

INTERVIEW NO. 109
SOUTHEAST ASIA HISTORY CHRONOLOGY
BRYCE AND ALICE WEBSTER, AND ALDEN JONES
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AHJ

This is Interview No. 109 for the Southeast Asia History Chronology. Today is November 27, 1977. We're here at Kenangan Camp at the home of Bryce and Alice Webster. And, they are going to tell me the highlights, the special things, the important things, significant things, that should be in the report. Bryce, let's just start out by having you get your voice on here, by telling me what are your current duties and activities here at Kenanagan?

BW

I'm Bryce Webster, currently General Manager of ITCI Philippines, or Indonesia, rather.

AHJ

Okay, and Alice, let's get your voice on here too, and - what do you do, generally, to keep yourself in contact with the ladies around here and maintain a schedule of average home life?

AW

Well, a schedule of average home life is kind of difficult to maintain. However, we do have a lot of activities around here. The women, for instance, now have bridge games going. Some of the younger girls have yoga classes going again. We have swimming. We have hiking, for which 3 or 4 of us get up at 5:30 or 6:00 in the morning. Then we have Indonesian lessons. We have gab-gossip sessions, of course. That takes up some time.

AHJ

Okay, well, we're going to want to have some samples of these later in the afternoon, but this get's things started here.

Okay, Bryce, let's go back to the start of the story. How do you remember your initial contact or involvement with affairs over here?

BW

Well, I guess it was a typical Bill Johnson affair. It so happened - I guess it was about May of 1966 - that Alice had gone home to visit her mother for a month. And I was alone in Raymond, Washington.

AW

July, 1966.

BW

No, I think it was about May. Anyway, Bill Johnson called me at 11:00 at night.

AHJ

That's Bill!

BW

I was half asleep, and he was on the other end of the phone, and he said, "How would you like to go to Borneo?" I said, "Where the hell is Borneo?" Well, I knew about the operations over here, and he started explaining, and he said, "Well, what do you think about the idea?" And, I said, "Well, heck, Bill, I don't know. I'd have to get in touch with the wife. She's in California. And, it would take a little time to make up my mind." "That's all right," he said, "that's all right. Take all the time you want." He said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll hang up. You call your wife, and you talk to her right now." He says, "Now take your time. Make up your mind. Be sure what you want, and I'll call you back in 20 minutes."

AHJ

There you go.

BW

And, I guess 20 minutes later, we told him we'd give it a try.

AHJ

Sure, and what year was that?

BW

Well, 1966.

AW

It has to be July, because I was down in California preparing for the folk's 50th wedding anniversary, and their anniversary is July 15.

BW

Well, I don't know, but I got my shots in June on the way back home again.

AHJ

Okay. And how soon did you get ready to blast off?

BW

Well, first thing I did was ask for my vacation, so I'd get that out of the way. They said, "Fine, go ahead. Go down and join your wife." I think that's the way we made it. Anyway, I took my 2-weeks vacation. But they told me to call in every day, because I was going right away. We were one week into our vacation, when I called in one day, and he said, "Well, stop in and get your shots right now." He said, "You're going to go just as soon as you can get back here. Start getting your shots along the way and get back to Washington."

And, whether it was June or July, I forget for sure now. Alice says it must have been July. Anyway, we headed back to Washington. It so happened, we were staying with some friends - he happened to be a doctor of mine - in Arcata, when I called in. He just got a big kick out of giving me all of my shots there in one wallop, and sending me on that long ride back to Washington.

AHJ

A friend did that, huh?

AW

Yeah.

BW

We went back to Washington. He gave us all of the shots except cholera. He didn't have any cholera. I looked in Portland, and everywhere for cholera shots and couldn't get them. Finally got back to Raymond, Washington, and found out they had cholera shots in Raymond. About the only place on the coast they had cholera shots. So, Alice Malinowski gave me the cholera shots, in Raymond.

As I say, that was mid-year, and then we sat down and waited, and waited, and waited. October came and the word came through it was all off. We weren't going to go at all. November came and the 10th of December came. Bill called me up, and said, "I want you over there day after tomorrow." I said, "No, I'm going to wait until - spend Christmas with my family. I've waited this long, you can wait two weeks more." We argued a little over that. I left on December the 26th.

AW

1966.

AHJ

Okay. You went straight into Manila?

BW

No. No, I went into Hong Kong. Spent a few days in Hong Kong and then on into Manila. I think I got into Manila on January 1st or 2nd, 1977.

AW

'67.

BW

'67.

AHJ

Okay. How about listing the people who were there then, other staff people, when you first started working there?

BW

Well, let's see. That's a long time ago. It was Lee Jacobson and Roger Sands that met me in Hong Kong at that time. We all went to Manila together.

I'll never forget that day, when I arrived in the Manila airport. Hong Kong wasn't so bad. It was the cool time of the year there. But, I had a suit and whatnot when I got off the plane in Manila. I stepped out that door and I thought I'd been caught in a jet blast. As I walked further and further from the plane, I realized it wasn't the jet blast, it was just Manila. I thought I'd melt down, before I'd last an hour there. But they put me in an air conditioned automobile after I got through customs, and took me out to the Polo Club and dunked me in the swimming pool, and gave me a big slice of watermelon in January, and I began to feel a little better. I thought I might live through a little while of it, anyway.

AHJ

Okay. What work did you quickly get involved in?

BW

Well, I stayed in Manila for about two weeks, at that time. We were deeply involved in making a 5-year logging plan for the Philippine operations for the Bureau of Forestry. And, we were working around the clock, trying to get that plan ready. So, I stayed there about 2 weeks before I finally got down to the operations at Milbuk.

At that time, my job was to be woods manager for the whole operation that we had in Southeast Asia - the one in Milbuk, the one in Basilan and the one in Bakapit and the one in Silam. However, it was some 60 days, before I could get a work permit to enter into Sabah. Even then, I guess the only way I got it was - the contingent of Sabahanese came over to the Philippines and we wined them and dined them in Manila, and got to Harris who was one of the people that were in that group. I got to talking to him, and told him my problems of getting a work permit to go into Sabah. Within about 5 days, he had a work permit arranged for us.

AHJ

Is that the Chief Minister, now?

BW

That's the Chief Minister now, yeah. He was the head of the Opposition Party, at that time. He still arranged to get me into the country.

AHJ

Well, that's good. Who worked with you on the program, Max Sagrado?

BW

No, Max came into the picture some time later than that. At that time it was - well, Roger Sands and I were the only ones out here at that

particular moment from Weyerhaeuser and just about that time, Jack Schikofsky came over. Shortly thereafter, Bill Schink. So, it was - I can't remember his name. A little - kind of a little short Filipino there in Manila. He got mixed up in politics-----

AW

Oh, Nick Cruz.

BW

Nick Cruz. At that time, it was Nick Cruz and I and Lee Jacobson, working with the Bureau of Forestry, trying to get the 5-year plan settled. It was about a year before we had any other people from Weyerhaeuser out here at all.

AHJ

Uh huh. Okay. Well, let's ask Alice what her original impressions were, when she came to Manila and set up housekeeping, while you are thinking of what you are going to tell us about the activities and things that you subsequently got involved in, Bryce. Alice, what were your first impressions when you hit Manila and set up a new home?

AW

Well, I didn't hit Manila until he'd been here a while. The boys and I didn't come until February of 1967. Bryce was over here for sometime.

AHJ

I see, you came later. All right.

AW

We came in February, and we came after the work permits and everything and permits for all of us, had come in to enter Sabah.

AHJ

That was about 2 months after Bryce had been here?

AW

About 2 or 3 months after, uh huh. My first impression - first I'd like to tell you, on leaving the United States, after I found out that we were going to go over here, and after Bryce left, I saw things that I'd never seen before, at home. I saw the different colors of the leaves. I saw flowers I'd never seen. I saw mountains I'd never seen. I saw all kinds of different things. When we got on the plane, here I was - I never had traveled. I'd been in Oregon, Washington and California. I had never traveled at all - getting on this plane to go. I didn't know where I was going, except that Bryce was somewhere, and I was going to meet him - with my two boys and my neighbor both crying away, and very annoyed with Weyerhaeuser because they were sending us to the far ends of the earth. We left Sea-Tac and arrived in Hong Kong. We were there for some time, and then we went directly into - about a week in Hong King, I guess - then we went into Sabah.

I was pretty tired, and pretty warm. We landed in - they couldn't land in Lahad Datu. But we landed in Tawau, wasn't it - Tawau - and we sat there for about 4 hours in the sun, while the pilot was trying to get permission from the people in - at that time, it was not Kota Kinabalu - it was Jesselton, to go directly back to Jesselton because it was raining and they couldn't land us in Lahad Datu. Plus, they said, that the aviation gasoline was contaminated. And, he was also saying, when he was operative that he had a hot date back in Jesselton, so he wanted to go directly to Jesselton. But, we finally, after staying there about 4 hours, finally got left off in Lahad Datu. And - oh, I was excited. I had never seen anything like this before, and I was really excited.

We came into this I might add, very cold. No one had any information to give us. We didn't know you were supposed to boil the water. We didn't know that it was rain water underneath, in cisterns and the tank. So, consequently, all four of us were cooking, and we took showers, and we shouldn't have taken showers. But, we were given no information at all. Nobody knew. We were the first. We were the guinea pigs. Nobody knew. It was, I don't think anybody's fault, in particular. Jean and Jack Emmett met us, in Jesselton, when we came in. And they were not in camp. And, Jean told me a lot of things. I was tired and half the things she told me, I promptly forgot. Not because I wanted to, but because I was tired, and everything was just strange to me.

It was very different. Barry, our oldest boy stayed with us for 5 months, and then he went to the University of the Philippines. And Rick attended the local school, and was very unhappy there. He was the only European child in camp, plus he was the only senior staff child in camp. There was nobody - he had nobody to play with except our yard boy. Our yard boy used to take him out. We bought a dugout canoe for the boys and it was fun with that. There was no TV, as there is now. I could find no books in English to read.

