wife was a good size woman. They was from Klamath Falls or something. He had a sailboat.

AHJ

Ken Sheaffer - Oh, I know who you mean, Chuck Eslick. No, they stayed a couple three years over there, but they're back in this country now. He's one that I haven't been able to find an address for him. I'd like to be able to run into him.

OB

Wait a minute, he's living at, damn it, I believe in Anacortes now. I wouldn't say for sure.

AHJ

Possibly at Anacortes?

OB

I was over here fishing one day, on the river - steelhead fishing last winter - and there was two old fellers plunking there and I stopped there and talked to them - we usually don't talk to plunkers or drifters. But I talked to these old fellers and something come up about Weyerhaeuser, and I don't know what it was and this other feller said something about Weyerhaeuser and I thought, go easy. I says, "That's my alma mater. Don't talk about them." And this other feller said, "Well, I worked for them for so many years." He was head millwright down here at Everett,

and he knew this Eslick. We got talking about being over in the Far East and he asked me if I knew this Eslick and I said, "Yes." And they moved back here and they went out to some island or something and bought a place out there and then she couldn't take it. Now I may be telling you wrong, Alden, but I think he said Anacortes.

FB

You came back and said that Orris to me, but I don't know. I wouldn't swear that it was Anacortes either, but I'm sure--

OB

It was up around there somewheres.

AHJ

That would put them up in the San Juans, somewhere.

FB

But I know you said that they were on the island, and I thought, gee, there's such a little difference.

OB

And I believe he said Anacortes.

AHJ

Well, that gives me a kind of a clue.

OB

Can't think of this other feller's name either now. He told me what his name was, but he worked down here at the mill, in Everett. Head millwright there for years.

AHJ

This is the page for the scattered ones here and I'm getting it pretty well filled in, including yourself here. I started with the phone number that Harry Morgan's secretary gave me. Harry said that she had it, so I called her and then I called you and got the address, so that's the way I filled that one in. It may be that Harry didn't have your address and that may be why it wasn't on the list for the picnic, but I'll see that they get this for next year, anyway.

FB

Where did they hold it?

AHJ

They have it at different places. Last year was the first one. They had it at Centralia at a park on the Skookumchuck River, just north of Centralia. And this year they had it out at Hoods Canal, at Bill Johnson's place out there. Bill's retired but they call him back and send him over there, every once in a while to look at something. He was over there last month, I believe it was July. It may have been June, but he's pretty much retired.

OB

I'd like to have gone back to that Manila just once, to see what the hell it looked like, and if any of that hard work, you put in there, rubbed off on them fellers.

AHJ

Yeah, it would be nice, to go back.

OB

I wouldn't want to stay more than a week.

FB

Bill Johnson, what does he do when he goes over there?

AHJ

It's usually when they have a special problem of some kind. Now the last time he went over there, he went back to help them try to renegotiate a new concession agreement with the government. See, their present contract, their present agreement is up in 1980, 2-1/2 years from now, and they are trying to get an extension of it, in some way. The government first said they were going to chop it off and that would be all. But the government later either came back or the company came to them and said, "Well, look. How about us going together and extending this?" And that's what he was over the last time for, helping them to negotiate a new agreement.

FB

Did he go alone or did he have help?

AHJ

I think he went alone from here, but, by arrangement he met with the people, who were over there already.

OB

That sure surprised me that old Dick Nesbit is still over there?

AHJ

I guess he was just over there about six months but it was during that time that they had the big uprising, when the crew bus was shot up and the people were killed and then the camp was under seige for three weeks and they had the military - I guess they had two or three thousand military people there with tanks, machines, helicopters, that sort of thing.

OB

You could feel something building up there, but it hadn't got to where I was worrying about it yet. Them fellers, I don't know. Your crew more than had respect for you, because they knew they wasn't bluffing you and you was over there to help them and they was getting right in there with you. But them others, you could feel it building up, on the outside.

Of course, them fellers - Jesus, I seen them one time, that Renken, we was out there and Bill Sim was there and they was going into Davao to make out as order for equipment or something that we needed there, I

forget what all it was. They wanted a new lathe for the mill or something and I told them what equipment I wanted. I knew I wouldn't get it, so Sim said. "Come on. Ride right in with us. Take a ride in." We took a plane in there. Freida and I'd been staying in that resort in Davao, and we was walking out there walking around looking it over.

