

476 under his wing and said, "You know, this is something that I do and I have a math Olympics and
477 I do these kinds of things. Anything you want, I'm happy to help you." Now, the interesting
478 scenario going on at the time – I was the head of the Beaverton School District Budget
479 Committee and the Budget Committee, by law, is made up of non-district employees, and so I
480 couldn't be hired until we'd completed our job. And we were so far along into the process that
481 they didn't want me to be hired and have to step down. So what I offered to do was I would go
482 in twice a week to this one math teacher's class who had kind of befriended me and I would
483 simply volunteer. Because I wanted to get a feel for the culture in a high school math class
484 because it's a lot different from elementary or middle school and I needed to understand that.
485 So I volunteered for the month of January and then, of course, the semester was over, and just
486 into February.

487

488 **55:00**

489

490 P: And then when that job was done, then I started the next week. But I had everything ready
491 to go and I had requests tests, I wanted an A and B test that could be look at – just raw material
492 and not scored based on age or grade, because I wanted to know what do you know now; when
493 I'm through, what did I help you learn. And so I was provided with that, an A and B test form,
494 and we started in. So based on the time it took to do the testing and spring break and so forth, I
495 had just over three months of teaching. To my delight, the greatest gain was three years and
496 eight months; the smallest gain was one year and eight months, and most of them were in the
497 two, two and a half gain. And so I, you can bet who I showed those results to first (laughing).
498 But as a result of that, what they called the HILS program, High Intensity Learning Program,
499 was put

Part two begins here

504

505 Oh, we were talking about **Elmonica**. So my goal at the time was to teach at Elmonico for six
506 years so I could be with the kids who started in kindergarten and go up through fifth grade
507 because they were going in 6, 7 and 8 up to middle school, and then I wasn't sure what I was
508 going to do. I had toyed with the idea of getting my administrative credentials and actually took
509 a couple of classes at night, but then I realized that the demands on a principal wouldn't, I
510 couldn't meet them the way I needed to and still fulfill my responsibilities at home. And so I
511 opted to not pursue that, and then I was offered the opportunity to apply for a position as
512 program specialist for the learning disabilities program, which I did, and I served in that capacity
513 for six year, seven years or so, and then the opportunity arose to be head of the Assistance
514 Center.

515

516 Well, let me backtrack. As a learning disabilities program specialist, I acted as a resource for
517 the teachers who were the learning disabilities teachers in the grade schools, and then that
518 gradually expanded as cuts were being made, to include middle and high schools also. So I did
519 workshops, I provided consultation, I worked, I just worked with them, the LD teachers, to help
520 them to do the job that they needed to do in their schools. And then the Assistance Center
521 became available, or heading the Assistance Center became available and I was moved into
522 that position. And what our role was, was when the resources of a school were tapped out but
523 the educational needs of the student were not being met, then they would call in the Assistance
524 Center team and we would work together to come up with some solution. And again it was an
525 organization listening to all, and I really moved forward in developing another set of skills that
526 had become to emerge.

527

528 **1:00:03**

529 And what came out of that is something that most recently I took to Africa. And what came out
530 of that was developing what we called hopes and dreams process, whereby we would gather all
531 the stakeholders of the student – it could be parent, counselor, probation officer, foster parent –
532 whoever had a stake in the well-being of a given kid. We would come together, plus someone
533 from the school. We would come together and go through a hopes and dreams process, and
534 say what are our hopes and dreams for Johnny or Jill or whoever, and we would exhaust those,
535 write them down on chart paper. And the interesting thing is so often by the time they would
536 come to me nobody had a hope or dream. And so, because usually these were high school
537 kids, and as I became, as I began to use that process more I pushed it down into the middle
538 school because that's where it could really make a difference. But I would always familiarize
539 myself with the child's file, and so I knew if he or she could graduate or if he or she could get a
540 GED. And so when there was this very dead silence about "What's a hope or dream you might
541 have for Johnny?" and dead silence, then I would have something that I could offer, which in a
542 sense served as a model for how they could participate. And I would either say, "Well, my hope
543 or dream for Johnny is to graduate from high school," or if that was impossible I would say, get a
544 GED. And so then we would proceed from there, and then they would develop trust in what I
545 was asking about and the process, and then we would go to strengths and interests. And,
546 again, there was often silence, so I would really be paying attention to the young man or woman
547 and note what I could, and so often I was able to say – I mean, I was always able to say this –
548 "Well, this is a strength I see in Johnny that being in a situation that he would just as soon not
549 be in with adults, some of whom he doesn't know and others that he doesn't like, he's able to
550 act appropriately, make eye contact with me and engage in the process."
551