Our airfreight went over us. We could see it going over. There was no equipment large enough to off-load it in Lahad Datu. So, everytime one of the Malaysian/Singapore airlines would go over, we'd say, "Well there goes our airfreight again." It went around about 6 times on the post, before it finally got to us. When it got to us, it had been broken into and most everything was taken out. We didn't have anything. We also didn't have a list like they have now - an itemized list - so we had no way of claiming any insurance, because we didn't know what all. We had no proof of what we had in there.

It was a very interesting and enlightening experience. And, I still say, 10 years ago, you could never use the adjective "dull" to pertain to the Fareast. Today, 1977, almost 1978, you still can't apply the adjective "dull" to the Fareast.

AHJ

Did I misunderstand where you first came, and got located? You did not come to Manila?

AW

No. Kennedy Bay. We went directly to Kennedy Bay.

AHJ

Kennedy Bay. Okay. I misunderstood you.

AW

We were there about 18 months at Kennedy Bay.

AHJ

Okay. Well, Bryce, let's come back to you, and pick up the work story. You tell us what was the work that was taking place and you got involved in?

BW

Well, of course, the first project, was the 5-year plan, which we finally got behind us. And, we got permission to go into Kenbay. As I kind of recall it now, it seems about 90% travel and 10% work. It was 4 operations to cover. It was fly a lot, and work a little, and fly a lot, and work a little again. At first, we could fly from the Philippine operations in the company plane, down the Sulu Archipelago into Lahad Datu. But within a very short time, the Philippines and Sabah almost got into a war. It was no longer possible to fly back and forth out there again. Then I had to start going to either Singapore or Hong Kong to get into it the other concession. What had been a 2-hour flight, got to be a 3-day trek, to get from one operation to the other.

My job was to try to manage the 4 woods operations, though they were close together, but widely separated by water and time. It was quite a challenge in those days, not knowing, really, what I was doing in Southeast Asia. I had to learn the ways of the country, and, how things were done out here and, at the same time, trying to get an occasional log into the pond. We had a very small staff at that time. Rudolpho Trapisado was running the woods at Silam. Owen Perkins was running the woods at Bakapit. And - oh, you know - an American was running the woods at Milbuk. I can't remember his name at the moment. An American name, almost like Jones, but I don't think it was.

AHJ

That wasn't Art Carlile, that you're thinking of?

BW

No, no, no. That was before Art Carlile came over.

AW

He came later. Much later.

BW

NO, we was a fellow - had an American father and a Filipino mother. He looked very Filipino, but he did have American citizenship. He lived there. Jack Schikofsky had gone down to Milbuk by that time, too. He was running that camp, but he wasn't in charge of the logging.

AHJ

I see.

AW

They had the term "resident manager".

BW

Don Weselsky was the manager at Basilan Island.

AHJ

Sure. At Isabela.

BW

With Don there, that was an easy one to handle, really.

AHJ

Sure thing. Okay, one of the themes that seems to run through most of our interviews over here, is that there were lots of problems that had to be solved. Maybe that would be an approach to develop, some of the details of things you ran into. Do you recall some of the problems that you did encounter over here? And things that had to be done to correct them? Either problems on a large scale, or even on a minor scale.

AW

Most everything was a problem.

AHJ

Well, there you go.

BW

Well, that's a tough question, I guess. Looking back, it seems like a particular sequence of problems, I guess, then, as now, our problems weren't too much different. They were roads. If we had the roads, we could get the logs. If we didn't have the roads, we couldn't get the logs.

Milbuk was straight up and down, and steep besides. Solid rock in front of us. If we got ahead on our road construction, the doggone thing would wash out before we got there to haul the logs. So, you had to stay very close to operations with your new construction and right on top of it all the time. That was probably as steep a country as I've ever logged in my life, around Milbuk. Not a bench anywhere to rest on. Just keep digging. Keep plowing ahead.

Altogether different than just across the island of Mindanao to Basilan, where we had relatively easy ground. Very rich soil. Deep soil, but no rock at all. There, in the creek bottoms, and occasionally, as we pushed through some of the clay cuts, and what not, we'd roll out big round, hard boulders. The creek bottoms were full of them. They'd be 6, 8 feet in diameter. Too big for a crusher. Too scattered to gather up in any normal manner. So, our solution there - and we had to rock the roads, because it rained all the time in Basilan. Milbuk had dry seasons, but in Basilan it rained every day of the year. We had to rock the roads.

We'd hire 200 or 300 of the Moros - we called them in those days - to come in with hammers and break those rocks down. We paid them something like a dollar a cubic meter, I think, to break those rocks down with a hammer, and load them in a truck. I had to buy special trucks for them there. They were such short, small people, they couldn't throw them in the back of an ordinary dump truck. So, I had to buy low-side, 3-yard dump trucks for them to haul the rock in. That particular rock, when we'd break it, would break up in the size of about a pie plate, maybe 3" thick at point of fracture. They would be taken out to the roads, and they would be laid one at a time, by hand, right where the truck tracks were going to be.

We did have a small 14' jaw crusher. We'd take some of it to that and crush some of the rock, and put that over the top of these hand-laid rocks, and that was our road. We got by fine, as long as the roads were all favorable, and we got off of them as soon as it would start to rain. So, that was the problem there.

Move over to the Bakapit operations and rock was very similar to what we have here - massive limestone formations. We didn't have any crushers in those days, so - there was quite a bit of rock there, but to find something you could shoot down small enough to lay directly on the road was pretty tough to find.

Probably the easiest one, was Silam. We had a good mixture of well-fractured rock and generally good ground to build roads on. Fortunately - Silam was our biggest operation - the one we had to build the most road, and that was the easiest one.

AHJ

That's a good combination, then. Okay. Do you recall special incidents that happened, in connection with the work, Bryce - things that happened in the woods, things that happened to people in connection with the production, or any other aspect of it?

BW

Well, I guess there's many - it's hard to remember them all. I know, living in Sabah, Owen Perkins was kind of the kingpin there at that time. Being an Aussie, he was suspicious of all Americans. He wasn't sure they'd measure up to the situation. I hadn't been there very long

when he put me to the test. I kind of heard about his testing technique. He would invite you home to dinner, and have his wife in the background cook a big Indonesian, or Kabak meal there, but they'd never get around to eating. They'd have a bar set up in the living room and he'd get up there and order drinks, drinks, drinks, and force them down you. He wanted to see how long this American could stand on his feet. That was Owen's test.

Well, I went up there, more or less understanding what was going to happen. They were cooking all the time, out there in the kitchen. I don't think we ever did eat that night. Owen and I stood there at the bar. Now, Owen's wife has hundreds of orchid plants in the living room. So, I'd drink a little of one drink and then I'd water one of his orchid plants, while he wasn't looking. And, at 2:30 in the morning, Owen is stretched out on the floor. I threw the rug over him and went back to the guest house.

I had a jeep outside, and made a point of being back there in front of his place at 5:00 in the morning because we were going to go to work that morning. I pulled up there at 5:00, not feeling too well, but honked for Owen. He came running out of the house. Never a word was said. But, after that, Owen and I got along pretty well. I do understand he had a failure on his orchid crop. But, that was the test. He wanted to know how long the American could drink and stand up. If he lasted as good as an Aussie, he might be all right.

AHJ

He didn't say so, but apparently, you passed the test.

BW

Apparently. We used to often go to the woods there, well before daylight, you know. There were a lot of elephants in Bakapit. It was the most dangerous animal we had in the woods, you know. Those elephants are kind of lazy - I guess like people - and they like to come right along the logging roads and browse at nighttime. They'd tear up all the brush along the road and then eat it. We'd start out from camp in those little light, German jeeps about 4:00 or 4:30 in the morning, when it was still dark, and all those doggone elephant droppings would be in the middle of the road. You'd hit one, and it would throw you in the ditch every time. They are the most dangerous animal they had over there, those elephants.

AHJ

Did you actually see the elephants occasionally?

BW

Oh, yeah. We'd see them quite often.

AW

They used to bathe in the water reservoir all the time.

AHJ
Oh, boy.

AW
In Bakapit.

BW
And, occasionally, we'd get a rogue elephant come down in there and start knocking over the houses, and whatnot. They had a government hunter at that time. And, when we had a rogue elephant, we'd call him, and he'd come out and hunt it down. There were some big ones there.

AHJ
Alice, what kind of a home did you live in, there at Silam?

AW
Well, the house was pretty nice. It was small. We had the two boys with us. We only had one air conditioner, though. We were allowed one air conditioner, period, and the boys had to sleep in an un-air conditioned room. But, where the houses are built up there in Silam - they are on top of that ridge - the houses were designed so that any air would flow straight through. It wasn't too bad, except that your bed clothes would always be clammy.

When we first went there, there was no air conditioner, and then we finally got an air conditioner. And, if it was too warm, the boys would bring their mattress in our bedroom and sleep in there. The other thing was that darn spirit stove they had. I think I was telling you about that last night - where you'd pour the spirits - it was a kerosene stove. I never did learn the function of it, and I never intended to. You poured spirits down the funnel, and then you stood back across the room and threw a match at it and it would belch fire at you. That, I never managed.

The other thing that wasn't much to my liking was the kerosene refrigerator that we had. Bryce says I'll have to tell a little funny one here. I don't think Owen thought it was so funny. He thought it was another dumb American around. The kerosene refrigerator had a large tank underneath, and one of the wheels was gone on one side. So you had to lift it up and when it was full of kerosene, it was quite heavy. So, the cook had forgotten to do something and had gone off on vacation, and the stove had gone out. So, I filled it - I did bring the kerosene in and I filled it. It still wouldn't go. It was smoking, and something was the matter with it, so Owen came up to show me how you had to turn the wick on this kerosene refrigerator.

He sat down very patiently, and he says, "Now, come and sit here Alice." So I sat right down there. And he says, "Now, watch me carefully." And he trimmed, and trimmed, and trimmed, and trimmed, and he did it with just a great knack. I was to watch and learn how to do this. He

explained very carefully why he did all this, and I watched him. And I kept saying, "Yes, Owen. I understand. Yes." So, he got all through, and he said, "Now then," he says, "You can do it the next time, can't you?" And, I said, "Nope. I have no intention of doing it." And he just about died. He thought that was terrible. But the reason I had no intention was because it was too heavy to pull out. I couldn't get it out.

