

**Transcription:** Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History

**Interviewee:** Richard Hanson (RH)

**Interviewer:** Tom Martin (TM)

**Subject:** Richard recounts visiting Cuba, two trips to Vietnam, and his wife's 2019 spinal injury

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TM: Today is Sunday, February 21, 2021. This is a Part 10 Grand Canyon Oral History Interview with Richard Hanson. My name is Tom Martin. Good morning, Richard. How are you today?

RH: Good morning. I'm good, thank you.

TM: Good. Richard, we talked in Part 9 about this amazing sort of revitalization of your career with the Park Service that took you all across the Pacific working on trails, this amazing stuff. It got you another, gosh, another ten years in with the Park Service, or so, and you retired then in 1964. Can you pick that story up and complete this off for us?

RH: I retired in 2011, not 1964.

TM: Sorry, you were 64.

RH: Yeah. 63/64, yeah.

TM: Okay, thanks. Then did you have a going away party?

RH: You know, when we left Olympic and Port Angeles, my wife and I, we had probably the classic going away party cause we were actually gonna move over to our property here, too.

TM: So was this in 2011 or was that...

RH: No, this was in 2000.

TM: So what happened in 2011? Did you go through that, you got two retirement parties? (laughs)

RH: Well, I did a small thing over here, very small because we'd done just a huge...had a 350 person party in Port Angeles.

TM: Oh, wow.

RH: Yeah. So I always felt that I had had my retirement party. The day after I retired, or maybe the week after, I was flying off to Cuba. So when I came back, yeah, went up to the park, had a luncheon and got a couple of plaques and that kind of shit but no, it was low key when I retired the second time that's for sure.

TM: Okay. What was Cuba like in 2011?

RH: Cuba was absolutely a wonderful, wonderful place. It's got a solid place in my heart because it was the last trip my brother and I did together and also my nephew, and met his future wife the first time. It was spectacular. I've always enjoyed Communist or Socialist countries. I don't know why, but I feel safer and more open than I do in just about any place else. I mean, Vietnam, I just walked through streets in the middle of the night. Nicaragua, Cuba. So Cuba was wonderful, the people were incredible, their music on every street, the food was decent. With 50 years of sanctions and such it was amazing to drive around and see how they organic farmed. They've got organic farming down to a science. The reefs were beautiful because there wasn't cruise ships parking on them and dropping anchor on them. The history was incredible. We stayed at pensions, which are private houses, so I met some really wonderful people. We were staying with this lady, her first name was Mercedes, and she was ten or twelve years older than I. We were on our balcony and we were looking over the plaza and I asked her, I said, "So did the Revolution work?" She said, "You know, I was 16 years old when Che and Fidel, Raúl, all the people came marching into the capital right there in the Zocalo." She said that, "Yes, it really worked but it's time for a change." Those were her exact words. We talked about the health care that they had, schools. Very unique from some other places I've been. Even little out of the way farmhouses had electricity and power. A whole lot different scene than Nicaragua. I'd been in Nicaragua when Somoza was the dictator and I'd heard about Sandinistas back then. It was like 1971 or '72. I returned 30 years later and very disappointed in what Ortega and the Sandinistas and such had done but still, I mean, it was beautiful country. But they basically went from one dictator to another dictator and that's sad. Vietnam, I was absolutely just blown away. They went from one of the poorest countries in the world, them and Haiti back in the 80s, to just this vibrant, stunning economy, absolutely beautiful, beautiful, beautiful people, and they absolutely...internet everywhere. That's one thing, Cuba I think has started to allow internet. But in Vietnam it was any little chicken bus you might be on going out through the jungle and wherever you're at you had great Wi-Fi. And the people used it. The people organized, especially on local levels. They thought the government was screwing up. They were free to organize and tell their side of it, and sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't. But all those countries, I'm getting away from Cuba a little bit but Cuba itself, and the one thing that I take from Cuba also is there's a lot of ethnicity down there, is that how you say that word? There's a lot of Blacks, there's a lot of European kind of Spanish, and there's a large Black population. I asked the lady, I said, "Is there racism in Cuba?" This was a Black lady, she said, "No, we're all Cubanos." I thought that was real interesting also.

TM: Where else did you go in the 2010 to 2020 time period? Did you travel a lot or did you just hang in Hawaii and such?

