

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
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-October 2013

PCM 031

Interviewee: Davis Stevenson

Interviewer: Candice Ellis

Date of Interview: July 8, 2011

E: This is Candice Ellis with Davis Stevenson on July 8th, 2011 at the Panama Canal reunion in Orlando talking about life in Panama. So I guess we'll just start right from the beginning. How did you find yourself or how did your family come to the Canal Zone?

S: Well actually I was born in the Republic of Panama, one of the rarities. My father was the editor of the *Panama American*, which was the newspaper published in Panama. One side was English and then you turn over to the other side was Spanish. And I was born on Calle Estudiante on July 9, 1930, and my father's coming to the Canal Zone is rather opaque. My dad was one, he was a newspaper man, so he was all over the place, but then we moved into the Canal Zone for a couple years. He worked for the Panama Canal Company and we lived on Ancon Boulevard. Then the family left, we went to Downers Grove, Illinois. Then we went to Puerto Rico, Haiti and Santo Domingo. Three days after Pearl Harbor was bombed, we left on the last S.S. Cristobal, the Panama Canal railroad boat for Panama. And we came back into Panama and we stayed ever since, and I joined the army in 1951, and went off to retire as a full colonel. The other day I was trying to think about the—I remember as a little boy riding the train across the isthmus and looking out Gatun Lake at all the stumps that were still up, the tree who were flooded, and I was always amazed by it. Today, when I go back, it kind of brings back memories to see this, most of them are gone. I

went to Balboa High School, I graduated from Balboa High School, was a mediocre student. [Laughter]

E: How did your father meet your mother? Was she in the Zone?

S: No, my father met mom in Puerto Rico and they were married in a town called Caguas, Puerto Rico. My mother graduated from college, wanted a degree in physics, but in those days women couldn't get that kind of degree so the only thing she could get the degree was in astronomy. She was a school teacher in Puerto Rico, that's where they met, and then my dad from Puerto Rico came to Panama.

E: They kind of moved around. I know you mentioned so you lived in the Zone and then you left briefly and came back.

S: Yeah. When we came back, we lived in Panama, and that was during the war.

E: So, did you live in the Zone during the war? Or did you live in . . . ?

S: No, no, we lived in Panama, and then later on we moved to Curundu, which was an army town. My dad went to work for the army in Curundu Heights.

E: Okay, but that first time that you guys were there, your father was working for the Canal?

S: No, he was the editor of the *Panama American*, the Panama newspaper, and then he went to work for the canal company for four or five years.

- E: Right. What kind of work did he do for them while he was . . .
- S: You know, I can't remember, but I remember this story that a family had lost their job because of the economic problems. A lady had –my dad resigned so she could take his job. We went back to States and down this road then to Puerto Rico. He got a job in Puerto Rico. If you asked me, as I say, my father's background is rather opaque. Sometimes I thought he was a reformed alcoholic or something [laughter].
- E: What was it living like in Panama for the first time? Did you guys have the Panama Canal housing? You know how they . . .
- S: No, no, no. We lived right in Panama City on—
- E: Okay so even when he was working for the canal, you . . .
- S: No we moved in and lived on Ancon Boulevard for a couple years, and I can remember sitting on our back porch and seeing the iguanas going up and down the royal palms. I shut my eyes and see it today, and it's maybe six, seven years old then.
- E: Do you remember if it was a single family home? Or was it one of those . . .
- S: No it was a four-family, the old French construction.
- E: The big, right, yeah.

S: Yeah, on Ancon Boulevard.

E: And then where did you attend middle school and elementary school?

S: Well, we were traveling so much, my mother taught me. I went to Calvert School, which was an extension school many, many years ago for students overseas. And I ended up back in the Canal Zone. I did not speak good English because we were in Latin America, had become totally bilingual, but my English was terrible. When we came back to the Canal Zone, because of my language problem I had trouble in school, so they put me back in sixth grade in Ancon with a teacher by the name of **Sue Core**, who was a very famous writer, and she was my mentor. In sixth grade I went to junior high school in Balboa and Balboa High School.

E: What was Balboa High School like? Was that a fun experience?

S: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I look back—well at the time I didn't think so because I didn't like school—but I look back at it and I think, you know, we make lifelong friends there that we still –today in fact, I was out and bumped into a guy I graduated with back in [19]50.

E: And would you say that the quality of education, you think? Even though you didn't like it?