The house itself was very nice, except it had some strange inhabitants, to my way of thinking then. Bill Johnson came right after we had been there about 3 weeks. And, he came out from Lahad Datu. He had a great big box of groceries. He had pop for the boys, and he had candy, and he had everything. One of the things he had was a jar of Durien. He didn't know what Durien was, and of course, well, I guess he knew what it was, but I didn't know what it was. And he didn't know it was in there. So, the last day he was there - he was staying with us - and we had breakfast, and we still hadn't tasted this jar of jam.

So, I said to the cook, "Well, open the jar of jam that Mr. Johnson brought, and put it on the table for breakfast." "Oh," he says, "But, ma'am, that's Durien." And, I said, "Oh, it doesn't matter what it is. Just put it on for breakfast. He brought it, and we must serve it." So, Bill had Durien jam, and he was sitting there, and he kept smearing all this jam on his toast and smearing it, and picked it up and took one bite of it, and he looked at it and he says, "That damn Chinaman. I'm going to kill him." He sold him Durien jam.

AHJ
Okay.

AW
Then we had the cheechaws. That was the first morning I saw the cheechaws. And they had - that house where the Mathews live now was the one that we lived in. And, they had the indirect lighting - I don't know if they still have it or not - and I was sitting there, watching Bill, who was at the end of the table. and the lights were on, because it was quite early in the morning. All of a sudden, I saw this reptile head stick out over the top of the screen, and I looked, and Bryce knew I'd seen something. And, he hadn't told me, but I said to him, "Oh, it's so nice here. You go to sleep and you hear the birds singing." And you wake up and you hear the birds singing. And the birds were the cheechaws. It wasn't birds at all. And he didn't tell me. And, all of a sudden, this reptile thing came running down, and needless to say, there was a little commotion, until I found out what it was.

The house wasn't bad. The housing was better than what I had envisioned. Much better. Kennedy Bay housing is superb compared to the housing here.

AHJ

Kind of a spectacular view from up there.

AW

Yes. Yes.

AHJ

Out onto the bay.

AW

Yes, very lovely. We enjoyed it. The only thing, and the only reason that we left Kennedy Bay when we did was because of Rick, who was 10 when we came. There was no schooling for him. He was getting a nervous tick, and he was going like this all the time. And, he was - he had no playmates. Everything was completely different, and so it was at that point they wanted us to - we had promised to stay for two years, which was - 15 months was getting pretty close. So they called us back to Tacoma, and they asked us if we would consider staying for one more year. And we said, "No." Because of Rick, we had to get him where there was better schooling. So, it was at the point that we moved to Manila. Then, Alden, it was in mid-1968, I guess. We were in Manila just about 15 months, I think. And we moved to Makati then, and he went to American School, and had better schooling there, then he did at home. And he was very happy. He had shows. He had, I could buy him model airplanes. I could buy him funny books. It was more back to the way of life that he had known.

AHJ

But, you say you had been at Silam for about---

AW

18 months, I think it was about 18 months we were at Silam.

BW

Almost 2 years.

AW

One month short I think.

AHJ

Okay. Are there other things that come to you now, Bryce, about the work activities?

BW

Oh, we never had enough logs.

AW

Never had enough supplies.

BW

Oh, supplies in Sabah and the Philippines weren't as bad as they are here now. You could get things.

I remember one time, however, we bought a new Kenworth stacker, which we somehow got in the doghouse over. The axles kept going out on that, and the rear end. We were depending upon it, entirely, for log production in Milbuk. The rear end went out of that thing, so I went to Manila, and I Telexed ahead to, what's his name - in Longview - the purchasing agent? -

AHJ

Harry Brayne.

BW

Harry Brayne, yeah. And told Harry, "Well, you be at that telephone on a Sunday, because I'm going to place a long distance call to you." We had a lot of trouble getting parts out of the States, because they realized we were in trouble, and let's send them the parts, and we'll take care of the paperwork later. And, you couldn't get through to them, that paperwork had to be done first, or you never got the parts. They would just sit in the customs. But, I needed this thing so bad, so I went to Manila, and I placed the call. And I Telexed him ahead and I had confirmation he would be at the phone at a certain time. I placed the call in and got through to Longview fine, and no answer at Weyerhaeuser. No answer. So, finally, I said to the operator in Manila, I said, "Would you allow me to talk to the Longview operator, if you would?" "Well, yes," she says, "But I'll have to charge you for the call." I says, "I don't care, I'll talk to the Longview operator." The Longview operator came on, and I said, "Now young lady, I know you've heard of this company, but I want to call Weyerhaeuser. Now, get out the phone book, there's a whole list of numbers there and start dialing one after the other until somebody answers." She started down that list of them, and finally the powerhouse at Longview answered. So, I talked to the guy in the powerhouse. I told him who I was, where I was, what the problem was, and I said, "I think I know the problem. Harry Brayne's come into his office. He is sitting by his phone, but they pulled the plug out at the main switchboard. Will you call him on the house line and tell him to get out to the switchboard and plug himself in? I'm trying to get ahold of him." "Well," he said, "Yes, he would do that." So I went back to talking to the Longview operator again. Kind of a nice little gal. I kind of enjoyed talking to her.

AW

Well.

BW

I was talking to her and then 5 minutes went by and she'd keep trying Harry Brayne's number and what not. So, finally I told her, after about 15 or 20 minutes, "Well, give me that number that answered again." Called back to the powerhouse, got the same guy on the line. Said, "Did

you get ahold of Harry Brayne?" "No, I haven't had time." He said, "I have no relief here." Anyway, I finally convinced him he ought to get ahold of him right away, and he did. And I got to talk to Harry. I think that was the most successful call I ever placed, because they had the part in and installed in Milbuk in 5 days. And it was rather heavy. It weight 800 or 1,000 pounds. But I finally convinced him he had to take care of the paperwork before he shipped the parts. Five days from placing the call, they had it installed at Milbuk. That's still an all-time record. They've never done it since.

AHJ

What did they do, airfreight it?

BW

They airfreighted it all the way. And, by calling him, I told him just what planes I wanted it on. I knew the schedule anyway, and there was Northwest 7 from Sea-Tac to Japan and I forget the number from Tokyo on into Manila, and I had our own plane standing by in Manila to pick it up and take it right on to Milbuk - in 5 days. Very good timing.

AHJ

But Harry Brayne was sitting there, wondering why you hadn't called at the right time, huh?

BW

That's right. And the gal out at the switchboard pulled his cord.

AHJ

That's a good story. That's the kind of story that I especially like to hear, because it makes a point. It makes two points - communication problems, and also, the way you solve problems.

BW

Uh huh.

AW

What about the cancel? That's a good one.

BW

Oh yeah. I have to go back in my memory for the story. But, communication problems have, as you say, been a major problem over there. Jackson Beaman, when he was running the operation, came down to Sabah one time, and we found quite a stand of a strange variety of wood. In fact, I don't even remember the name of it today, but it was not a commercial species - but it looked like a very good wood, and we had quite a bit of it - maybe a shipload or two. So, I asked Jackson if he thought he could sell it in Japan. He said, "Oh, yeah. I think I can sell that." He said, "You go ahead and log it and I'll find out what it is, and I'm sure I could sell that to the Japs." He left.

We went ahead and logged it. Had about a half a shipload, and I hadn't heard anything. So, finally, one day, I thought, "Well, I ought to get a confirmation for the sale of that, pretty soon." So I sent a Telex to Manila to Jackson Beaman asking him - well, what I said in the Telex was, "If you can't sell the wood, you know, we'll cancel the program." I waited for an answer. I got an answer back, "Cancel the wood." Well, gosh, this is terrible. I had half a shipload of it stacked up, you know. A lot of money tied up in that. Then I got to looking at that Telex and I thought, "That's a rather strange way to say it." I'd used the word "cancel", but I'd said "Cancel the program," and he came back and said, "Cancel the wood." And I hadn't stopped to think about it.

You have to know Jackson Beaman to figure this one out. Jackson never wrote a note in his life, or anything. He always had his secretary right at his elbow, and she wrote down everything he dictated. You have to know Filipino English, of course. The Filipinos always accent the second syllable in every word. And I sat down and I thought of it. See, Jackson got the Telex. He said, "Wire Webster and tell him I can sell the wood." "Cansell" is the way a Filipino would read the word "cancel" and she used the same word back. It came back to me "Please cancel the word." 180 degrees out of whack. I did figure it out. We did go ahead and log the rest of the timber. We did sell the wood.

AHJ

And made some money.

BW

Yeah, but can sell becomes cancel.

AHJ

Another good story to illustrate communication problems. Okay. Okay, Alice, have you thought of something to add to here now, while we've been taking Bryce's stories?

AW

You mean about Sabah?

AHJ

Well, no, you've moved to Manila now. Or, if you do recall something about Sabah.

AHJ

This is a continuation of Interview No. 109. Bryce, have you got another story there, ready to go?

BW

Not really. I think Alice has one.

AW

No, you go ahead and tell it. It's about Barry.

BW

Oh, it's about Barry? Barry is our oldest son. He went up to the University of the Philippines at Los Banjos to start in the University up there. The Philippines, as you know, is the third largest English-speaking nation in the world. At least they brag about that. Filipino English is quite a bit different than our English, anyway. To learn Filipino English takes a little doing. Barry was in an English class up there. The teacher was asking different students to use different words in a sentence. So, they asked Barry to use the word cortaius in a sentence. Barry stated that he didn't know what the word cortaius meant. And, the teacher said, "Well, Cortaius, Cortaius. Use the word Cortaius in a sentence." And Barry insisted he didn't know what Cortaius meant. And the teacher got quite angry with him, and knew that he was an American and he knew English better than most of them, and he still didn't know what the word Cortaius was, so she had him kicked out of class.

AW

Well, she asked him to write it.

BW

And, anyway, he got kicked out of class. And, he later found out that the word word she was talking about was courteous.

AW

Courteous.