RH: No, I didn't, we didn't travel a lot. I did. My wife was really not interested in... Well, I didn't invite her (laughs) to journey back to Vietnam with me. I made two trips, two long trips over there. The first one I flew into Hanoi, a place I'd never seen before, and traveled... Spent a lot of time in Hanoi, one of the great cities of the world. And traveled a lot up by the Chinese border, and Hả Long Bay, and up in the indigenous hill tribes, a lot of Black Hmong and Hmong and Montagnard. Did a lot of hiking and trekking up there and journeyed. The furthest south I got was Huế and that was a place that I'd been. Went and checked out a couple of battlefields. It was the biggest battle of the Vietnam War. It was the Tet Offensive when they came and basically... That was 1968 when after that Tet Offensive where they just hit every city in South Vietnam, including Saigon, attacking our embassy, and every... The battles raged for a long period of time. The Citadel in Huế held out for two and a half/three months and after the Tet Offensive there wasn't a guy in-country that thought that there was ever a chance we were gonna win

this war because they just came out of friggin' everywhere and it was just totally obvious that, you know... So from '68 to '75 everybody, including the politicians, knew we were never gonna win. It was just this face-saving exercise that caused another 30-/40,000 deaths.

TM: Was it cathartic for you to go back and spend time there?

RH: Very much so. Very, very much so. One of the things I wanted to do, I don't know if I told you this, one of the things I wanted to do was meet with a North Vietnam regular. I called these trips, to myself anyway, they were gonna be my apology, you know, it was an apology tour 'cause I've lived with the fact that it was a bullshit war and I was a part of it. I tried to do my part and when I got back doing the demonstrations and being court-martialed and that kind of stuff to try to say I was sorry. So I took this little hand-carved bird out of ivory that I'd had for a long time. A guy from the Peace Corps back in the 70s had brought it to me. It was three inches tall, very detailed on a nice wooden base. I said, well, I'm just gonna give this as a representation, cause Vietnamese love the bird. So I organized this trip. I didn't know anybody over there, hadn't been there in 45 years. Got online to have somebody help me get my visa and such and she spoke fairly good English. I said, "Hey, one thing I'd really like to do is meet with somebody that fought in the America's War." They call it America's War, here they call it the Vietnam War. She says, "I think my father knows somebody and I'll see what I can do." So I'll give you the Cliff Notes here, bro.

TM: Yeah, cool, thank you.

RH: It was the third day I was in-country and she comes over on her scooter; everybody's on scooters. Her parents are with her, they have their scooters. I get on the back of the scooter with her father and we journey about fifteen miles out of town. I'm thinking the whole time this friggin' place is gonna kill me yet because the scooters and shit over there and the traffic is just insane. It's just absolutely... We pull into this compound—and they'd told me we've got a half an hour to 45 minutes. Pull into this compound, we go to this house, real kind of, you know, it's like a step or two above what I'd been seeing. I walk in and here's this gray-haired old gentleman probably in his 80s, and on the wall the first thing I see... He's got his wife there, he's got his kids there, he's got his grandkids there, all to meet the American. I look up on the wall, there's these huge portraits of him and Ho Chi Minh, him and General Giáp. I look over in the corner and there's this case with just a ton of medals in it. I just go, f\*\*\*, I'm out of my league here. I mean, I was a friggin' Private and I'm looking up and here this guy... They come over and he just gave me... I'm pretty emotional and I wear my feelings on my sleeve. He comes over and he just gives me this massive hug and he points to the couch. He starts walking me over to the couch and I can see that he's lost a leg. We sit on the couch and I take out my little bird and I just start crying like a f\*\*\*\*\* baby, like a f\*\*\*\*\* baby. I hand him this and he sees that, you know, I'm pretty emotional. He just grabs me and just hugs me so friggin' hard. I felt totally like this immense friggin' release 'cause I'd bought... I didn't buy a ticket with a return date, I was gonna see how things went. I was gonna make this little gift and then if I got a "F\*\*\* you, American," you know, this kind of attitude, I would have flown back and so, okay, I've done what I came to do. But, this guy was just totally amazing. The only thing about war that we talked about is I asked him how he had lost his leg. He had lost it in a major battle that it turned out my brother was at. It was a battle the Vietnamese call the Battle of the Screaming Souls. I go, wow, we call ours Hamburger Hill. Battle of the Screaming Souls. He says, "Yeah, you can go out there today and you can still hear them." He had got hit with mortar and it wasn't bad, kept on fighting, but he had to be evacuated up the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which took him a little over a month to get from where he got hit to where he could get antibiotics and get some help in Hanoi. By the

time he got there, he said they were cutting off six/eight inches every four or five days during the journey.