S: Excellent. I mean the schools were very, very good schools. It was a great focus on education and I can remember we used to have flag football, and all of a sudden they're going to be tackle football. All of us were so excited that now we're going to play tackle football.

E: Oh [laughter].

S: Little things. Like we didn't have TV for many, many years, and they had black and white, we all used to sit around. And then the army came in with a colored TV. So, it was quite an experience.

E: Yeah. Describe an average Saturday night for a high schooler living in the area.

S: Drinking beer at El Rancho [laughter].

E: Yeah? [Laughter]

S: You know, we were such a close –I was a boy scout and we did a lot of scouting stuff, scouting. And we hung around –we used to have clubhouses, every town had a clubhouse. Like at Ancon clubhouse, there was a great big field to the right of the clubhouse, and you faced it where we used to play *rigole vian* [6:25], kick the can, and things like that. We'd all sit around there and we played a lot of sports, they encouraged a lot of sports. The canal company made . . . it was a utopian experience in a communist setting because the government controlled everything, and it was just great fun.

E: The government brought clothes in?

S: No, no, no. The government gave us jobs, they controlled the housing, and your house was based on your grade, so if you were high up, you were high up in the pecking order.

E: Right. I think somebody mentioned that just shopping was difficult within the zone, you know, shopping for clothes and stuff like that. That a lot of it was . . .

S: Well, we had the commissary. The commissary was built, and their guidelines within the commissary are pretty limited, and they had their clothes and things like that. And your choices weren't great because you had no other competition. And when I grew up, Canal Zone people very seldom went to Panama. In fact, I think my father-in-law, who was a tugboat captain, did not go to Panama in all the years he was there until I married his daughter and then they started going into Panama. They wouldn't even go to the movies in Panama because the Panama Canal Zone we had our own bakery, we had our own dairy, we had our own ice cream plant. So, everything was taken care of. They went on annual vacation to go to Cristobal to go on the ship to New York or New Orleans. So, there was quite a gulf there. That's what a lot of the Canal Zone kids never spoke Spanish.

E: So, you think that people just weren't interested in going to Panama? Or were there other reasons?

S: I don't think so. I think what the reason was that everything was contained there and they had no reason to go. Now, a lot of Americans had places up at the beaches at Gorgona, Santa Clara, and on the weekends they'd go up there to the beaches and we'd go fishing up in the mountains of Panama. But, I think the reason that the interface, number one, was transportation. When we were growing up horses were just starting to disappear and the Panama Canal Company took care of everything. We had our own movie halls, we had our own schools, we had our own clubhouses, own police force, own post office. So, why go to Panama? We had everything here. And the community is very close. If you lived in Cardenas, everybody in Cardenas would get together in parties.

E: Yeah, and you mentioned transportation. How would you have gotten into Panama if—

S: There was a bus; they used to have Chvias, what they call Chivas. If you go down to museum, you see models of them. Were truck bodies where they built a back to it, and everybody sat in benches facing each other and they're called Chivas.

E: Chivas, okay.

S: And we used to go to Panama in Chivas.

E: And then the travel between the Atlantic and Pacific side there was a railroad.

S: The railroad, then during the war they built the road, but in those days cars were still very luxury, and I don't think until about late [19]48, [19]49 as when we really started crossing the isthmus on the road. There was an early morning train, a ten o'clock train, a noon train, an afternoon train, and an evening train, and a ten o'clock train. So there was regular shuttle service, and I remember going to the ball games in the tunnel. I was waiting for the tunnel, it lasts about 30 seconds. You try to sneak in a kiss with a girl there. [Laughter]

E: Oh really? [Laughter] Was the train a place to socialize as kids?

S: Oh yeah. We'd go to the football games and basketball games, and all of us kids would get on the train, have a good time going across the isthmus.

E: How long did that journey take?

S: About an hour, hour and fifteen minutes. And it stopped at Peter Magill, Gamboa, Frijoles, Gatun, it stopped, and they had kerosene lamps inside it. We were, as I say, everything was taken care of. It was a lot of fun.

E: I guess we can move on to just different traditions like Christmas and New Year's and celebrations like that. How were they celebrated?

S: Normally Christmas, the company would bring the Christmas trees and they had one day where everybody rushed out and get in line and all the Christmas trees were out in a big lot and you'd run and grab yours. And the big thing after

Christmas, we used to collect the Christmas trees and we had what they call a Christmas tree burn where all the different parts of town collected them and in town, we'd have a Christmas tree burn and it was a big battle between towns. Guys would sneak in; he'd try to steal this guy's Christmas trees. And some of the Zonians still practice it here in the states. Like in Tallahassee, they have a big Christmas tree burn, where after Christmas all the Christmas trees were brought in and we would have a barbeque.