BW

And, in fact, she'd accused of him of being very discortaius, to her. Well, that was just part of the problem. Barry realized he had pulled a boo boo, and he did want to make it right, and did want to get back into the class, so he decided to go up and call at the teacher's house, and apologize to her. Now, the teacher was quite a young person, anyway, I guess. And Barry did not know that you did not go to young ladies' houses calling upon them, in the evening, for any purpose whatsoever in the Philippines, unless you were properly introduced, and all of that. So, he proceeded to go up to the teacher's house. And, he wanted to apologize and explain to her that, you know, the way the Americans pronounce it is courteous, and the way she pronounced it, he just didn't understand. But, of course, the fact that he knocked on the door, and she came to the door, and here was a young man, and she was a young lady, and they hadn't been properly introduced, was a big insult to the teacher, and Barry flunked English.

AHJ

Twice.

BW

Yeah, because he didn't understand the word cortaius.

Of course, our young son Rick had his problems, too. He studied in Sabah there for a while, and he did great when he went there. He'd learned how to spell tire "t i r e", and that was wrong. It was t y r e. He'd learned to spell color, c o l o r, and that was wrong, it was c o l o u r. He soon learned to change his ways and get 100 in his spelling, but then two years later he went back to the United States and tried to spell tire t y r e and color c o l o u r, and he started flunking spelling all over again.

AW

He got in trouble in Silam at the school there, when the teacher said that Greenland was Hawaii and Hawaii was Greenland, and he corrected the teacher and said, "No, that wasn't right. That this was Greenland and this was Hawaii." He had a globe. They didn't have any maps down at the school, so he used to take his globe, his world globe, down there. And he got kicked out of school for that.

Then, let's see. He told an interesting story. In fact, when he found out he was coming over this time, he said, "I'd like to go back to Lahad Datu and," he said, "Now that I'm 6'-3", and look down on those little Chinamen that used to push me around, when I was over there before."

But, when he was in, he went to St. Dominic's, was it - I think that's the name of it - in Lahad Datu, he used to ride in. He'd have to get up about 4:00 and catch Ah Fat. He used to be the one that had the little taxi that went back and forth from Lahad Data to Silam and back. And, he took people in, and if you needed any groceries, you'd give him the list and he'd go in. We had a charge account at the store in there, and then you'd pay it by the month. So, Rick rode in with him every day. Then he'd be home by about 1:00.

One time that they had the Chinese - in fact, I think it was Ah Fat's teacher, or daughter, or some part of his family that was the teacher, because her name was Mary Fat. But, they were talking about the atomic bomb, and they wanted to know who invented the atomic bomb. And, of course, all the Chinese kids yelled China. And Rick said, "No they didn't. The United States did." And he got a caning for that. He was very insulted. He told the truth and he got a caning.

He doesn't have very dear memories of Sabah. To him that was very traumatic. It was a traumatic experience for him. The Philippines, yes, he loved the Philippines, and he loved living in the Philippines, but it was very traumatic for him in Sabah. Being the only child, and being entirely different. And, of course, the longer we stayed there, the longer his hair got, and the more golden tan his skin got. And, we would go into town, and he would - the natives would - he wouldn't go into town with me, finally, into Lahad Data, because they would come up and they would put their hands like this on his golden hair, you know. And he'd just stand there and he'd say, "Mom, get them away from me." You know. And they'd stare at his nose. And they'd say, "Oh, it was so pretty,"

you know, in Malay. He would just - and they'd want to touch his nose and they'd want to touch him. And they'd go like this, and he'd just would go---

The story about Beatrice was kind of good wasn't it, when we bought her out - if he needs a funny one, at this time - about how big she was?

BW

I don't remember.

AW

My cousin was coming over to visit us, and she's probably, she's almost 6' tall. So, for Christmas - she was going to be there for the holidays. We thought it would be nice to have a Malaysian costume made for her. So my niece took her measurements and sent them over to me. And had a very nice drawing of everything. I took them into a little dressmaker and selected the materials, and went back when it was supposed to be ready, and they hadn't done anything yet. They said, "Well, they didn't have a sarong large enough for this." And, I said, "Okay, fine, then we'll select some material in bolt, and you can make it that way." So I selected material and I went back again. It still wasn't done. And, they had some other excuse. Malaysians don't like to tell you anything bad, you know. If they have something that's going to distress you, they'll wander all around the bush.

So, I went back, and finally, the day before she was coming, I drove into town, and I said, "Look, now you've just been giving me all this noise." And I took a Sabahan with me and told the Sabahan what I wanted them to say - Kerry Trabrett's wife, I took with me - Tress. And I said, "You just tell her that I want to know what's going on. My cousin is coming in tomorrow, and this is a Christmas present, and I have no gift to put under the tree for her." So, finally, she found out that they said but they were sure that I had made a mistake on the measurements, because no woman could be that large. There was just no way that anybody could be that large. So, I said, "Okay. Tomorrow she's coming in on the plane and I'll bring her here and you measure her. But, you must have this gift for me." And they had to make it in like two days, because it was Christmas coming, and this was the gift. And, I said, "It's your fault she doesn't have it, because you wouldn't believe me."

So, Bea arrived, and we went trotting down to the little dressmaker's. And, they saw Bea and they started in at her toes and they went right straight up, and they just stood there and they went "ah vaza" which means "large". So they had to stand on real high stools to measure her. Then they'd get the tape out and they'd start measuring. And they'd go into fits and peels of laughter. Bea was a real good sport about it. She was standing there, laughing as hard as they were. By the time we got through, I think there were seventy people out there, all laughing and Bea was laughing. They'd measure her arms, and they'd just go into

peels of laughter - these little Chinese seamstresses. They'd just bend over a laugh, and then they'd say, "Oh, we're sorry," you know. And then - Bea got her costume, and she wore it Christmas and New Years. She still has it, and loves it.

AHJ

That's a great story.

BW

I could talk about money matters.

AHJ

Yeah.

BW

I don't know whether you want them on there or not?

AHJ

Please proceed.

BW

When Weyerhaeuser took over out here, they didn't figure to make any money for several years. It was forecast to loose \$5 million the first year, I remember. But, we did hit a good time on the market. The first year, it was a very good market instead of losing \$5 million a year, we made \$5 million the first year, which was really a miracle, according to Tacoma, and it just wasn't anticipated, whatsoever. Gosh, about the end of the first year, we were all called back to the States. We were given the royal treatment. We'd pulled off a miracle in Southeast Asia, and - you'd better cross this out of your book - but it was a dinner out at Norton Clapp's house, and so on, for all of us.

AHJ

Yeah?

BW

Then we budgeted for the second year, of course. And we budgeted a little bit better than we had done the first year. The second year we didn't quite make budget. We'd done considerably better than the first year, but we never got up to the budget. The third year, we were kind of hitting into a bad market, so we budgeted down a little bit, and that was entirely unacceptable by Tacoma. So they sent us back their new budget, which was another big improvement over the previous year. No way, you know. The market was on the downslide. It did slide and we didn't make budget. I think we made only 85% of the budget. All of a sudden, we were a bunch of bums, you know.

But, in that first three years that they figured to loose money all of the time, we paid them back all the price that they paid for the operations at that time - all the cash out of pocket - had built them a

new sawmill at Bakapit, and a veneer plant at Milbuk, and we returned them all the money they had in the thing. But, by this time, good big profits were standard, and we weren't doing quite well enough. All a bunch of bums. That's the way it goes.

AHJ

Now, you say, the first year? That would be 1967 wouldn't it?

BW

'67, yes.

AHJ

Okay.

BW

The first year of the operation, I think we must have started the veneer plant in - oh, March, April, May, somewhere in there, of '68, in Milbuk. Shortly after that, later in the year, we started the mill in Sabah, at Bakapit. It's the same mill we now have at Silam.

AHJ

The one that's been moved over?

BW

Yeah. You might be interested to know, that that mill, that head rig that's in that mill, was a mill that I sold logs to, oh, back in the 50's in northern California. I knew the mill. And, it was an old mill then. It was finally junked out and the machinery was bought for export shipment. And, when we got the job to build a mill quick and cheap in Sabah, that mill happened to be sitting on the dock in Portland, ready for export shipment. So I made the arrangements to buy it, knowing the mill. By knowing about the size, what we wanted over here, I just bought the thing sight unseen, because I'd sold so many logs to it, I knew what it could do. That's the mill that's now running in Silam. I think that mill - that head rig - came around The Horn in 1902 or 1907, I'm not sure which. It's getting a little old now.

AHJ

It has some years behind it. It's got a lot of wood behind it, too.

BW

Yeah.

AHJ

Pete Gustafson is reasonably well satisfied with what it is doing for him there, now. He set up the same mill. He's turned it around. The flow of material is in a different direction, but it's still making boards.

BW

Well, actually, today, that's one of the few successful sawmills in Sabah - in all of Borneo, I'd say, today. On today's market, that mill is making money, and there's very few other sawmills making money.

AW

Why is that? That that one's making money?

BW

Because I bought it.

AW

Oh, pardon me. I should have known better than to ask.

AHJ

Sure. Okay, have we pretty well covered the highlights of your experiences in Sabah, and the Philippines, then?

BW

Oh, I think so, Alden.

AHJ

Okay, well, I'll tell you what. Let's have you move to the next phase then, the Indonesia phase. But, if you do recall stories that apply to the other place, let's just throw them in. Because I'll be sorting this out. I'll have to clip it and classify it by subject, and so on.

BW

I'm glad that's your job and not mine.

AHJ

Okay, fine. Well, tell us then, how you got involved in Indonesian affairs.

BW

Well, I guess, originally, I was involved somewhat in Indonesian affairs before we went home in '68. A bunch of us came down here, and looked over what is this - essentially - this ITCI concession. And what was the PTWI concession, which is now sold.

AHJ

Tell us a little of the detail, of that early trip then, reconnaissance, or whatever it was.

BW

Well, we had already sent out a team of cruisers down here. We had gotten the exploration rights in what is now essentially the ITCI concession granted to us. DeLong had the same exploration rights at that time. But we sent Bert Academia and his crew in here, ahead of time. Lee Jacobson came in, set up the field service team that we had. It was

a few weeks later than that, after they'd gotten started, that Jackson Beaman, Bill Johnson and I, and Lee Jacobson came down here, in the old company Beechcraft.