But he wanted to know about... One of his real poignant questions to me was how does America treat their veterans. I wasn't there to bash America, I wasn't there... I just told him straight out, I said, "Well, not very well." Said the homeless rate for veterans is twice the national average, suicide rate the same. If you want to go to a veterans' hospital sometimes you might have a month or more before you can make an appointment. I just, you know..., and he about started crying. We got that kind of out of the way and we were just sitting there talking and I hear this commotion coming from another room of the house. I look at my interpreter, Mag, and I said, "What's the matter?" She says, "Well, you gave them a beautiful gift." He had taken this bird and put it right in front of his case of medals. I mean, and he had some friggin' salad. He had been at it a long, long time. She said, "Now they have to give you something." I'm, "No, no, no, no. I'm not gonna take anything." She says, "You're gonna have to." They brought me in this beautiful plate with a very serene scene: Vietnamese, rice paddy, stilted house, beautiful lady and all the writing around it. I said, "Can you read this for me?" She looked at it and she goes, "Oh, wow. This is what he was presented when he lost his leg." I said, "F\*\*\*, I can't take that. There's no f\*\*\*\*\* way I'd take that." She just, "You have to." So I did. We ended up staying probably three and a half/four hours instead of the 35 minutes we were allotted. I called him Santa Claus, he was just f\*\*\*\*\* incredible. He had fought the French and that's where he got to know Ho; he'd been in Dien Bien Phu, fought the Americans, and he told me, "We knew America was coming the day the French left. We spent two years preparing for them before America came in." They fought the Americans. He was the head guy in the Vietnamese Army that went into Cambodia and overthrew Pol Pot. Because a lot of Vietnamese were living in Cambodia at that time and they had had enough of the genocide, and so they had gone in there and... And then he fought the Chinese in the Border War of 1979/1980 when China just came across the border. What he told me, Mr. Trom told me, was that defeating America had given them a reputation in Southeast Asia, that there was no quit in them. So when they met at the border, Chinese came in and they got about 30 miles into Vietnam so that means they were only about 50 miles/60 miles from Hanoi. They had, I guess, a couple of really hellacious battles and China went back across the border and hasn't been back. So this guy had been around and this guy had been... I just looked at him and I just go, I'm sitting here a f\*\*\*\*\* mess after being in for three and a half years and this guy had fought for 45 years, 45 years. But he was on the right side, you know. So, yeah, it was very cleansing, very nice.

I went down to Huế and I flew back, and two years later I went back. Flew into Ho Chi Minh, Saigon, and thought I'd spend some time where I'd been and where Brother had been. That trip turned into... I don't plan anything when I travel. It's like, okay, I plan maybe two days ahead what I'm gonna be doing. Went to a few places, got all kind of emotional. Went down to the Mekong Delta where it pours into the South China Sea and hopped on a little boat, looked around there cause I'd been down there and Brother had spent a lot of time in the Delta. Just absolutely blew my mind. I forgot how harsh it was down there. Then I heard about a ferry that runs up into Phnom Penh and I just told myself, s\*\*\*, let's try to stay as long as we can on this river. I spent three and a half weeks/four weeks traveling up the Mekong in all kinds of different boats: rice haulers, a ferry now and again, a fast boat, a slow boat. Made it all the way from the South China Sea, the Mekong Delta itself, up into Myanmar.

TM: Wow.

RH: Yeah, I don't know how many clicks that was. I've looked at a map, I think it was close to 800, and met some fabulous, fabulous people. Spent a couple/three weeks in Cambodia, went from Phnom Penh