552 So, all of a sudden it would relax people and we'd be able to talk about good things that he or
553 she was involved with. "Well, he's really good with his younger brother" or "He really likes this"
554 or whatnot. Then I would try to get the Johnny or the Jill to talk about what are your interests
555 and so forth. And then we'd get to the fears and nightmares. And the one example that I used
556 to, that I use often in describing this process is – this was kind of at the beginning of the Gothic
557 look – the black nails, the black lipstick, the black clothes, the black hair and so forth – and I had
558 one young gal who came very much in Gothic look and I knew her mom was really
559 uncomfortable with that. But nonetheless, you know, I simply ignored it and moved on through
560 the process. And then during the fears and nightmares, mom said, "I'm afraid Julie's going to
561 get pregnant." And Julie looked at her and said, "Mom, how could you even think something
562 like that?" And mom said, "You know . . ." and she was stumbling for words . . . "Look at what
563 your friends look like." And Julie said, "Mom, you always taught me not to judge a book by its
564 cover." And you could just see mom relax and say, "She does listen to some of the things I say
565 or have said." And it just changed the tone in there because mom was able to freely comment
566 what her fear was and Julie was able to say, in a sense, "I may look weird, Mom, but I don't do
567 things like that."
568

569 And so then you move on the goals, so the question becomes how can we make the hopes and
570 dreams happen, capitalizing on her strengths and interests, and avoid our fears and nightmares.
571

572 **1:05:06**

573
574 And then we start writing goals and so forth. Well, I used that. And, it's not original. Every
575 step of your life you pick up some little thing and you keep building on it and finally you come up
576 with something that makes sense to you and you're able to work with it. So I claim no originality
577 with that. It's just how it worked for me. But since that time I've been able to use it in small
578 businesses, non-profits, a couple with my family and most recently I've taken it to Uganda when
579 I went with Medical Teams International. And I was asked to provide some strategies to the
580 peer educators there when they worked with the AIDS patients. In Africa as in many other
581 places, there's still a lot of stigma attached to HIV and so this was a request that was made of

582 me and I was able to take that process to peer educators there, and they were so excited about
583 it, and that really pleased me.

584

585 But, I mentioned I used that with my family – after Al passed away, I could just sense . . . Al was
586 such a strong person and had provided that rudder for the family and for the business and so
587 forth for so long that I could sense within the kids, “Okay, well now where do we go?” Even
588 though I knew that wasn’t a conscious thought, but I knew it was an unconscious thing. And
589 prior to Al’s passing, he had placed Mark in a position of leadership, so Mark had been running
590 the company on a day-to-day basis for a good three or four years. So it wasn’t that there was
591 that huge shift, but there needed to be . . . we needed to come together. And so in June
592 following Al’s passing in April, I called a family meeting. And I included all the grandkids. One
593 of them was out of town at work and another just got a job and couldn’t take the afternoon off,
594 but the rest of them were all here. And I went through that same process with the family in
595 terms of hopes and dreams for our family as a unit and for you as a member of our family. And
596 I had my easel and my flipcharts and we had paper strewn all around the room here, and
597 because we had, the youngest ones at that time were seven and a half, I modified it just a little
598 bit so that after we had exhausted all the categories, I went back and I reread everything and,
599 you know, pointing and following along to help the kids, the youngest kids, become more
600 familiar with the written word there. And I gave each family member 10 of those little red dots
601 and I asked them to choose the five top hopes and dreams, the five top strengths and interests
602 as they viewed our family and the three biggest fears and nightmares. They only got three for
603 fears and nightmares because they were so few fears and nightmares, which pleased me to no
604 end. And then that has become what we kind of refer to as who we are as a family because this
605 is something as a family we came to understand. And out of that, the top three hopes and
606 dreams were that we would always support one another no matter where we lived, no matter
607 what choice we made in our life’s work, that we would be supportive and care about each other;
608 that we would continue to give back to the communities in which we lived and worked,