E: Be fun.

S: Oh, it was, it was a lot of fun.

E: Was it common for kids to have a part-time job?

S: Most of the part-time jobs were like ushers at the movie hall. And during the summer the company had a student program, but jobs like you find in the states, there were no Burger Kings or anything like that. There was just, a lot of us would sell sodas at the ball game to make extra money, or try to sell mangoes on the street, but here were no jobs because remember the government controlled everything. There's no private industry in the Canal Zone per se.

E: And how long was your family in the Canal Zone? When did you guys leave for the last time?

S: My father passed—when we came back in [19]41, my father passed away in [19]63. My mother passed away—god she's almost hundred years so I can't remember now. I joined the army in 1951 and left with commission, spent a year with a airborne regiment, then I was assigned to Panama run, met my wife June, who's grandmother was a telephone operator at Gatun in 1914 when the canal opened. So, her roots were way back.

E: So, she's been there for a while, she had been there. So, you went back to Panama with the military.

S: Yeah.

E: What kind of work were you doing there? Just stationed there?

S: I was a lieutenant in the United States Army. I was a crew leader in the 33rd Infantry Regiment. From there, I was very fortunate to be assigned to a diplomatic post, which lead to a great military career. I was a first lieutenant and I was assigned to the Paraguay Army mission for two-and-a-half years, which led to other assignments due to my thorough bilinguity and the fact that I carried a Panamanian passport.

E: Was leaving Panama the several times that you did, was that ever difficult for you because I know it is a very tight-knit community?

S: I don't think so because I had become accustomed to moving as a child, and moving was always a new adventure. We and my wife retired from the Panama Canal Company, and we left in [19]89. I wanted to stay but she wanted to leave. She was scared of Noriega, but I was still a full colonel in the army and from talks with some of my senior officers, I knew the invasion was coming, but I had no details. I tried to tell June, be patient, they are going to get rid of Noriega, but she decided we weren't. So, she retired and we came back to the states.

E: And that was in 1989.

S: [19]89. Both our children were born in Gorgas Hospital. My son was born in Gorgas, my daughter was born in Gorgas. My son was born in Gorgas, I was overseas in the army. [Laughter]

E: Aw. When did you get to come back? How old was he?

S: Well, June brought him back to me. He was about two months old when I was in Paraguay.

E: Were you there for the riots in 1960?

S: Oh yeah. In fact, I participated in them.

E: Really?

S: Yeah, we went out to dinner and my wife and I and our two children. As we walked out of the Tully Hotel, I saw the trouble. So, I took June home and I came

back, and I witnessed it 'til about one A.M.. And I took my car instead of trying to get back across, I went all the way around the forest reserve, went and told June, pack stuff, we're going to move back in the Zone with my parents or her parents. So, I drove all the way back around that night. We stayed in I think about a week, then we went back to Panama and then we went back and lived with her parents for another two or three weeks until things calmed down.

E: And what was the tension like then? Was it pretty bitter between . . . ?

S: Well you know, it was really –after the fact, I wrote my paper for General Staff College on the riots when I graduated from General Staff College. And I really think the resentment was always that we were there kind of—remember when we went into Panama, the ascendancy of power in the United States was colonialism. We had taken the Philippines, the Spanish-American War, so I think we went in there with that attitude, not intentionally. But English was the dominant language, we had silver and gold rules, did anybody discuss that with you?

E: Yes.

S: Gold and Silver rules, they paid the local rates in silver and the Americans in gold. So, we were brought up under that attitude and there was a lot of resentment from Panama because they had to come through the Canal Zone. The Canal Zone pretty stressed them when they were going between their