It was quite a flight in. In those days, the airstrip at Balikpapan was nothing but World War II landing mats. They were all rusted out, and the corners were all bent up. And, you had to zig zag down the airstrip to keep from getting a flat tire, before you could take off or land. But, we came in and stayed in the old Shell Oil Company guest house on top of the hill. From there, we took longboat rides up all the rivers around here, looking for logical log ponds, and hard ground to build a camp on, close to water. There were several places picked. I don't think we ever picked the present site at Kenangan. That was one we didn't pick.

But, then we took the company plane and flew this concession, in about 3 days, as I recall. Just low level flying - up and down, strip after strip - to get an idea what the timber looked like, trying to find out what kind of rock we had here for roads, you know. I guess, from what I know now, our decisions on what the rock was like, were entirely wrong. Our decisions as to volume and loggability were about right. Our decision of where to put the camp was never utilized.

So, after that, my only involvement, after being down here on that, was to go back and to make the - work with Lee Jacobson and his crew - to work up the first ARs and proposals for the big move into what is now the ITCI concession down here. Early on, we decided against the PTWI concession. We did not want it because of the problems. We also decided against what is now the BFI concession here - our neighbor on the other side.

AHJ

Japanese, to the North?

BW

Uh huh. It's now the Mitsubishi Concession to the south of us. And, decided we wanted the ITCI. Of course, subsequent events changed the history of that entirely, but that was our thinking then.

About that time I went back to the United States. I was out of the Southeast Asia base for 7 years. Again, in typical Bill Johnson fashion - although this time, it was carried on by Jim Church - we were on vacation in Mexico, when they started trying to get ahold of me. Finally got in contact with us. I called up Tacoma - called Jim Church. Jim's first thing he said was, "Well, would you be willing to take an assignment in Southeast Asia?" I said, "Well, I might." He says, "Get back here, you're leaving day after tomorrow." I said, "I didn't mean it that strongly." He said, "No, you're just going over there on a one-month trip." He says, "You're going to leave, oh, in just a matter of a few days." So we had to cut our vacation short.

I drove from - well, when I called him, I was in San Francisco. I had driven from Los Angeles that day, to San Francisco. And, I drove - I look 4 hours sleep, and I drove to Longview - got 4 hours more sleep and drove on up to the office. I no sooner got in the office when they grabbed me by the arm, and took me out to Auburn and got my shots, and then on to Seattle to - my passport had expired long ago - to get me applied for a new passport. Processed me to go overseas - my passport then had to go back to San Francisco to get a visa. That was on a Saturday, and I was supposed to leave on Monday. How they did it, I don't know. They took my passport - and I guess it must have been a Friday, because the passport office was open. And by the time I got all through getting oriented on Saturday, I had Sunday off.

That was the opening day of trout season, so we went up to the lake, caught our limit of trout. The next day I went out to the airport to get onto the plane and I still don't have a passport or visa. It was in San Francisco. 20 minutes before flight time, they showed up there, and handed me my passport and visa, and I came on out.

We spent a month out here, back to the States, and then I did some renegotiation with them, and came back out here a couple of months later, and have been here ever since.

It's a little different this time. I'm here at ITCI and don't have to do all the traveling I did before. I'm home most nights, anymore.

AHJ

Is that what you mean by "a little different?"

BW

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Last time, when I had the four operations, when we lived in Sabah and Manila, if I was home one night a week, I was lucky.

AW

It was 98 days you were home that last year.

BW

Yeah, one year I spent only 98 days at home.

AW

Well, 98 nights he was home.

BW

Yeah.

AW

Not days.

BW

But over here, I have one operation. More like being in the States.

AW

I wasn't keeping track, but he had to keep track. He figured it out - had to keep it figured out for income tax - because he was working on the operations, so that had to be charged out to different companies, and that's how we found out that he was home that amount.

AHJ

So you had a record of it, huh?

AW

Yeah, 98 days or nights.

Okay, and on his second trip over here, he came over first, to look at it - and went back, and got things squared away - and then he came over. Did you come with him at that time?

AW

No, I never have had a look-see trip, and I'm very put out about that.

BW

No, you came over with me.

AW

Yes, the second time. But for the look-see trip. I never have had a look-see trip, and I'm very put out by that. It wasn't necessary. I'm being funny, facetious.

AHJ

Sure.

AW

Yes, I came back the second time when he came back.

AHJ

Suppose you tell us, how you recall coming to Indonesia, Balikpapan, Kenangan, at that time. What did you find, and what are your impressions of arriving here?

AW

Well, I pretty much knew that it was probably, that Balikpapan was probably - what was it? They called it the cesspool of the earth. That was what I had heard from all of the people that had been over here. I had been well-prepared by some other people. Of course, the Ziles, Bob and Ruth Zile - we got them ready to come over. They came over to Milbuk. They probably told you when you interviewed them. We had only been home about 3 months when they were to come out here, so we spent a good deal of time with them, and, consequently, having known them before, we kept in touch with them the whole time they were out here. So, from Bob and Ruth, I had kept track like the moves of the camps, for instance, and this, that and the other. What had transpired - not personnel-wise, but within the company and the different camps.

Actually, my impression of the whole Far East in the years that we were gone from it, it had lost its Far Eastern flavor. By this, I mean that it had lost a lot of its very nice ways, and it had become very Westernized. And, I was sorry to see that go. I was, I'm very sorry to see that go, but I'm very happy that we were out here 10 years ago to know what a few of the old Far Eastern ways were.

My impression of - I was pleasantly surprised by Kenangan. I really was. The camp needed some work done on it. It hadn't had much maintenance, but then that was because of economics, not because of anything else. The town of Balikpapan, in the 15 months that we have been here, now, has changed. It has been cleaned up a lot. And, of course, it still has a long ways to go before any health department would put a stamp of approval on it. But, all in all, I think, having lived in both places, although it has been seven years or more like 8 or 9 years, now, since I lived in Sabah, I would much prefer living in Kenangan than Kennedy Bay.

One thing is - now that I have no small children - I just, there's just Bryce and myself here now. In Kennedy Bay, the women are separated so that they don't have the contact with one another, and they are stuck up on the hill because of the communication problem, of the vehicles. Kenangan is fine. It has its drawbacks. The Far East is fine. It's still not dull. You can put any other adjective you want to - frustrating, exotic, hot, hotter, anything, but it's never dull. Life is not dull out here.

AHJ

A good way to put it. Okay, you be thinking of some good stories, now, that you're going to put on here, while we jump over to Bryce, and have him tell us about the work. What he found in the work end of it, when he came over here, and what has occurred since then?

BW

Well, of course, when I came over here, ITCI had gone through a very tough time. They'd lived through a combination of an economic slump that really knocked the bottom out of the log market. And, the prolonged rainy season had given them no dry season for the previous year, whatsoever. They were in financial difficulties. They hadn't been able to produce the logs. They were out of roads. The only thing they had plenty of was mud. And, had run very short of time.

We did try to change things a little bit, to try to get some roads ahead, and so on, but I think that just about the time I came over here, there was a turn-around in two things. The market started to improve, and the weather improved. Whether it was the weather, the market, or what, the company has turned around quite a bit, and is now in pretty good shape. But the problems - I guess, from an operating standpoint, they are about the same as problems are anywhere. Always need one more load of logs before the sun goes down.

But, I guess our biggest problem - from my standpoint, anyway - is the bureaucracy that goes on here. The endless number of federal bureaus that have to put their stamp of approval on everything. The constant thinking that if we don't get it done today, we can get it done tomorrow, and tomorrow never comes, so consequently, you never get it done. I've often said that the only thing these people have plenty of is time, and the only thing that happens quick is rain. But they're kind of a crises oriented operation. They bounce from one crisis to the next, and we never solve a crisis. We just knock the peak off of it so we can continue to operate, and bounce onto the next one, which takes its place. It's a different world over here.

Government relations, partner relations, getting the proper permits, the paperwork would swamp you. Too bad we don't have the concession to supply all the paper that's needed in Indonesia from one of our pulp mills. We'd be in better shape. But, the problems are different, in that way, than they were in Sabah. The paperwork, although detailed, was quite simple. The same with the Philippines. Here, it's almost endless. Answers - you never get an answer from one of these bureaus. After a great deal of difficulty, you might get a signature on a piece of paper that's a wish-washy decision that doesn't say yes, or no, but you use that to go on to the next one to get their wishy-washy decision. That's the biggest part of my problems.

The production problems we can handle. The governmental problems, the permit problems, and whatnot are continuous. And we don't know what might happen tomorrow. Some police permit might shut this thing down.

AHJ

In the beginning, there were many accidents in the operation. Of course, woods work is dangerous, but I believe there's been an improvement, a change in that. Tell us a little bit about the safety performance.

BW

Well, there certainly has. And, I want to go back 10 years, I guess, when I first came over here. There were no safety programs. To try to convince everybody that a tin hat was something that was proper to wear was almost impossible. I remember we bought everybody at Milbuk a tin hat. I issued them all. Now, they were expensive. They were \$15.00 apiece over here, in those days. And I got all the woods crew a tin hat. And then, I went out and told them they must wear them at all times, or they were going to be discharged. I went out the next morning about every 5th person had a tin hat on. The rest of them didn't have one. "Where's your tin hat?" "Oh, I don't have one, sir." "Well, I gave you one yesterday." "Oh, yes sir, but my wife took it." I didn't look far enough forward to see that they were good rain hats, too, you know.

So, I got a detail of men, and we went down to the village, and where all the wives lived, and we went up and down the streets, getting back our tin hats. We got most of them back, and reissued them the next day, to the woods crew. The wives had glommed onto all the tin hats. They could wear them downtown. They didn't have to carry an umbrella. They could buy two bags full of groceries. Even the men were grateful for that.

In those days, that attitude was strictly that "accidents happen. They are not caused, they happen. The spirits cause them. Bad luck causes them. But there is nothing you can do about them." And that feeling is still prevalent today, in Southeast Asia. You can't do anything about an accident. It's out of the hands of an ordinary person. I tried to keep track of what our - back in those early days - what our frequency was, and so on, but it was way up in the 100's. They didn't even report a good deal of that. So, I couldn't be sure. But, in the year 1976, ITCI decided to take it upon themselves to do some thing about the accident frequency that was there. And the frequency here - well, in '65, I think, we had 87 lost time accidents at this ITCI operation.