609

610 **1:10:04**

611

612 and out of that came the Reser Family Foundation; and then the third thing was lifelong
613 learning. And I can only attribute that to the fact that they saw me go back to school and that
614 they see that as a value, and it doesn’t necessarily have to be a degree program; it can be any
615 way that you continue to learn and grow. And so that pleased me very much to know that that
616 process has served so many people well, including our family

617

618 W: Could I ask you, when you were in leadership roles in the Museum, how did you deal with
619 problems that came up? We had _____, of course, much more later,
620 and the boards that she selected were supportive of her. Working as a volunteer at that time,
621 we took it for granted that we had no access to the board and they had no access to us. We
622 were very focused on businesses, that particular business. How did you bring it all together?
623 Was it the same?

624

625 P: Working on, working with the museum board was my first foray after I retired, and,
626 remember I made reference to, I kind of sit back and get a lay of the land, and if that’s the way it
627 is, okay, then I’ll learn how to paddle my canoe in this stretch of waters. And I think I operated
628 under that premise because I didn’t know differently. It never made sense to me that a board
629 needs to be an elite group or be insulated one way or another, but I also recognized that
630 leadership sometimes feels, could feel threatened or undermined because in a sense the board
631 hires the leader and so there’s that piece. I think what I’ve learned most – not I think – where
632 I’ve learned the most is my interactions with Oregon State. I’ve served as a trustee for the
633 foundation now for, golly, it’s my third term, my second year of my third term, so it’s like 12
634 years or 13 years or whatever, and I recognize that not all boards and universities have this kind

635 of relationship, but at Oregon State the board, the trustees which are the foundation, the
636 university and the alumni association work very closely together, which is fabulous. It takes the
637 board president and the executive director to come to that understanding, but we have a pool of
638 resources here and they're serving on the board, unpaid, in order to bring their expertise to us.
639 And so how can we utilize them? But the board chair and the executive director have to
640 understand that and be in agreement with that, otherwise there's tension.

641
642 What I've learned at Oregon State I've been able to take to other areas. You know I serve on
643 the Special Olympics Oregon Board and I took a format that we use for our meeting structure to
644 them, just a suggestion, because I heard criticism, not a criticism but a concern that it was so
645 hard to get the subcommittees to meet. Everybody's so busy, da da da da, and so I said this is
646 something that works at Oregon State and it seems to work well.

647

648 **01:15:03**

649

650 Think about it; if that makes sense give it a try, see if it works. I was able to do a similar kind of
651 thing at **MTI**, but first of all there has to be a recognition that there is a need and then a
652 willingness to listen. And I think that's what I can take to groups now. On occasion I have
653 provided something for **Sam**, when I got something in the mail that just didn't seem professional
654 enough. Because like, the museum's in a campaign now. If you want people to provide
655 financial support, you have to show that there is a return on the investment. And that return is
656 not a monetary one; the return is putting your money to very good use, developing a
657 stewardship that is impeccable, a transparent activity so people always know where the money
658 is going. There's no mixing of the fundraising money versus operations money; that everyone is
659 working toward the same goal. So those are, that's the return on an investment from my
660 perspective. And those are some things that I think I can take to organizations, but
661 organizations have to be willing to listen, and you know one never knows where one is.

662

663 And then there's also the notion of growth. Sometimes you've grown beyond the skill set of
664 people's ability to carry it on. You know, I look at, I look at Al. He was incredible as an
665 entrepreneur. He would be dying on the vine now if he had to run the company because when
666 you're the size that we've grown to, you have to have more rules in place and he was not one
667 that liked rules. He liked to make rules, but then he had the permission to break them because
668 he made them. And, you know, he made some incredible decisions, but once you get to a
669 certain size you have to have structure there because you expect other people to abide by the
670 structure you put in place. He was an incredible entrepreneur and a growth person. He was
671 never going to be a maintainer. And he would die on the vine now.