country. And I think if I was a Panamanian, I would have felt the same way: wait a minute, these guys right in the middle of my country. And the politicians stirred it up because it was like here in the states, tax the rich. Where in Panama it's, get rid of the zone; get rid of the Americans. And I think today when I go back, that attitude is starting to change. I'll give you an example of what happened. When the treaty was coming in, the military was leaving and there was a guy they shined in the barracks—we had shoe shine boys, you take all your boots and drop 'em off, he'd shine them and clean your shoes, and we paid him every month. There was a young man that polished shoes for twenty-two years in the barracks, educated three children through college based on that thing. The sand-blast Indians that did the pot-walloping, the cleaning up with the mess halls, made a very good living because the military would hire 'em. No GI ever did kitchen work. So, the politicians stirred it up because it was to their benefit. A lot of the Panamanians say, hey wait a minute, don't touch it because I'm making a good living. And another big resentment was in the Canal Zone, maybe they pay two bucks an hour. In Panama, minimum wage would be 50 cents. So, there was room for resentment. I was a great proponent of not signing a treaty. In fact, I put together a petition to congress; I did a lot of work. But now I look back and I see what's happened. I think that it was a good thing we signed the treaty because if we were still in Panama in the Canal Zone, everything would be painted gray and there would be no change because of the government. But when I go back to Panama City all the condominiums going up, I see all the improvements. What

the commission has done with the product we turned to 'em, I'm impressed. I have no resentment about that now.

E: During those riots, would it have been dangerous for Americans in the Zone to be traveling in Panama City? Was that . . . ?

S: They wouldn't have traveled because the army sealed off the borders. They couldn't. And most of the Americans, a lot of Americans came over to the Canal Zone and just stayed home. I'll give you an example, I was standing on the street corner about three weeks after the riot, and a Panamanian came up and said something to me in Spanish, *gringo whuebon*, which was a real insult. And I said, *panameño malcriado*. I said, Panamanian without any manners. And the guy I thought was going to fall off the curb because he never expected a comeback in Spanish. And for many years, there was slight tension, but it was real low.

E: Yeah, and where did you relocate when you guys left?

S: Well, my daughter married a boy from Georgia, and so we had a place in Florida, my daughter called, we were talking to her on the phone before we left, she says, dad, you know, you were gone a lot, you know, and we were gone, why don't you come up here so we can be close as a family? And that's where we are now.

E: And that adjustment just because you were so used to moving wasn't difficult for you?

S: Like I tell people, things like that don't bother me. My outlook on life: hey, I'm sitting here talking to you this morning, today is my day. If I come back here tomorrow morning, it's going to be my day. So, I don't look at life in a way a lot of people will. If I do, that's going to happen. I look forward to every day as an adventure. And I do, I really do. I looked forward to talking to you. I'll leave here, probably have no great impact upon the world, but I had a good time talking to you. [Laughter]

E: Well, that's a great attitude to have. I'm trying to think if we've left anything out. You know, we're really here trying to get a grasp on how things worked there and what the experience was like, and one of the things I think we're kind of interested in is just race relations in the Zone.

S: Let me say this: the Panama Canal was built mostly by Southerners. You know, they came out of the South so naturally they had that bias. But when I look back on it, I don't think there was a tension. Now, very true that the black community wasn't in the community; they lived in their own towns, and they worked side by side and had different pay scale. But I've heard guys being, oh you had silver fountains and the gold fountains. I think that growing up, we didn't really realize that there was any –because I don't think there was. I can remember the waiter at the Ancon clubhouse when I was growing up by the name of Johnny. We used to come in to clubhouse and he'd say, how you doing? And he'd sit down and he'd serve me a shrimp salad because that's all I could afford to get. And

Jackman who was a black man who did our, when we went to the gym he took care of our baskets. I don't think—the racial tensions that we had in the South I don't think existed.

E: Right, because that's what I'm thinking of. You know, and the civil rights movement and everything that led up to it and there's all these stateside politics, that, you know, how are they playing out in the Zone?

S: They didn't. But there were some guys who were racists, but I think they were racist just because that was the thing to do. I've got friends of mine that are still upset about Jews. And they say oh, the Jews this and that. And I ask 'em, why? Well, because maybe his father was or he was supposed to be. The racial tension I don't think existed. I really don't.

E: That's interesting. Just trying to, you know, get to the bottom of that because that's how it certainly seems.

S: You know, it only seems by people up here in the United States who try to build into it something that did not exist because it politically it suits their needs. Now, there was tension between Panamanians and Americans, but again that goes back to the fact that we're in their country. Many kids from Panama were in the Canal Zone schools. Their parents paid the tuition for them to be educated, they went to the States and got educations and came back. And I think when they start talking about the racial problem in Panama, I think it's a small group trying

to build something out of it that did not exist. You've got to remember that when the canal was built, first they tried Spaniards, that didn't work out. The French failed. They brought in Chinese, they failed. Finally, they decided to go to Barbados and bring the West Indians in, and they could stand the weather and the work. Very true that they were aside, but that wasn't because of any overt thing. Again, at that time the United States army was segregated, the government was segregated, so it was a spillover from the United States. But because there was not politics involved, there was none of the tension.