up to Tonle Sap River to Angkor and spent a week running around Angkor Wat, which was just incredible and still... Then the other big emotional deal was the Killing Fields. I mean, just absolutely, absolutely insane. I was there with a guy whose father-in-law was killed there. He spoke good English, tuk-tuk driver. Became friends with him, would just tuk-tuk around Angkor, Phnom Penh. Then at Vientiane in Laos, I hopped back on the f\*\*\*\*\* river and went through Laos. Spent a couple/three weeks in that spectacular country. That was the only place where I felt some hostility. We had carpet bombed Cambodia and Laos for a couple of years. Neither one of them had a dog in the fight but, you know, the Ho Chi Minh Trail ran through Laos into Cambodia and around so we didn't let borders stand in our way. There's still a lot of unexploded ordnance in Laos so people there were fairly bitter that people were still getting their legs blown off 35/40 years later. And, you know, we did nothing to help clean it up. I think Obama maybe made a show to go in there and clean it up, but Haz Mat, too, and Vietnamese, they're just (laughs) superfund sites all over where we left them. So got all that out of the way, spent a lot of time in Southeast Asia. Was planning on another trip to take some of Brother's ashes back there. He was too sick to go the second time. First time he wanted me to go and feel it out. I came back just going, "Hey, f\*\*\*, man, you gotta go." He says, "Okay, next time." He was too sick to go the next time and then he died not too long after that, a casualty of the war still; Agent Orange, PTSD. He said he wanted to... Nothing like a brother to send you on a world tour with his ashes. I said, "Where do you want your ashes. Where do you want your ashes?" He says, "Well, I'd like some taken back to Vietnam, want some up on the Snohomish River, leave some over in Maui, leave a few f\*\*\*\*\* at Safeco Field in Seattle." He had about ten places. I've gotten to seven of them and his ashes have gotten to a couple. The only place left was Vietnam and then my wife got hurt and so traveling has been put on hold for a while, and then the Pandemic.

TM: Tell me what happened to Chew.

RH: To Chew my wife?

TM: Yes.

RH: She fell off a roof here at the farm. I was standing right there holding a ladder.

TM: When was that?

RH: June of 2019, about 17/18 months ago. She stepped on the ladder and the ladder just started folding in and she went thud. I knew exactly what had happened. She was unconscious for... And all this sh\*\* man, it like flashes you back. I was a medic in Vietnam and that came in pretty handy a couple times in the Grand Canyon, but I knew exactly, exactly what had happened. We're a tough place to get an ambulance to. It's four wheel drive but, by God, those guys made it. Took about 40 minutes to get here. She was conscious, there was definitely no feeling. So she got air evacuated to Honolulu in Queens Hospital, helicopter air evac. We were over there for about six weeks in Honolulu and then we got accepted to the University of Washington's spinal rehabilitation place in Seattle. We were there for three and a half/four months. It was a long journey but, by God, we... I mean, even by the first week at Queens we were laughing more than we were crying, and we've tried to stay that way. But, you know, it's no doubt that it was a blink of an eye life changing event. You know, you think none of that sh\*\*'ll ever happen to you but, by God, don't blink or it will.

TM: Right.

RH: So our days are up here are good. I don't know how much longer we'll be able to hold on up here. Being a caregiver is one of the hardest jobs that I've ever done, and I'm used to moving big logs around, building bridges. But it is also one of the most fulfilling to go in and help her roll over and turn her so that there's no bed sores, and to articulate her, and to try to get her out of pain, and just help her clean up after an accident, take her down the hill so she can drive the van into town. Sometimes I can hear my voice getting a little cranky and then I just say, "F\*\*\*, hey brother, man, no f\*\*\*\*\* way you can be cranky." She's easy because she is so positive.

TM: That's huge, isn't it?

RH: Yeah. Like she'll say, "Well, I can't help but be positive because that's my blood type." (TM laughs) Perfect, perfect. We still laugh more than we cry. She's taken on new interests. She was the most active person that I... The last picture I have of her able-bodied is she's out weed whacking the farm. Had a big weed whacker strapped on her and the next day she was paralyzed. There's some short videos if you want to see what she looks like and how she's doing on my Facebook.

TM: Oh, yeah, I'll look for that.

RH: There's a couple of nice ones from Queens. One of my favorite from Queens was our first date after three weeks in the hospital, so we finally were gonna get to go down to the cafeteria. She was gonna get out of her room, we were gonna get to go down to the cafeteria. That was just funny, it was just funny. I watch it when I start getting depressed. It's like 40 seconds long. So it is what is, you know. Financially we took a big... She was 50% of our income. When she went thud that all changed. I'll tell you a little story. So it's like Day 4 and she'd just been in to seven hours of surgery putting steel plates in her back so she wouldn't be like Raggedy Ann. I'm sitting there and she's just starting to wake up a little bit from surgery and she looks at me and she mumbles, "There's \$60,000 buried in the back yard." I said, "What?" She said, "There's \$60,000 buried in the back yard." I said, "Chew, you just got out of surgery and you still don't...just go to sleep." She went back to sleep. About three or four hours later she wakes up and I said, "Chew, did you tell me there's \$6,000 buried in the back yard?" She said, "No, I told you there was \$60,000 buried in the back yard." I said, "What the f\*\*\*? What are you talking about?" It turns out that since she started her job at the Coffee Shack, she had been putting \$10,000 a year on average and burying it in the back yard.