672

673 Mark has the ability to maintain. He's not as much an innovator, but he has sufficient innovation
674 to put into place now, but he also has that balance of structure to keep the ship going. So
675 people come into play at different times. And the best of all situations, which rarely happens, is
676 that folks recognize when they need to bring some additional help in or. . . You know, Al always
677 wanted to run a lean ship and that worked well because he was so talented in so many areas.
678 And I used to talk to Mark and I said, "Mark, there's a difference between slim and anorexic and
679 at this point we're becoming anorexic – you need to get some help." And it didn't mean he
680 couldn't do his job, but get more help in the areas where you don't have time to be on top of
681 things. On marketing – Al was an incredible marketer, but he reached a platform where he
682 couldn't do it anymore because he couldn't keep 25 plates in the air. He could keep 12.

683

684 So that's a really difficult spot for anyone to recognize, it really is. And different organizations go
685 through those periods of time when they can carry an idea to a point but then they don't know
686 necessarily how to implement it.

687

688 W: Do you see any goodness in the museum being a non-voting membership, which in a way
689 doesn't give people any kind of investment in what happens other than the financial investment?
690

691 **01:20:02**

692
693 W: They have no personal involvement. They get the newsletter and they read their news on
694 their computer, but they're not involved in any of the structure of it.
695

696 P: I've had . . . Well, after the last steward meeting, I thought the staff put on an incredible
697 program. They knew what they were talking about. They gave such a broad overview; they
698 didn't drill down so deep that we were in the weeds, but you covered all the aspects of it well.
699 What I went home with thinking, "What role is there for stewards?" In order for me to feel
700 validated, I need to have a voice. I need to know . . . I can read about what's going on – that's
701 just information, but the word "steward" implies that you are helping steward the organization.
702 Now, whether it's through a vote or whether it's through committee structure or whether it's
703 through just active listening and getting feedback how your contribution is being listened to –
704 you know, that's a decision that the board needs to make. And I did share some of these things
705 with Virginia and one of these days – I needed to get through October – so she and I are going
706 to have a conversation and just talk about what it means to be . . .
707

708 Even my role at Oregon State, prior to our current CEO at the foundation, we had four in seven
709 years. It was, it . . . I don't even know how to describe it because it was a totally non-functioning
710 group. And we have to have a vision for what the role of a foundation is. Likewise, you need to
711 have a vision for what the role of stewards are. What is that body going to be; who do you want
712 on that body and what is the expectation of the body. I was brazen enough to say, "If I'm a
713 steward, that's not a board member, but I expect that I need to be making a financial
714 contribution. Otherwise, why am I a steward of what you're doing? I don't need more items on
715 my resume or my vita." And so, when Mike Goodman came to the foundation he'd had years of
716 experience of developing and running foundations, and he couldn't put obviously everything into
717 play at one time. It was step by step. One of the first things we did was take the trustee
718 number down from 77 to 41, and that takes time because you have to work with attrition, and
719 some people whose terms rolled off, they needed to be brought back because they did bring
720 something to the party. And so that's something to consider in stewardship. Is that a lifetime
721 appointment or is there a category of a lifetime steward who is an honorary steward because of
722 their lifetime's commitment? See, there's a difference. But stewardship should be term, it
723 should have expectations and it should have an opportunity for them to provide and receive.
724 Otherwise, why have them?
725

726 W: So you are going to be still actively involved with the museum in spite of your other
727 commitments? [Pat laughs.]
728

729 P: You know, I want a return on my investment and so that's one way to not insure it, but, you
730 know, we worked hard for what we've accomplished and I'm not going to go to my grave with a
731 luggage rack. And my family knows . . .
732

733 **01:25:00**

734
735 . . . that I'm headed the way Warren Buffett and others have. That we have provided well for
736 them and what I end up with is going to go into a foundation. And so they're actively involved in
737 the foundation. We're learning as a group how to make, provide grants and how to look at
738 applications and look for capacity-building, look for . . . And when I say return on investment, it's
739 as opposed to a handout. You're in trouble now, here. No, show me how you're going to put
740 your house in order with this. See, there's a difference. And so, I have an interest. Can I, do I

741 want to be greatly involved in the fundraising – no. I've done that for 15, 16, 17 years, whatever
742 it was. Let other people with creative ideas come to the board. I'll still support it because it's
743 important to me. And I will wait to see what the expectations of the – I keep wanting to call them
744 trustees -- stewards are. And maybe we change the name, because sometimes if a certain
745 label has been allowed to become less important and take on a connotation that's not what the
746 museum wants, then perhaps you do need to change the name. That this group of people, we
747 are expecting this, or whatever, and this is what we expect of you and this is what you can
748 expect from us. And so, you know, a lot of things have to go into this process. And it won't
749 happen overnight. It will take some time.