AW
'75.

BW
'75, yeah. In '75, we had 87 lost time accidents. In 1976, when I came over here, for my first time here, in April and May, while I was here, they had passed a million man-hours without a single lost time accident. At that time - they had really gone to work and brought this accident frequency down. And, since that time, since the beginning of 1976, when they really got these programs going, ITCI frequency can stand right up with the frequency accidents of any woods operation in the United States. Somewhere around 5 or 6 a year. We tried to use the new Offshaw frequency, oral reporting system. It just doesn't work over here. So we're still sticking with the old ATCI system of report frequency, and so on.

AHJ
Based on man-hours?

BW
Based on man-hours, you know. Occurrences per million man-hours. So, we're - I think we're 6.5 this year. I can remember a time when that was a real goal in the United States, to attain.

AHJ
Not so long ago.

BW
Of course, some might say that the reason we can have such a good safety operation over here is that nobody ever gets close enough to work to get hurt. But, ---

AHJ

That's not the whole story?

BW

That's not quite the whole story.

AHJ

Do the workers relate the good safety record to the things they're doing?

BW

I can answer your previous question. Slowly, slowly, our workers are learning that accidents can be prevented. I have to give a great deal of credit to the supervisors here. Because it is so hard to get the ordinary worker to come around to realizing that the accident wasn't caused by an Act of God, or fate, or one of the spirits, or a ghost, or something like that. It was because of his, or somebody else's carelessness. And, I remember, the last safety meeting we had here - you remember, Alden, back 20, 30 years ago in the States when the cause of an accident was carelessness. A man was careless, that's why he got hurt. It took us a long time to realize that careless was not an explanation of an accident either. And they're just beginning to get into this phase of it here now.

AHJ

I see. Not specific enough.

BW

Not specific enough.

AHJ

Okay. Okay, Bryce, I know that they had to have an extensive, and a comprehensive training program, in the beginning, for the new workers. But, now that you have a crew of pretty good workers, I presume there is some turnover, and are you continuing the training program?

BW

Yes, we're continuing training programs. They've gone - in the early days, there were specific training programs. We cleared off a big patch of ground down here. I wasn't here at the time, but I've heard the story. They made a big open field, and took the trucks out there, one at a time, so they couldn't run into anything, and turned these guys loose and let them drive around and around that field. Even so, I understand they succeeded in wrecking a few of them, until we trained some truckdrivers.

Now, the training is much better for the average person, coming into the labor market. They are more closely associated with trucks, and have probably played with them a little bit, and learned to drive jeeps and so on, so that we changed those specific training programs into on-the-job training. If we want to hire a truck driver, we'll get a person with

some experience in driving, at least. Put him out with experienced drivers on the road, and let him learn there. It's improved greatly in 10 years. 10 years ago, there were no technicians at all. Now, you can hire experienced truckdrivers and catskinners right off the street.

AHJ

Alice, let's swing back to your side of the viewpoints, and you tell us of your experiences, and the stories that you remember about living here.

AW

Well, the company has finally decided, and I think it's a very good idea, to send the wives to language school. It's a very traumatic experience, but at least, when you get here, into Balikpapan, and some communication again, has gone awry, and because of this, there is no one here to meet you, you can make yourself understood - your needs, your immediate needs, anyhow.

So, we had been here - oh, I guess it was just before we went on home leave - about a year and 4 of us went into town shopping. They insisted that I dicker with the taxi cab driver, so we could go out to Kabu Saier. So, I talked with him, and we settled on a price, and all four of us piled into his little Volkswagon bus, and we got in there, and told him we wanted to go to Kabu Saier.

AHJ

How many of you?

AW

Four, four ladies. He looked at me, and I said it in my very best Indonesian, that we wanted to go to Kabu Saier. And he turned around to me, and he said in Indonesian, "But, Madam, I don't speak English." So, I told him, in my very poor Indonesian, "But I thought I was speaking Indonesian." And his face got real red, and he said, "Oh, okay." And so we went on to Kabu Saier.

Another one - the snake stories are like fish stories at home - you know, the longer the time that has elapsed, since you've seen the snake, the bigger the snake was - the last one you saw. So, when I first came, the gals here hadn't really realized - some of them had, the ones that had been here awhile - that we had been out here before. So I went to the swimming pool after we had been here, oh, a day or so, and the gals started talking about, "Did you see this snake?" Or, so and so saw a snake. And they had about 10 snake stories that they went through. So, they finally were telling me. I said, "Oh, do you have a lot of snakes here?" And they said, "Oh, yes." And they again - this just egged them on a little bit more, you know. They had a greenhorn here, and they were really going to put me through the works. So I got - after they finished all this, I asked them all how long they had been here. Most of the ones that were there at that time, had been here about a year or maybe 15

months or 16 months. And so then I looked at them, and I said, "Well, that's quite a while, but you realize that I'm starting my fourth year in Southeast Asia?" And I haven't heard another snake story. Not like a snake fish story.

AHJ

Didn't scare you off, huh?

AW

Skipping back to the Philippines, and transportation problems. I was sitting here thinking how much different it is. Our DC-3 may be old, that we ride in and out to Singapore on, but at least, it has a compass that's working, and it has a radio that's working, and - what else used to go out in the Aztec, Bryce.

Many's the time that we used to come in from the Philippines, on the old Aztec, the twin engine, the red and white one that - I don't know if you ever saw that one or not, Alden. We'd get in - we'd have no radio, we had no compass, we had nothing. And we'd be in over land before we knew it, and we'd have to swing back out again and get back in where they could see us, before we came in, or get shot down.

The biggest, the worst fright I had---

AHJ

Now this is when you were approaching where, for a landing?

AW

From the Philippines into Sabah, or from Sabah, coming from Sabah into the Philippines - because nothing was ever working - I mean, not all things were working on the Aztec at any one time. It was either - if you had a compass, you had no radio - if you had a radio, you had no compass, you know. But not all of them were working. It's a wonder that we didn't lose somebody, it really is.

AHJ

But, where you had an approach corridor, coming into the country, you didn't always hit that by dead reckoning.

AW

No, we would hit it, but - no, we didn't always hit it. One time, we came in over Tawau, as I recall. We would sit - the pilots would position us at the windows, and we would all have - they'd say, "Well, start looking for landmarks," you know. So, we'd have to start looking, and then we'd swing out and then we'd come in at a certain level so they would know, evidently - I don't know what all that was about.

One time - the worst fright - well I had two frights out here. One time Bryce was missing - Remember that time when there was a real bad storm in Mindanao - and they had left Milbuk at a certain time, in the Aztec. And

I knew that he was supposed to be on this plane. And this was, of course, was getting late in the afternoon. He was supposed to be there on the early morning plane, and he hadn't gotten there. And, they'd gotten radio contact with Milbuk. And they had left early in the morning, and it was 5 hours past when their fuel would have been gone had they still been in the air. And we didn't know until late that afternoon that the storm - they had landed in the storm, but they had landed in a dead spot, and they couldn't radio out. So they had the coast guard out looking for them, and everybody. But they were all right. The storm came in on them when they were on the ground, and at an airfield. They were at an airfield on the ground, and they couldn't radio out. There was no way to radio out or get out. You know, the storm had actually put the electricity out too. That was frightening.

And, the other time was--

AHJ

What location were you?

BW

Well, we'd taken off from Milbuk that morning, just at daylight. We knew the weather was bad, and we had to go down the coast to Dajangus and wanted to drop a man off there, anyway, and then just fly at water level under the storm. And, both airstrips being right on the beach. We put down at Dajangus - it was a commercial airstrip - and the weather got worse and we couldn't take off. We couldn't radio out. The commercial radio was out. Our radio wouldn't contact. So, we sat there all day long. Of course, nobody knew that we were going to Dajangus. I don't know why, to this day. But they thought we were all going to Davao, which was our ultimate destination, and we never showed up at Davao, 8 or 10 hours later.

AW

One of the commercial pilots finally told you, didn't they?

BW

Yeah, one of the commercial pilots told us, when he came in there, that they were all searching for us. That's the way they got the word back out, too, I think. The commercial pilot took off and sent a message to Manila.

AW

The commercial pilot took off and radioed Manila, and then we eventually got the word that he was all right. But, by this time, they would have been, you know - it was hours past what I knew the fuel capacity of the Aztec. Because, I watched it carefully. I'm sure that they never would have been able to fly if I hadn't watched the fuel.

Another time was when we were in Sabah, and Rick and I were going to meet Bryce in the Philippines. I had a doctor appointment and Rick had a dental appointment. And, we left - we were on the last plane out of Sandakan because a storm moved in. And we had - we iced up over the Sulu Sea, if you can imagine - 4 degrees north of the equator. And there was so much ice that we kept dropping down, and dropping down. And, Nardo had a real habit - whenever anything was wrong, he left his golf glove on. Whenever he landed or took off, he had his golf glove on. That was just one of his peculiarities. So, he left the golf glove on, and whenever he had a problem, he scratched behind his left ear, whenever anything was going wrong. So, having flown with him for quite a number of months, I recognized these things. Of course, that didn't take much imagination to know when there was hail coming on the roof of the plane. And, we just kept dropping down, and dropping down.

Nardo kept trying to assure Rick and me that there was no problem. And he'd look around and say, "How you doing, Alice? Are you all right?" And I'd say, "Oh, yeah, Nardo, not afraid. Oh, I'd fly on a banana leaf with you." And Nardo would turn around, and I'd say, "Please, dear God, get us out of this." We finally got down to about, I think we were flying about 10 feet over the water, and Nardo fought those controls the whole time. Usually, after we got up, out of Sandakan, and on the proper level, he would put it on automatic pilot, you know. And then there was no problem, and then he had to take the controls to land. But, that was one of the most frightening airplane rides I'd ever had. It came out all right. We landed properly and---

AHJ

Where did you land?