E: Well, that's a good point, that's interesting. You've really covered everything. Is there anything you'd like to add? Any particular memory that stands out?

S: As a kid, you know we, in fact, we were at breakfast with another friend of mine who was **Norton Thomas**. We talked about when we were boy scouts going to **the ball game [23:43]**. I says, Nort, remember when the trucks would come down with the fogging machines for the bugs? We used to run behind the trucks. Today, the environmentalists would have a fit with that.

E: Oh gosh, yeah.

S: Or sitting on our back porch and seeing a deer walk through the back yard from Ancon Hill. Or **Nikki** or a trees full of parakeets, and it was a unique—I was very fortunate to grow up in a unique situation which very few citizens ever get to do. I don't know how many times I stand in the **rock wall [24:21]**, watch that ship go

through, and I'm thrilled every time. I mean, to be able to sit there and say I'm a part of history, not very many people can say that.

E: How often do you get to go back there?

S: I go back there three times a year.

E: Oh wow, that's great.

S: I like to fish, but we had a travel agency that we started as a hobby. In fact, we're getting ready now to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the opening of the canal. We're putting a program together for that. In fact, we're going to talk to the university and see if they'd be interested because we do a lot of cultural trips for the University of Chicago and other universities.

E: You should take some UF students.

S: Pardon me?

E: You should take some UF students to Panama.

S: Oh yeah. But in the military, the United States Army was in Panama way before—the U.S. military used to cross the isthmus on their way to California. I saw a morning reporter report where they started with X number of troops and they crossed the isthmus, you know, lost them to yellow fever and this when they were waiting for the ship to come down from San Francisco. Commanded by Captain Ulysses S. Grant and he crossed the canal. And the railroad was built to

transfer the gold across. So, when you look at Panama, my god, how intertwined it is with our history; we've ignored it.

E: I agree and I think that this is why we're down here doing this kind of work and really hoping that some good research is going to come out of this because it really is such an incredible source of, you know, all these experiences and different dynamics that set it apart from the States and just made it its own interesting place. Do you guys have like a house down there or do you just stay?

S: We owned property; we sold it. I owned a farm down there in the Canal Zone. In fact, for many, many years guys from the Canal Zone would own the automotive distributorships. I think the first Balboa brewery was set up by an American family. The first whiskey distillery down there was set up by an American family. So that there was a lot of interaction, because remember in the Canal Zone there was no private business, so if you wanted to drink beer, who's going to supply the beer? There's a company that they manufactured it in Panama and brought it over. Same thing if you wanted to drink bourbon. Hey, you can't fabricate it so a company, they set it up and same thing if you want to buy an automobile, they didn't sell it so you had to go to Panama.

E: Is owning land there expensive now or is it . . . ?

S: Real estate values are going out through the roof because of the boom down there, but the cost of living normally is low. Foods for us is inexpensive, I mean,

for Panamanians it might be expensive with the dollar economy. Remember that Panama is a dollar economy; it's the only country in Latin American where you can drink the water right from the faucet because of the American influence with the filtration plants in the Canal Zone. The electricity is 110 Volts; it's not 220, because of the Panama Canal. So, the influence is spread in both directions.

E: All right, well I don't know if you had anything else maybe . . .

S: Well let me go back to this racial thing because I was at a board meeting where this was brought up by somebody and he was very snooty about it. I think it's somebody trying to create something that did not exist because of a liberal bias or political bias in the United States. A lot of us thought very fondly of the blacks, the West Indians. They weren't blacks to us, they were West Indians. I don't think the word Nigger was ever used down there; it was West Indians. And I think it grossly overplayed, trying to make an issue. You asked me about it; why did you ask me?

E: It's just for a researcher. I'm actually studying the American South, so, you know, race relations is like a marquee term within that. And you're assuming this is an American presence in Panama, and I guess just out of curiosity how does that play out when stateside; you have the civil rights movement, all the violence before it, everything that followed it. So, just because it is so closely associated with the mainland, you have to kind of wonder what the state of it was, I guess, is really what I'm trying to get down to. Because I know, you know, it was much

different than what was happening elsewhere, but with that said, what was happening? What was going on? And it's really just that. I don't think any of us are trying to . . .

S: Well, I realize that.