750

751 W: Okay now, what about your new interests?

752

753 P: Al and I traveled a lot and I think about all the places I've been in the world and it's just, you
754 know, I've walked on the wall of China, I've seen the terra cotta warriors, I've been to the Taj
755 Mahal, I've talked in Petra. I know, I visited the library in Alexandria and to me that's just jaw-
756 dropping what they've accomplished in Alexandria. I've been on Antarctica. Machu Picchu – I
757 haven't been there yet. I've flown over the [REDACTED] Lines in Peru. I've seen a lot of the world.
758 And, in probably the last 12 years Al and I did all of our travel by cruise line because once we
759 got that scooter on board ship, he was free to go anywhere on that ship that he wanted
760 whenever he wanted. It was a really freeing up experience. He wasn't able to do as much on
761 shore because sometimes you have to go via – oh, I forgot what they call those little boats – but
762 he couldn't get on and off the boat because it was bobbing next to the ship and it wasn't safe.
763 And so I wanted to, after he passed away, I was in Spain at the time. I was doing my second
764 walk on the Camino. And the year before Mindy and I – oh, I have to go back to that story, just
765 because it's cute and it shows Al's humor.

766

767 The year before Al and I were visiting in Mexico, which is where Mindy lives. And we were
768 talking about kind of our personal hopes and dreams, and I mentioned something, you know I
769 always wanted to fly – be the pilot. And I came to it because when I was teacher at Peter Bosco
770 I was on the third floor and you could see those planes take off from the – you didn't see them
771 taking off, but as soon as they cleared the tree line you could see those planes. So I always
772 had my aerospace unit in the spring when there were more planes out there flying. And then I
773 finally came to the conclusion . . .

774

775 **01:30:00**

776

777 ... that once or twice a month pilots are not safe pilots, you have to be up there a lot. And I
778 gave up that dream. But it was still wonderful to hold it. And then I mentioned to her that I
779 wanted to walk the Camino in Spain. "What's that?" So I told her what I knew of it. So that
780 year for my birthday I got this book that she sent me from Amazon. And it was, what's her
781 name, Shirley MacLaine, it was Shirley MacLaine's book on her experience walking the Camino
782 and inside there was a note that I will be your companion on a walk on the Camino. And I
783 thought oh my gosh, how am I going to get this past Al? Because, you know, we had never
784 taken separate vacations and definitely this was not one for him. And so I showed him the
785 book, and she surprised us for Thanksgiving, by coming home for Thanksgiving. And she said,
786 and she always referred to him as papa, "What did papa say about my present to you?" I
787 haven't told him yet; I told him about the book. And she says, oh, and so she crawled in bed
788 with him and said, after they talked a while, she said, "What did you think of the present I got for
789 Trish?" She always, she started calling me Trish in her school and so that name stuck. And he
790 said, "Yeah, mom showed me the book that you gave her." She said, "Yeah, but did she show
791 you what was inside?" And he said no, and so she told him. He thought for a while and he
792 said, "Did you get a receipt for that?" And she said, "Why?" "Well, if you had a receipt you
793 could take it back." So I ended up going on the Camino walk with her the next March. And Al

