

**Marv Weatherly**  
Interviewed by Hilary Hilscher

**December 26, 2000**

**Tape 1, Side A**

Hilary: After Christmas, the year 2000 at his home in Alameda and let's just start at the beginning.

Marv: Let me kind of reminisce a little bit. What I say about my health and how it affected the telecommunications I would like to keep that off the record.

Hilary: We'll do that. We'll talk about that afterwards...the health.

Marv: It's integrated.

Hilary: Okay.

Marv: The whole thing, but just drop it. I mean just don't mention it.

Hilary: Okay. Okay. That will be –

Marv: 'Cause it affected my decision-making and what have you. But let me go back. I arrived in Alaska in April of 1947 with my father and I worked out at Ladd Air Force Base at that time and there was another gentleman working out there who had just gotten out of the Marine Corps by the name of Jay Hammond. And I think Jay and I probably crossed paths. He was a carpenter and I was a carpenter's helper, but anyway I wanted to be in broadcasting so badly and I ended up leaving Alaska and going down to Hollywood and going to school there to learn broadcasting at the Don Martin School of Radio Arts. They didn't have television at that time. And we... or I got what was known at that time as a combo license. I became a combination engineer and announcer working for William J. Wagner, who owned the station in Fairbanks – KFRB and KFQD in Anchorage. One of the cheapest guys I ever knew.

And I came back to Fairbanks and met Cap Lathrop for the first time. This was in 1949, August of 1949. Then I went up to Cap and I said, "You know, I'd like to work at one of your radio stations." And Cap looked at me and he says, "Son," he says, "I only build them. I don't manage them." He says, "Go talk with someone else." And I never got around to talking to anyone else. I was offered a job by Wagner and so I went to work at KFRB.

At that time Augie... of course, Augie Hiebert. How is Augie?

Hilary: Augie is doing much better.

Marv: Well, anyway I broke into broadcasting at that time with William J. Wagner. For some strange reason and I don't know what it is – was – that drove me in 1950. I wanted to go in the Marine Corps. So... and you couldn't enlist in the Marine Corps in Alaska, you had to go Outside. And so I went Outside and went here to California and I enlisted in the Marine Corps. In the Marine Corps for four years, Korea, and all that sort of jazz, but I was in electronics and commu... – not telecommunications but radar specialties in the Marine Corps. And after the Marine Corps, I went to work for Bendix Radio in Townsend, Maryland, and then came back to Alaska in 1955 and was stationed as a field engineer for Bendix Radio on Cape Newenham, and traveling the state (for) radar.

One of the things at that time (that) was very, very clear: the United States government had a billion-dollar investment in these radar sites and none of them could talk to one another. The telecommunications was very poor. Little did I know they had on the drawing board at that time a project which became known as White Alice, which interconnected all of the AC & W (Aircraft Control & Warning) sites around Alaska to NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) in the Lower 48.

Hilary: Now these were ACS (Alaska Communication System) sites or AC&W?

Marv: AC&W sites. ACS, as you well know, ACS was, from the standpoint of providing telephone service, (only) long-distance telephone service. It was totally inadequate for our needs. I mean, you had to make an appointment to make a long distance call to the states. I remember in Fairbanks, when I lived in Fairbanks, we had to make an appointment a week-and-a-half ahead to get a telephone call to the Lower 48. At the radio station, we got teletype copy for the news because KFAR, Augie's station or the station of Midnight Sun, they got the first copy, the first cut of the thing and we got the, what do you call it...?

Hilary: The carbon.

Marv: The carbon, which sometimes is readable and sometimes wasn't. And there were other little things that just... if you lived outside of Anchorage or Fairbanks telephone communications was totally inadequate. I remember in Fairbanks making a local call wasn't dial. You got the operator, the operator plugged you in, and of course the operator listened in on conversations that were going on around town and what have you. That switch in Fairbanks burned down at the telephone company, the switch burned down sometime in the 1950s and they replaced it with more modern switch where they had direct dial, etc.

But anyway, in the 1950s the White Alice system was built by AT&T and their subsidiaries. They brought -- on a crash basis, they brought people in from all over the United States to install these tropospheric scatter stations everywhere. I ultimately went

on the White Alice system as a technician at Middleton Island and I was out there for about a year and a half and it was enjoyable. But many of the technicians that were on the White Alice system, including Charles E. Robinson, have gone on to bigger and better things and they kind of keep in touch. Every once in a while I'll get a letter from some technician that worked on the White Alice system that heard that I was still alive and would write to me.

But the tropospheric scatter system was just a marvelous invention from the standpoint of providing the Air Force with the necessary communications, but it was horribly inefficient. It took thousands of watts of RF (radiofrequency) energy bouncing off of the troposphere in order to get a readable signal that could then be translated into communications. And ACS was able to piggyback a certain amount of channels on the White Alice system, which were pre-emptable. But with the White Alice system, for the first time, we had telecommunications to places like Bethel for example.