TM: Wow.

RH: (laughs) I know. I know. She says, "Follow the Ohia tree roots, the Ohia tree growing on the big rock, follow the roots down to the ground. Look under there, there's a ledge and in there is a ammo can and it's got \$60,000 in it." And sure enough... That was just, it was like she had a feeling that we were gonna need this sometime or another. It just absolutely saved us. I mean, it was like, okay, 'cause over in Honolulu, man, you're bleeding 300 bucks a day easy. And Seattle, and just her not working anymore and needing all this stuff to refit a house. So that was huge. That was just a story that, you know, it just summarizes her.

TM: Nice.

RH: Yeah. It was, it was incredible. And then all the other stuff that came along with that. You know, we've always been generous people. Every time we travel I try to find one person and depending on what they need, get it for them. In fact, I bought my first wheelchair in Phnom Penh. The tuk-tuk driver I

was telling you about has a son that had polio. He showed me pictures of his family. You know, lived in a little house just outside of Phnom Penh. He said, "Yeah, this kid's on crutches going down dirt roads. I just need to get a wheelchair. As soon as I can get a wheelchair it's really gonna help him go to school," and all this s\*\*\*. I said, "Well, where do you get a wheelchair in Phnom Penh?" I just told him take me there. We went over and, you know, I think it cost... In Phnom Penh, it cost me a hundred and thirty dollars to turn some person's life totally around. So now neither one of us is ready to friggin' feel that it's the end of the world because this happened. We don't have that feeling whatsoever. We went up to a hotel with Sharlow and some other people and spent a night or two over Valentine's. Got in the pool and she's just swimming around with water wings on her legs so she doesn't just (laughs). She's so f\*\*\*\*\* funny. I mean, she's just so funny, just always f\*\*\*\*\* smiling. Yeah, yeah, it's been f\*\*\*\*\* great.

TM: It's just interesting thinking about moving on with what life deals you as the Vietnamese have done, as the Cubans have done, as you and Chew have done. It's just a real fascinating journey, as you and your brother did after you came back from Vietnam.

RH: Yeah, it is. And, you know, you just gotta... What else you gonna do? You're gonna move on. We've met some people in the para community in Washington and over here, and a lot of them are just so blown away by Chew that they would say, "You know, after I got hurt I spent a year in my house before I could come out, force myself to come out." That was kind of the prevailing stories that we heard. The day she got out of rehab she was out. She was out on the streets and she was trying to get on with her life. Whether we make it here, cause we live on the side of a volcano... We might end up selling it, which I don't think's gonna be very hard. We've got realtors saying we got buyers and we don't have any properties. People are looking for this kind of lifestyle: totally off the grid, catchment water, solar power, more fruit and avocados and such than you can eat, and no bills. That's the only thing saving us right now is we got zero bills. We don't have utility bills, we don't have car bills, we don't have a mortgage. We don't have them. So we might find ourselves back in Washington State or something in the next couple of years. Hard to say.

TM: Well, Richard, this has just been an incredible interview and an incredible interview series. I want to thank you so very much for taking the time to do this with me. This has just been a really...

RH: Oh, I've been delighted.

TM: ...a really wonderful interview series.

RH: I've enjoyed it. Like every Sunday morning for nine weeks in a row, you know, it's like talking to your mother. (both laugh)

TM: Well, you're very kind cause you had a very incredible relationship with your mother. It's a wonderful deal.

RH: Yeah. Hey, can I read a couple of things?

TM: That would be awesome.

RH: Cause they're both... They're addressed to Sarah and I. It's when we retired the first time and some people... I just want to get a couple things in there, just have them part of my record that I can shoot off to my troubled grandson.

TM: That'd be cool.