794 and I had gone down to Florida since then, a few, four, five weeks at a time at this one place
795 and so I commissioned a friend to go with him and so he, we had a planned activity for him and
796 so that worked out all right. So when we got back, Mindy and I were telling the family how
797 exciting and moving an experience it was and we said, "We're going to go back next year." And
798 Mike said, "Well, Deb and I will go with you because we like to do stuff like that, too." And so
799 between that time and the time we actually went, Mindy had met and fallen in love with her
800 current husband, and so there were five of us on this trip, and Al passed away just before we
801 returned. And when I got home I was putting my passport away, I've lost my travel partner. It
802 kind of hits you in waves; the realizations pop up at various times and so later on I remembered
803 hearing a woman from church talk about MTI – that's Medical Teams International – it used to
804 be called Northwest Medical Teams. And so I called her up one day in the fall and asked her if
805 she'd meet me for coffee. And I said, "Talk to me about MTI." So she told me a little bit about it
806 and I said, okay, I don't have any medical training, I'm this age – is there a place for me on one
807 of your teams? "Oh, yes there is." [laughter] So the next spring break I went to Guatemala with
808 a team. And we were installing wood-burning stoves in the homes in this particular community.
809 And the culture in that area is such that they have open fires in their homes. They're wood-
810 burning, and if you've ever been at a campfire you know what the smoke does. Well the
811 creosote in the houses, in many of them it just drips from the ceiling and the walls and so forth,
812 and so respiratory diseases in children and pneumonia and all of that are so inherent with that
813 kind of behavior.

814

815 **01:35:01**

816

817 And so, this community that they're working in has actually, it's a broader community, there are
818 20-some odd villages in that space or that area. If you think about it in terms of a county and
819 then 20-some odd communities within that county that you're working with. It's up in the
820 mountains in Guatemala. And I came home just so energized for a variety of reasons. It was
821 the first time that I wasn't the boss's wife. I've been the boss's wife since I've been 21, which
822 puts inordinate pressure on you that you don't think of. You see, it's simply what it is until you're
823 in a situation where it's not. And then I realized I was just a member of the team. I was just
824 another pair of hands and feet working together with the team. It was incredible. And, you
825 know, you weren't doing it for any acclaim, you were just doing it to help another human being,
826 and that family.

827

828 So I was, I got back on a Tuesday, I believe it was, and then the following Sunday we had a
829 birthday dinner and I said I want it at my house because I hadn't seen, I'd gone to Mexico,
830 excuse me, to Guatemala from Mexico, so I'd been gone for almost a month and I just wanted
831 my family around. So I was telling them all about it and I said I'm going back to finish the village
832 because we installed stoves in half of the village and the village folks decided on who was going
833 to get it, and the decision was, anyone who had a child five years or younger would get their
834 stove first because the kids hang around mom in their home. Once they go to school, once
835 they're five they go to school, and they're out of that environment for a good half day. So it was
836 really important to me to finish the job. And so again Mike says, "Oh, Deb and I will go. We like
837 to do stuff like that." As it happened, they couldn't go with us because we acquired two
838 companies that year and they were needed at home. So I got to thinking, oh, sometime around
839 January. I went to one of my grandsons, the oldest of the next grouping of grandsons, and I
840 said "Blake, I've got a great idea for you. I know you're really interested in getting into a
841 university that has a top engineering program. Of course, you know Oregon State has a top
842 engineering program, but in case your sights are somewhere else, this would look really good
843 on your resume. How about going to Guatemala with me and installing stoves?" Sure!
844 [laughter] So it happened to be I was at his house when I asked him and Laurie and Amanda
845 were at a softball tournament or they were somewhere out of town and so Mallory who was a
846 year and a half younger said "You're going to have to ask mom." No I don't! Dad was sitting

847 right there. He just kind of grinned. And so when Laurie got home, Blake told them all I'm going
848 to get to go and she said, "I've always wanted to do it." I didn't even get the word _____ out of
849 my mouth when he said, "Well, you're not going this time, I'm going with grandma." [laughter]
850 Which pleased me no end.

851
852 So then I went to Anthony, because I knew Anthony wasn't quite as adventuresome, I knew he
853 would agree to go, but I knew better to ask Blake first. So I went to Anthony and said, "Anthony,
854 I've got this great idea. And, you know, you can make a video." You can, because Anthony has
855 taken marketing classes and video classes, so I was pushing the video piece . . . And this would
856 look great on your resume and da-da-da-da-da. And Blake's onboard with this. Oh, okay.
857 So I took both of them with them to Guatemala. And now I don't even say "would you" – I just
858 say, "You get to go with me next year." [laughter] So sometime next year Mallory's going to go
859 with me.