E: Yeah, just curiosity really, because it is such a new thing. I've done the research and I've tried to find publications and stuff on this, and it really is a new, new thing.

S: Well, if we're in that relationship then if you want to take a look. Look how many Canal Zone people married Panamanian women.

E: Right, and that's another thing that we come across all the time. So, it obviously is very different.

S: And not lower case, a lot of high class, middle-class Panamanians. They didn't marry the trash. A lot of people say, this, but they were well educated Panamanian women. Go out and look around, all the wives. Now the big, big blow in the Canal Zone, speaking of that, was when they integrated the police force, and for a long time West Indians and Panamanians couldn't get U.S. ranked as policemen and firemen, but that was done away with. So, they were integrated in to the community. There were some mumbling about that but it didn't last long.

E: Right. When did the integration happen?

S: You'd have to ask an ex Canal Zone worker.

E: Yeah, it's just interesting because it's so different and yet it is still an extension of the U.S. so . . .

S: Well, the extension was because the Southerners that built the canal.

E: Right.

S: And nothing else. Their influence was great there. Most of the carpenters, steel workers, all those people came out of the South and there were deep roots into the South. Well I hope I've given you a good mental image this morning.

[Laughter]

E: You really have because I'm really trying to grapple and understand this question as a historian of the South and figuring that out, and I think, you know, the more of these I do the better understanding I have of the conditions down there and what it was like and it's really great. I feel like if I could speak Spanish, I'd be writing my dissertation about this, but it's . . .

S: Well if you want to do some side research, take a look at the population of the Canal Zone. How many of us joined the army and served in the military? See how many were boy scouts and became eagle scouts, how many of them went and got college educations, and we're way out of proportion to anything in the

United States. If you look at say, an average town of 5,000 people in the United States, see how many got a college degree, advanced degrees, how many joined the army. It would be a nice research project because the results stand: most of the Canal Zone kids went off to college. The majority of us went off to college. A lot have joined the army and spent time in the army. Most of us were boy scouts.

E: How high up in the ranks did you go for the boy scouts?

S: In the military? In the boy scouts?

E: Yeah.

S: I was a star scout. I was on my way to being a—I was a senior patrol leader, but you know.

E: Was there opportunities for higher education within the zone or in the area?

S: We had the Canal Zone College junior college for a long time, then Florida State came in and University of Louisiana came in. You could take courses there.

E: They established satellite branches?

S: Yeah, and the Panama Canal Company had an apprentice program which was equivalent to four years at college. When you graduated from there after four years in their apprentice program, you were well-trained, well-educated technician, electrician, plumbers, iron workers, pipe fitters. And most of them

migrated in to the Panama Canal. If you ever go down the Panama Canal and you go in the control house, get down below, and look at the work where the different colored cables come down that they installed back in 1914, they come at perfect right angles, down perfect right angles. The Panama Canal had a fantastic apprentice program, one of –and a lot of Canal Zone boys took it and stayed there as electricians and everytthing else. [Laughter]

E: Mhmm, interesting.

S: [Laughter]

E: Well, thank you for your time.

S: Oh my pleasure, young lady, and I hope that we contribute to it and I hope we've-

E: I think you really did clear a lot of interesting things up for me. That was great.
Thank you.

S: And I hope we dispel this racial thing; I don't think it was consistent.

E: That's good to know. It's just coming from what I'm studying, you are always like, you know, looking out for that and tense to that, but I understand that it was just, in the North it was completely different, you know, the way that it played out there. And then we have this, and it is relatively un-researched, and the publications on the Panama Canal have really been earlier things about the

building of the canal and not this vibrant, you know, social aspect. So, I can't wait to see what people are going to do with this.

S: What other town, or company in the world, could have 3,000 people show up every year to a party?

E: Yeah.

S: Have you been out there in the lobby in the evening?

E: Uh-huh.

S: Isn't that amazing?

E: Yeah, it is. And I'll be talking to somebody and mention someone who I've interviewed maybe last year, and they say, oh yeah, I know that, yeah. So, it's definitely, it seems like it would've been really neat. The first time I did it, I came down here, Dr. Ortiz had given me a few readings to do and little things about it, but I still had no idea. And I started doing the interviews and I thought, I am so jealous. [Laughter]

S: [Laughter] Why are we so lucky and you not?

E: I mean that's just being like bratty, but it sounds really neat.

S: Well I'm glad I could help you young lady.

[End of interview]