AW

In Zamboanga. We'd come in from Sandakan.

AHJ

Zambo, huh?

AW

Uh huh, yeah. And when we landed, I got out and looked at the propellers, and the hail and ice had taken off all the paint on the nose cone of the propellers. And the little mechanic came running up, and in English said, "What have you done to my airplane? Look at it." And Nardo hushed him, just cut him right off. And in Chapacano, he told him, "Just be quiet." Well, Chapacano is pretty close to Spanish, and I had had some Spanish in school, and I understood enough of the words, what he was telling him, to be quiet. So that day, I just didn't have the courage to ask him. But about 2 weeks later, I asked him, "Nardo, how close were we?" And, he said, "I didn't think we were going to make it." But he didn't tell me then, but afterwards he did tell me. But that was probably one of the most frightening things. That and the cobra. The first cobra I saw. But that wasn't as frightening either.

AHJ

The ice wasn't forming on the plane?

AW

Yes, It was forming on the wings, and he was having to slosh the gasoline back and forth. This is why, you know, I kept watching. He was moving the gas things. I'd watch one tank, and it would get almost empty, and then all of a sudden it would fill up. And he was sloshing the gasoline back and forth in the wing tanks, trying to knock the ice off. Probably his defrosters weren't working. Probably didn't even have any.

AHJ

But, in addition, there was hail in the air?

AW

Yeah, there was hail. It was a terrific storm. It was really bad.

AHJ

Well, that's close enough. And you flew from Sandakan to Zambo that time?

AW

Yeah. In Sandakan, the people knew us there, the help, and immigration, and they radioed to Nardo, "Don't leave the plane. We'll come out and chop you out." And they did. They said that if you don't get out now, you're not going to get out. And it did close. The airlines did close.

BW

Well, I guess, when we first came over here, we had an office down on - what was it - MH Del Pilar, in Manila?

AW

Yeah, uh huh.

BW

It was an old residence. It had two stories, an upstairs and a downstairs. I had an office downstairs. The attorney---

AW

Mejia?

BW

No, that was before Mejia's time. He had an office upstairs. I can't remember his name now. I'll think of it in a minute. I had a secretary by the name of Norma. She was a very well-educated gal. One day, the attorney was out of his office, and I had some papers sitting up there and gave them to Norma. I said, "Take these up to the attorney's office." "Do I have to?" I said, "Well, yeah." I wanted her to take them up there. She says, "Do I have to?" I said, "Well, why? What's your reluctance? I just want you to take them up and throw them on his desk." She said, "Well, there's a ghost in his office." This was a gal with a university degree.

"Ah, Norma," I said, "there's no ghosts in this office. How do you know there's a ghost up there?" "Well, the night crew hear them upstairs all the time, dragging the chains." "Well, I said, "that's not proof in my word. It's daytime anyway." She said, "But I've seen the ghost." "You have seen it?" "Yes, sir." "You've actually seen the ghost?" She said, "Well, not exactly seen him." But she said, "Last week I saw him." "Well, now explain this to me." She said, "Well, you know that there's the dressing room off the attorney's office there?" "Yeah." "Well, I went in and I opened the door, and went to step in there, and the ghost was in the office, and he heard me coming, and he jumped into the dressing room and shut the door behind him." I said, "Wait a minute." I said, "Now, let's get this straight. You pushed the door open, into the attorney's office, is that right?" "Yes." "And the door to the dressing room was ajar, and as you stepped into the room, the door to the dressing room slammed shut?" "Yeah." "Well, we're going to go up and look at this."

So we went up there and I slowly opened the door to the attorney's office, and said, "Now, you stand right here, Norma. I want you to show me how it was." "Now the door to the dressing room was like this?" And I opened it a little bit. And she said, "That's just the way it was." And I came back and I showed her how I could open the front door, and the air pressure in the room would slam the door to the dressing room. And she made me do that about six times, to prove to her that it was just air pressure. Finally she said, "Oh, good. I can come back in here again, now." But, she was convinced up until then that it was ghosts. That's the only logical way it could have been.

But ghosts are a very real thing. Still are. Even the best educated are quite superstitious. They swear they're not, but they don't want a black cat to run across in front of them or anything.

I guess, some of the worst times we used to have were in Sabah - and you've probably heard this story. When we had to fall a hollow tree that was in the middle of the road right-of-way - now, ordinarily we didn't fool with falling hollow trees. And, so the fact that the natives didn't like to fall hollow trees, because ghosts lived in them, didn't bother us. We'd just let them stand. But, when they are in the road right-of-way, we had to get them out of the way. And, you know, those ghosts aren't stupid. They are going to get in out of the rain, and they're going to live in those hollow trees.

So every time we'd come to one of them, they'd have to go get the witch doctor, and he'd come up and look at that tree and determine whether it was a two-chicken tree or three-goat tree or one-buffalo tree. It depended on the size and location, and all that. But he'd determine what was needed to get the ghosts out of this tree. Of course, if it was a two-chicken tree, you went up there and you cooked two chickens and served them out on a table there, in front of the tree, and then you could negotiate with the ghost to come out and eat dinner with you. Once

you get them out of the tree, you could negotiate with them - I mean, talk them into moving to some other tree, if your negotiations were successful. If they would move out of that tree, you could go ahead and fall it. But, of course, ghosts didn't eat too much. If they didn't eat it all, you could eat the rest of it. They had quite a few big buffalo-trees that were felled. But, you couldn't go on until you got those ghosts out of the tree. No way.

If a person was killed along the road, you'd have to rebuild the road somewhere else. Nobody would go by that spot.

AHJ

Alice, how do you feel about the American influence here, now?

AW

Well, I think that here at ITCI, now that this is much more of an Americanized-type community than before. For instance, we can get such things as Woolite, and Spray and Wash. When we lived in Sabah, we ordered all our food for 6 weeks in advance. It came in from Kota Kinabalu, which was then Jesselton, from Tong Hing Supermarket. And we had to order it from a little catalog that was printed. It came in by coastal freighter - all of it, except if you had a few items air freighted.

We get - most times - right at the moment, we are not getting celery and lettuce, and a few of these things. But most of the time, we have, when the groceries come in or when the DC-3 comes in from Singapore, we get celery from Salinas, California, and we get lettuce from Australia or New Zealand, I'm not sure which. So, these are very nice little luxuries that we didn't have before. We had - there were very few American brands in our selection of tins of food, and of anything. We had English brands, we had Australian powdered milk.

But now, the American brands are very much more on the scene, I noticed this time. And, the feeling - it's a very different feeling - to me, this time. Maybe it's just because I'm older, and don't notice as much, or not paying attention as much - but to me, it seems that right at the moment, that this is a - I think the company has gone a long ways toward helping this situation out. I really do.

AHJ

Helping to make it livable?

AW

More livable, yes. Much more livable, and the conditions are better, as far as us having potable water here - water right out of your tap. And there are a lot of things that are better.

Two stories I happened to think of - both of them took place in Sabah. I keep going back to Sabah for these stories, because this is where most of the things happened to us. They were funny things that happened to us, and again, it goes back to the - now it's 10 years that they've been in operation over here, so these things still happen - but not on the particular degree that they were at that time.

The first time Bryce left me, Rick and I by ourselves, Rick was just 10. He took Barry to the - or the first time that Barry and Bryce, let me correct myself - left Rick and me alone in Sabah - he took Barry over to the Philippines to put him in the University at Los Banjos there. I had gone to bed. And, it was in the rainy season, so I didn't have the air conditioner on. I had the windows open. I was reading a mystery. I was just to the very, very great part of when the murderer was sneaking up behind his victim - and have you ever heard a wild peacock let out a shrill squeek in the middle of the night? Well, just about the time this victim was to get clobbered on the head, here came this horrible shriek right outside my door, from a wild peacock. And, of course, the book went up in the air and I scrambled and shut and locked the door and all the windows.

And then, one other one there - and I'll stop talking with this - as anybody that knows me, knows that I turned early, very gray. And when we were in Sabah 10 years ago, I was 41 years old and I had quite a bit of gray hair. So I had used a rinse to keep it from turning yellow, at this time. We had a few words with the cook and his wife, and we had parted company. So I brought the yard boy in to help me, and was training him to be a house boy. So one morning he came and - Muso would tell me anything. It didn't matter whether it was about me or anybody else, I always knew what was going on.

He said, "Ma'am, they're talking about you down in the longhouses," (which were the Moslem houses in Sabah). And, I said, "Oh, Muso, that are they saying about me?" "Oh, ma'am, they're saying you are very, very old." And, I yelled, "Muso, you don't ever tell an American woman she's very old." And he says, "Oh, but ma'am. I fixed it. I fixed it." And I said, "Oh." And, by this time, I was getting worried. I thought, "Now what did you do?" And he said, "I fixed it Ma'am. I told them that it wasn't your own color. That you got it out of a bottle." And I said, "Oh?" And he said, "They asked me how I knew. And I told them I had to clean the mess up once a week." So, with that, I'll quit talking.

AHJ

Oh, great.

BW

Well, which was the first one?

AHJ

Well, a couple at Milbuk. One would be the fan down there, and the other at Stalag 13. Which one comes first?

BW

Oh, I guess the fan dance comes first. When we first went into Milbuk, we had very little electricity there, and had no air conditioning in any of the houses. Milbuk was probably the worst climate of any operation we've had over here. In the daytime, it wasn't so bad. There would generally be a little breeze off the ocean there, that would keep it livable, but at nighttime, being set in a circle of hills, the air would become absolutely dead, and get hotter, and hotter, and hotter. And, become very unbearable.

The rooms we had in the guest house were 6' wide and 8' long, had one small window in them, that had 1" thick wooden shutters on it - louvers, I should say - that you could open, but no air was stirring, and you just got unbearably hot in there. We didn't have any mattresses on the beds. All there were were planks with a blanket under you and another blanket over you if you wanted it. But you couldn't stand one over you. Very sultry, and very hot. We had one fan in the living room. It was a Japanese fan on the ceiling. It would circulate - it wasn't one of these big fans, it was one of the little ones. It would keep swinging around, you know rotate to all sides of the room. Roger Sands and I just couldn't stand it, when we'd first get down there.