860
861 But then when I was doing a debrief with Bev, with Deb, I, on a lark –

862

863 **01:40:00**

864

865 Well, let me backtrack. When we got back from Antarctica and that trip, I was leaving for the
866 Camino in three weeks, two and a half weeks. We were scheduled to go to San Francisco for
867 the Refrigerated Foods Association Convention in three days. I reached a point of no return. I
868 had all of these suitcases and I just . . . you know, sometimes you make decisions but you don't
869 know why you made them? And I said, "Al, I have seven suitcases." Because we had to have
870 clothing for warm weather in Rio and Buenos Aires; we had the cooler climate of Peru and we
871 had the freezing climate of Antarctica. I said, "I have seven suitcases; I've unloaded two. I can't
872 get us both ready for San Francisco. I'll get you ready." And Mark and Mike were going, and
873 Mary Jo was going – he would be well taken care of. As it was, he was able to almost, without
874 knowing it, say good-bye to all his old friends because Al was one of the first five who organized
875 what used to be called the Salad Manufacturers Association, and then they all branched into
876 other refrigerated foods. So, he – and where he got the energy, well, I know where he got the
877 energy, I mean he was so energized for it, and Darrel and Janet were there, it was their last trip
878 on those trips and whatnot.

879

880 So before he left he said, "You need to start planning our next one." I said, "I don't even have
881 the suitcases done! But, where would you like to go?" And I knew what he was going to say.
882 He said "Africa" because we had cancelled, five years earlier we had cancelled a trip that was
883 going to take us to Africa. And so I was, I did call our travel agent and okay, start sending me
884 things for Africa. And I got on the internet, because I knew he couldn't do a safari, but if I could
885 find a camp that was handicapped-accessible, he could stay in camp and I could do the one-
886 days. And so that's what I was looking for at the same time the travel agent was looking for
887 cruise opportunities in that area. And so, when I was debriefing with Deb regarding Guatemala,
888 on a lark I said "Do you guys have anything going on in Africa?" "Oh yeah, we've got du-du, du-
889 du, du-du and when do you want to go?" And, you know, all of a sudden it's put in my lap, and
890 that's another thing that I've, that I'm experiencing in widowhood, is all decisions are mine now.
891 I don't, I have no one to confer with, I have to confer with myself and decide yes or no. And so I
892 said, "Well, let me check my calendar. I've got my Fourth of July, my garden luncheon and
893 those are sacred, we don't mess with those dates, so it has to be after this time." And so we
894 decided to go – she would put together a trip to Uganda, because they make it flexible based on
895 people who want to go or are available to go. And so we went to Uganda.

896

897 In the planning process, I said, "Well, if I'm that close, I need to figure out a way to go on safari."
898 She said, "Well, if you go, I'll go." So then we tacked on a safari trip to that, to that trip to
899 Uganda. But I had a really interesting experience in Uganda. I went there; there was a team of

900 six of us and we were just going to be other hands and feet and when we got to Kampala we got
901 a little debriefing about what's been going on in this UNCRU camp, which is United Nations
902 Camp for Refugees in Uganda, and we heard there were five babies born on Friday.
903

904 **01:45:04**

905
906 Wow, okay. So when we got to the camp on Monday, cause it was inland, quite a ways south
907 and west, we were taken on a tour and I said, "Well, we're going to see the maternity ward,
908 aren't we?" And they said, oh, yeah. So we walk; this is – and I'm very impressed with how
909 they organize it. They'll see up to three to four hundred people in a day. People wait in line.
910 They wait quietly. There might be a baby or a toddler whining. There's hardly any conversation;
911 they just wait stoically and quietly. So we finally get to the maternity ward, which is at the
912 opposite end of where they're treating people with malaria, their IVs and their children beside
913 them because there are no babysitters around; you take your children with you unless a
914 husband is able to be there. So we go into the maternity ward and there are two beds, and so I
915 said, after we were shown, I said, "I understand that five babies were born on Friday." Yes, two
916 of them came in during the day and they were able to go home before dark and three of them
917 came in later. And I said, "But you only have two beds." Oh, no problem, we just made a bed
918 on the floor. See, I'm still looking at it with my Western eyes and so, back up, back up, think of
919 the resourcefulness, because I had to go through this process in Guatemala, and was so
920 accustomed to seeing our clinics and our doctors' offices at our hospitals from a Western
921 viewpoint, and I was really troubled by this. And I really didn't understand why this bothered me
922 so much more than the three women receiving IVs in the malaria area or the hundred plus
923 people waiting in line at that moment in time to see a doctor. And I tossed and I turned for two
924 nights. God, you directed me here, what is it you want me to see? And yes, I can do
925 something, but what do I do? Do I give a big amount over a long period of time; do I give
926 somewhat right now; I mean I had no clue. And I tossed and turned for two nights. Give me
927 some answers. Wednesday morning I woke up with clarity of thought. I knew exactly what I
928 needed to do. So I asked if I could speak to the camp director and the country director and I,
929 my first idea was, knock this end wall out. I've done remodeling, I've poured over plant
930 diagrams with Al as he explained things to me and so forth, and I said if we knock this wall out,
931 instead of the beds being this way you could put them this way and get six beds in there and
932 then you could add some more, have another birthing room. Because if someone's in labor you
933 can't, I'm sorry, I'm dealing with this person here. And I asked them to think and just pencil that
934 out, think about it and tell me what it might cost. So Thursday, this was Wednesday, Thursday
935 we go to see . . .