RH: Okay. Let me get some glasses. Here we go. "Dear Richard and Sarah, How unique, how exciting, only you two could pull this off. The rugged backwoodsman, the cheery waitress, leaving the whole shebang behind and venturing forward to be coffee barons on a plantation in the Hawaiian jungle. Wow. We, more traditional (read boring types) retire in the usual haunches near grandkids, in retirement communities, etcetera, and experience high adventure vicariously through individuals like you two beautiful people. I remember meeting you, Richard, in the Canyon and liking you immediately. You fully expected not to like us as we were the first, or one of the first, VIPs to boondoggle our way down the river. But to our good fortune you accepted us as real folks. Then there you were, this rugged dude, hippie guy in Port Angeles buying a Victorian house, a Victorian house and fixing it up. As I looked around your house, got to know you better, and looked around your heart, I discovered one wonderful fellow who gives to others in a unique way. One of the things I always wanted to do with you was to hang out at the Millionaire's Club in Seattle and pass around a bottle of Jack Daniels to keep the street folks' innards warm and spirits up during the holiday season. But, alas, being the sup's wife, a middle aged woman and all that rot, I didn't ask if I could join you and the grateful guys. There was a period before you met that beautiful blonde when we met in the grocery store and you were pondering over what the hell you were doing in a grocery store plopping groceries in a shopping cart to haul them to your mortgaged home. You have joined the great middle class whores (sounds like). You said you might pack a few belongings and head for Mongolia, become a horseman of sorts. Well, about that time Miss Sarah gave you one of her dazzling smiles as we're brooding over a brew at the Whacker and the rest is history. I've always appreciated that you've kept in touch with Bob. He admires and is probably a little envious of you and your unique spirit. And you know how I feel about you, xoxoxo. So here's a toast with Jack Daniels and a cup of Canopy Coffee to you two. Much happiness, adventure, and a bumper crop every year. Love, Mitzie" And that's Mitzie Chandler, Bob Chandler's wife.

TM: Wow.

RH: And then Bob kind of summed up my Park Service career. "Mitzie and I want to wish you and Sarah the very best as you move on to the new chapter in your lives. It will be a great adventure. As I look back on my NPS career I count you among those I call a friend. You have served the outfit with distinction in a very specialized field. When we leave a career most of us like to know we have made a difference. There is no question in your case you did. The trails, bridges, and other improvements which were developed under your leadership served as a testament to your skill and ability in doing quality work. For years to come millions of Park visitors who will hike the trails at Grand Canyon and Olympic will benefit from your good work. You must feel a sense of pride in knowing you left your mark and set a standard for others to follow. I remember our first meeting on the Colorado River sixteen years ago. You and Crumbo had hiked down from the North Rim to join a ranger river patrol. Mitzie and I were aboard as guests. We sat around that evening sharing a bottle of Jack you had brought along to smooth those aching joints. I still see you in baggy shorts and flip-flops telling stories in your unique head-bobbing way. Little did we know we would develop a lasting friendship." And that was Bob.

TM: Cool.

RH: Yeah. Yeah. And the thing is I got a shit pot of these letters, man. I was reading through them going, man, I'm glad I saved some of this stuff.



TM: That was a really nice letter from Mitzie. That's just really touching.

RH: Yeah, yeah, yes it was.

TM: Very cool.

RH: Well, s\*\*\*, let's not lose contact.

TM: Absolutely. Let's stay in touch. We've got some more work to do and that'll be fun. I think with that we'll go ahead and conclude Part 10 unless you've got anything else to go in here.

RH: No, I think that's good.

TM: All right. Well, with that this will conclude Part 10 of a Grand Canyon Oral History Interview with Richard Hanson. Today is Sunday, February 21, 2021. My name is Tom Martin. And Richard, again, I can't tell you how much I appreciate your taking the time to do this.

RH: Well, like I said, for me, man, it was like a... I think you can tell things in public easier than you can tell them in private, if that makes any sense. There's some things here that my daughter probably hasn't even heard of, some of the troubled times. I think being able to be open and to go ahead and tell your story... This was a lot easier for me than trying to sit down and tell somebody. I mean, I think you can be freer when you're just sending it out there to the universe than you can if you have to look somebody in the eye and try to talk to them. That's my feelings, so I'm taking this opportunity to do that. And I've told you before, your questions, your voice, your preparation has always been first class and has made it easy for me to be forthright.

TM: Well, I'm very grateful for your participation and, yeah, I look forward to staying in touch with you on the road ahead.

RH: All right.

TM: All right. Thanks, Richard.