About 11:00 at night, we'd start what we called our fan dance. That happened to be right over the dining room table. And, we'd get our there, and both of us would walk around and around the dining room table, staying in the blast of that fan, just to keep cool - in our skivvy shorts, no less. Then finally, Jack Schikofsky got another fan that we set up so it would blow into two bedrooms at one time and keep us cool. I guess Jack had had it two weeks or three weeks before he plugged it into the 220 and decided it worked a lot better there. It turned the fan over so much faster. About an hour of that, of course, and the fan was burned up and we were back to point zero again. Back to the old fan dance.

Those were tough days. We didn't have much to go on. Actually, I guess, I'd been visiting Milbuk 2 years before I got a cotton mattress to put on the plank, so that I got a mattress to sleep on.

I remember another one there, too. One of the Japanese ship captains threw me off three crates. A present for me. And I brought the crates into the house there, and opened it up, and it was full of Japanese whiskey. I thought, "Gosh, I have 3 crates of Japanese whiskey." Now, that's more than I'll ever drink in 10 years, so I've got to share it with everybody. So I gave everybody a lot of whiskey, and still had two unopened crates. It wasn't long before the first one was empty, of course - my giving away whiskey left and right. So I went and pried open the lid on the second one. There were bottles in there all right, but they were half-gallon bottles of soy sauce. So, I thought, "My gosh, this is a catastrophe. Here I am out of whiskey, but I've got another crate. That's probably whiskey." And I went over and pried the lid off

of that crate, and that turned out to be a whole crate full of Japanese jungle boots. The largest one was size 7. It would have taken 4 pair to fit me. So I made the mistake of not opening the second crates and ran out of whiskey in Milbuk.

The other story was about Stalag 17.

AHJ

Bryce, maybe before that, the amazing coincidence of two men at the Battle of the Bulge, and then showing up at Milbuk. That's kind of the background for Stalag 13.

BW

Yeah, I guess you're right. Well, Jack Shikofsky, of course, was - have you interviewed him?

AHJ

Yes I have.

BW

Oh, you have?

AHJ

You bet.

BW

Did he tell you this story?

AHJ

No, not this one. He told me about the smoke stack catching fire.

BW

Oh, yeah.

Jack was Hitler Youth, you know, in World War II. He was 15 when he went into the German army.

AW

Was it by choice, or by---

BW

Well, I don't know whether it was by choice, or what have you. All I'm saying is that's the fact.

And, Jack has a bad hand. He hasn't got use of all of his fingers, I think it's on his right hand. He was hit in the battle with the Americans there. Jack and I got to talking about World War II stories, because I happened to be there in the American Army, and he was there as a German soldier. He tells about the time when he got hit in the hand, that they were fighting by the mouth of a railroad tunnel. And, going

into the railroad tunnel was quite a ditch in the ground, where they just made a cut before the train entered the tunnel, and that the Americans were on the one side of this ditch, and the Germans were on the other side, having a fire fight. He finally said that they decided to get up and leave. He had jumped up and was running to the rear when he got hit in the hand. At about the same place, or same time, or what have you - I can remember very vividly a battle by the mouth of a railroad tunnel, where we did succeed in chasing the Germans out of their possessions across that big ditch. So it was probably a good chance that Jack was on one side of that ditch, and I was on the other. So when we exchanged these stories, Jack always accused me of being the one that shot him in the hand, and of course, I told Jack that I was sure it wasn't me. I informed him that I was a much better shot than that, and that I wouldn't have just hit him in the hand. But that's the story. Jack and I were always refighting World War II from different sides of the battle line, it seems like.

AHJ

He continued to accuse you of shooting his hand?

BW

Oh, yeah. To this day, I'm sure if you asked him, he'll tell you I shot him in the hand. It's all my fault.

AHJ

Okay.

BW

Well, that leads up to the Stalag 17 story. Jack continued to be quite an admirer of Hitler, actually. Quoted Hitler a good deal in his ordinary daily life. He was quite militant himself. He had a police force there in Milbuk that he used to take out on weekends and drill. And he taught them to do the Nazi goosestep, and whatnot, as they marched up and down the field, and had rifle practice with them, and everything else. I always got a kick out of that. Jack came over there, and of course, the climate was hot. He saw that most expats over there wore shorts instead of long trousers. So, he went down to the local tailor and had them cut off his long pants into shorts.

On any given Sunday, you could go out there, on the landing strip is where he had his army parading - on Sundays - and see Jack out there, in his best military fashion, directing the local police force, and marching up and down there in the Nazi goosestep. But Jack had his shorts made about 3" shorter than his polka dot shorts that he had on underneath. So there would be Jack out there with the most Prussian military salutes, and whatnot, you'd ever see, standing there with his kahki shorts on, and below that, 2 or 3 inches of blue polka dot shorts. It kind of spoiled the whole effect, really.

Because he was so militant like that, the - Max Sagrado thought this trick up. We'd built this veneer mill there and put up a high fence all around it, with barbed wire on top for security reasons. Ivan Wood was coming in to visit. The mill was almost completed at this time. I think Ivan and Chuck Cereghino and Jackson Beaman all came in at that same time. So, we were all in the Jeep there. Max had cued me in on this one beforehand. They'd made up this big sign that said "Stalag 17". He'd asked my permission if he could put that sign up on that compound there. So it so happened that the road came in and came right up to the fence, turned right, and went around the fence out to the housing area. While we were out at the airport picking up Ivan Wood and all the officials, the Filipinos put up this big sign along that doggone thing - Stalag 17. We drove up there. Of course everybody had to see it. It did look something like a German concentration camp, I guess. But Jack professed not to understand what they were talking about at all. He never understood what that meant. "What's that mean, Webster? What's that mean - Stalag 17? I don't understand."

AHJ

He put on a good show.

BW

Yeah. Yeah. He never did understand what it stood for. Jack has always been quite a German.

AHJ

Yeah, he has.

BW

Well, the story of the toilet seat. We had no guest house in Milbuk, in those days. Jack Schikofsky was a single person, so he had 3 or 4 bedrooms - small - as I say, 6' x 8', or something like that, in the house he lived in - so it doubled as a guest house. When the rest of us would come in there to visit, we'd stay in Jack Schikofsky's house. Well Jack is somewhat of a fastidious person. He had a toilet seat which he considered his own. So, when he wanted to use the toilet seat, he'd take it out of his bedroom, take it in there and place it on the toilet, use it, and take the toilet seat back into his own room. And anybody else could do with the cold ceramic work there.

Well, Jack was quite insistant on this and Harry Morgan came over to visit. And, Harry Morgan had to use the cold old hardware there, and didn't have the benefit of a toilet seat too. So, Harry took it good naturedly. But, after he'd been there on a visit, he bought Jack Schikofsky a fur-lined toilet seat, and sent it over to him. Jack thought that was just great. He never did understand what it was all about. He just had a brand new fur-lined toilet seat and besides, the old one had cracked anyway, so he threw it away and kept using the fur-lined one just like he had the other one. It never improved the situation.

AW

Kept it in his bedroom. Nobody else got to use it.

BW

Everybody else continued to use the porcelain. That was Jack's solution to the problem.

AHJ

How in the world did the story ever get started from over here? People would come over here and come back and tell stories in Tacoma that you were living pretty high off the hog, over here. How did that ever get started? We know it wasn't true.

BW

Well, I think it was just the fact that whenever we had visitors, we'd have a big party. And all they'd see when they were over here was a huge party, and never recognized anything such as work, I guess. We put all our food out on the table, and all our best dishes, and anything that we had nice, and we'd celebrate all the time they were here. When they'd go, it would be back to work, and back to hamburger and wild pig. But we did get this feedback in the early days, that we were living in a big country club out here in Southeast Asia. Actually, we stopped entertaining as lavishly as we had before when they came out.

AHJ

They didn't realize it was an exception to your usual way?

BW

That's right. In Sabah, for instance, it really used to hurt to put on some of those feeds. Because we didn't have food. We only got replenishment of our food supplies every six weeks or so. Sometimes that would come in spoiled. But we put it all out on the table, and after they left, we got by as best we could until the next ship arrived.

AW

Was it Thanksgiving that Jean - remember that Thanksgiving that we went over to Emmett's and 17 extra people arrived and we only had 3 turkeys. We had to send a speedboat back to my house because I had ordered my Christmas and my Thanksgiving turkey, and so we brought both my Christmas and my Thanksgiving turkey over and had them for Thanksgiving.

BW

We didn't have any Christmas turkey.

AW

And then the cook got drunk and Jean fired him. He was a Filipino and here we had 27 people for guests. And I guess you know there was a lot of high flying around there to get everything done. It all came out all right, but behind the scenes - they didn't see all this behind the scenes.

BW

Ah, there was the time that George Weyerhaeuser was going to come over to Manila. We had made big preparations for George's visit. Had a big card party planned that time. Had an appointment with George set up with President Marcos. Mrs. Marcos was to come out to a tea and a garden party in the afternoon, and we were all to go there to the garden party that evening. And, it was going to be a gala, big affair, you know. They had a whole company of the army around there guarding the place because the president and his wife were coming.

George got as far as Tokyo - found out he didn't have the proper visas to come into the Philippines. They wouldn't let him on the plane to come into the Philippines. Although he had an appointment with President Marcos, he still couldn't get out of Tokyo into the Philippines, and had to turn around and go back to Tacoma. He had had some bad info from the Tacoma travel bureau, saying he did not get a visa to get into the Philippines. In those days, you really did. So the whole thing fell flat on its face. I suppose we had \$5,000 to \$10,000 tied up in that party, and what not.

AW

But you needed a visa to get into almost any - Hong Kong was the only one you could stay so many hours, if you were ticketed out. But any of the other countries, you had to have a visa to get in and out, in those days. Not like now.

BW

But that was a big party that never happened. The guest of honor didn't show. George was a little provoked about that, I understand.

AHJ

I suppose he was.

BW

You might have heard about that somewhere else.

AHJ

I don't recall that I did hear that, Bryce, but I'm sure he was upset.

AW

He was, a little bit.

AHJ

This is the end of Interview No. 109.