We got back in the hotel and Sim says, "Come on, let's go out and have dinner." Well, he had someplace he wanted to go and Renken said, "No, no. Let's go out to this club. I belong to this club." We walked in and it was a nice enough place and they sat you down there and brought you a menu. We looked it all over and I told Sim, "Gee, since I been out there in Milbuk, I didn't know there was anything but hamburger on a cow. I'm going to have this steak," whatever it was. "By god," he says, "Sounds good to me. I think I'll have one too." And the waitress was there and Renken asked if the manager was there, or something, and she said, "Yes." So the manager came in and Renken says, "Are them steaks tender?" "Oh, yeah," he said "Them are good steaks." He asked him this about it and that about it and he says, "Well, can I see them?" The manager went out and come in with a platter of steak piled up that high to show him what the steaks looked like. "Well, they look pretty good. I guess I'll have one." Just all kinds of stuff like that.

Them Filipinos that little girl in the cook house just as nice as could be. You couldn't ask for a nicer, I'd get up at 4:00 and Freida told her. Don't get up and get his breakfast. I'll get up." "Oh, no," she said, "that's my job." She'd have your breakfast for you. He come in there one day and she give me some grapefruit juice or something and I was drinking that while I was waiting for breakfast. And he said, "What you drinking, Orris?" "Grapefruit juice." "Suppose I can get a glass." "Well," I said, "Hell. Ask her." So she came in with my breakfast and he says, "Could I have a glass of that grapefruit juice?" And she says, "Yes, sir. Good morning sir," she says and she went out to get it. And he says, "Jesus Christ" he says, "Ain't that a hell of a way to use the English language?" "Well what the hell would you say?" He asked if he could have a glass of that grapefruit juice and she says "yes, sir" and "good morning, sir," she says. What do you expect her to say? I don't know.

FB

I didn't mind it, because I was awake anyway, to get Orris' breakfast because I was awake anyway, and, of course, I don't know. I felt kind of sorry for her because she never got through working until 11:00 at night, because these Filipino people came and went, you know. And gosh, it didnt hurt me to get up and get Orris' breakfast, and make a couple of eggs of some sort, or potatoes or whatever.

OB

That time when I picked that old woman up and then there was another time I was scared over there. They were moving a Washington track loader when we was getting ready to move down to Wasag. We was bringing it down off the hill, so I stayed up to come down ahead of them there, to see that they didn't get into any trouble. We come around a curve and I seen something going down the road. What the hell is that? And I got there

and here it was a damn snake. I run over it with the pickup and "slap, slap, slap" like that the tires went. I thought I must have killed that, so I backed up, and no snake. Am I seeing things or what the hell. So I went, backed up again and I parked the pickup and left the lights on and I come walking up and down the road and there I seen the tail sticking out of the brush. I grabbed that thing and yarded it out in the road and it was half again as long as me. I got him him out in the road and I didn't know whether to turn loose of him or what the hell to do. Boy I was really scared. Boy, if he ever gets ahold of me. But he was trying to wiggle around, but he could only wiggle as far as I had him off the ground. The boa constrictors, they're not poisonous or nothing, but--

AHJ

But, they're strong.

OB

I finally had to turn loose of him, I couldn't hold him. He went down the road and I ran over him again, but it never even phased him, with a 3/4 ton pickup.

FB

That was the night that you come in so late and everybody was around dinner and nobody had even come. I really wasn't worried that night about Orris. Well that was usual.

OB

Well, I told them that I was going to bring it down that night and I told him to have the scow up there to take it down the next morning. Yeah, they would have it up there, they'd have it up there. Hell, they never got it up there the next morning. I spent all night getting it down.

FB

Do you think somebody would come and tell me that Orris was doing this? No, nobody came and told me about it until, finally, oh, I don't know, about half an hour before he showed up, then Renken come over and said Orris was going to be late. He'd be in.

AHJ

Well, folks, this has been a real good visit with you.

OB

Oh, there won't be much if it, you can put in your report.

AHJ

Well, there'll be a lot of it. There'll be a lot of good little stories there, typical of the problems you had over there and how you solved them. And, before we turn it off here, how would you summarize your feelings, your experience over there? How would you put it in words, just a quick summary of the way you feel about having been over there?

OB

Well, I don't know. I feel that I was hired to go over there and do a job and we tried to do it, but I've never - end of tape.