936

937 **01:50:00**

938

939 . . . make a visit to the UNHCR person, which is the United Nations High Commission on
940 Refugees. And he tells us in this meeting, "I have in my budget this year a building that would
941 hold 12 beds and it's going to be in the camp for women." But he said it so succinctly – a
942 building that will hold 12 beds. So when we got back I asked David and Felix, "How did you
943 interpret that?" He said it would be built big enough to hold 12 beds. But what about a birthing
944 room, what about . . . There would be nothing else. So I said, "Okay, you people know what
945 you need. Do a rough drawing, tell me what it would cost in US dollars and if you could have it
946 by Friday, I leave Friday." It came to me Friday morning with a diagram that had all of the things
947 that they needed in there and told me what it would cost. It's exactly what I woke up with
948 Wednesday morning. But I could still see, it's like the other shoe to drop kind of thing, and I said
949 there's something missing; what is it? It doesn't include beds. The building was just big enough
950 to hold 12 beds – what the United Nations was able to do. And how much do the beds cost?
951 And he told me what that would be and I said fine, that's okay. And so when I got back I sent
952 that check to MTI. When I went back this year, it was fully operational and we had a dedication

953 and it was very nice. And I actually painted a mural in the entryway of, they call it the women's
954 center, or sometimes it's called the maternity ward. So I basically just drew, or painted, the
955 structure, what it looked like, but with all the doors open and silhouettes, and then put it in a
956 jungle environment and silhouettes of three women coming, because the message is the doors
957 are always open, come early, don't wait until the last moment. And it made me feel really good.
958 Then we went up north and that's where I was able to do a workshop for parent educators. So
959 I'm not sure where I'll take Mallory next year to Guatemala, because it's something a teenager
960 can physically be involved with and see where it makes a difference and hopefully understand
961 how fortunate we are living in America and then as they get older I'll take them to Africa.

962
963 W: I think that's wonderful, a wonderful point to end. Pat, I can't thank you enough for a
964 wonderful experience.

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966 **01:53:36**

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970

971 **SEARCH TERMS**
972
973 Africa
974 Al Reser
975 Antarctica
976 Assistance Center, Beaverton
977 Avonlea, Saskatchewan
978 Beaverton High School
979 Beaverton School District
980 Beaverton School District Budget Committee
981 Camino Walk in Spain
982 Canada
983 Church
984 Cleveland High School
985 Cornelius
986 Farming
987 Forest Grove
988 Forest Grove School District
989 Franklin High School
990 Guatemala
991 Hillsboro School District
992 Learning disabilities
993 McKenzie Grade School, Vancouver
994 Medical Teams International (MTI)
995 Oregon State University
996 Pacific National Exhibition
997 Patricia June Valian
998 Portland State University
999 Refrigerated Foods Association
1000 Regina, Saskatchewan
1001 Reser Family Foundation
1002 Reser's
1003 Salad Manufacturers Association
1004 Special education
1005 Uganda
1006 United Nations High Commission on Refugees
1007 Vancouver, British Columbia
1008 Windsor, Ontario
1009 Wetmore Elementary School, Regina
1010 Washington County History Museum