Well, to show you what happened in Bethel when I worked for Bendix Radio, we had an urgent request from the Air Force for me to go out to Cape Romanzof. In order to get to Cape Romanzof I had to go to Bethel and catch a bush plane to there. And there was no telephone communications with Bethel. So I flew out to Bethel and sat there and waited for, I guess, four weeks – yeah, four weeks – waiting for the bush pilot to say the weather is clear enough for us to land at Cape Romanzof. It was probably... Today I will never travel anywhere without a book in my hand. I take a book no matter where I go and the reason why is (that) in Bethel, the Moravian Mission back at that time controlled the whole bloody place. There was nothing to read. There were no magazines. There were no books. There was no library. I used to go over to the trading post and read the labels on the cereal boxes for the lack of something else to do. It was a terrible situation.

And, of course, later with White Alice system, we had communications and they could have picked up the phone during those days and called me to say, "Weatherly, come on back in and wait here." But communications were crude. But ACS was able to piggyback some channels on White Alice with the courtesy of the United States government with, I guess new-found clout that we had with statehood. Remember this came in '59; things were really beginning to blossom as far as White Alice was concerned.

I remember Bob Bartlett so well from the Model Café in Fairbanks. He would wander into town and – here, I'm a teenage kid – and sit down and have coffee with me and talk and talk to others around. It was the first politics I ever experienced was where there was such closeness with your representative at the time. And Bob Bartlett was so loved, so loved. And of course his death later on was very, very tragic.

But anyway, as we gained political power in the state, there was more leverage by the state to get better communications on White Alice. And I guess it was the late – I had come back from Vietnam and I came up to Alaska with Augie and...

Hilary: That's right. You went to work for him right upon coming back?

Marv: Yeah, yeah, amen. I went to work for, on a temporary basis, for a television in Bakersfield, California, which was owned by Time-Life and the president of Time-Life was Barry Zorthian who was the head of JUSPAO (Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office) in Vietnam and basically saved my life in Vietnam. It was... one of my duties at H communications was the liaison engineer for the Department of State. The Department of State called me up and said – this is after Tet of '68 and they said, "We have an emergency situation in a place called in Ban Me Thout in the highlands. The Australians had built a radio station there and the Viet Cong had knocked it out and we want to know what they did and can it be repaired." I said, "Sure. You know, I thought (that meant) jumping on the United Airlines and flying out there and what have you.

Hilary: And you were where at that time? In Saigon?

Marv: In Saigon. And I was very naive about that. I said, "Well, how do I get there?" And they said, "We'll send a car by and they'll take you out to the airport. The plane is waiting for you." So I threw some things in a bag and they took me out to the airport and they put me in a C-130 cargo plane and we got to Ban Me Thout and the loadmaster says, "Mr. Weatherly, we're not going to stop the plane. You jump off." And I said, "Why can't we stop the plane?" He said, "Well, they are shelling the runway." And I said, "Can't we just turn around?" And he said, "No, sir, our orders are to deliver you to Ban Me Thout and there will be people waiting for you." The plane literally slowed down and I tumbled off of the back end of it and there was a jeep there waiting for me. They had a squad of Special Forces people there to escort me. And they escorted me from Ban Me Thout about 10, 15 miles up to the radio station, which is on top of a mountain. And I saw Viet Cong behind every tree, I swear to God. I went through rubber plantations, and mixed trees are there, and I got to the radio station. I'm leisurely walking and taking notes and what was (there) and everything, and the captain of Special Forces came up to me and says, "Sir," he says, "Can you hurry it up a little bit?" And I said, "What's the problem?" He said, "Well," he says, "I think the Viet Cong might counterattack here pretty soon." I said, "Yeah, I think I'm done right now." And we jumped aboard the jeeps and we tore out of there and we got back to Ban Me Thout. I said, "Well, I'm really for the plane." And they said, "Well, sir, there's no plane. There won't be any planes. We expect to be hit tonight or tomorrow some time." And I said, "What does that mean?" He said, "It means you are here for the duration and you'll have to stand guard duty."

I was with the American Consulate people there and there were about, I guess, ten of us. We played cards that night and I went around the table and I said, "What do you do?" He said, "Well, I'm an agricultural advisor." They were all agricultural advisors, which was the code word for CIA. Years later, literally, 10 to 15 years (later) I'm in Washington, D.C. and in the Mayflower Hotel. I'm walking down the stairs and these guys are walking up and a guy passes me and he says, "Hi, Marv." I looked at him and I said, "Do

I know you?" He said, "Yeah," he says, "I was one of the agricultural advisors at Ban Me Thout."

Hilary: And he recognized you?

Marv: He recognized me. Hell, I didn't recognize him. But anyway, back at Ban Me Thout, I stood my guard duty and my Marine Corps training came in handy. The next day we were sitting there wondering when we were going to get hit and we hear this plane coming over and they checked in by radio and says, "Is there anyone there that wants to leave?" It was a (MACV -- Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) plane, the MACV plane, and I said, "Yeah, yeah." I raised my hand. And it was Barry Zorthian was on the plane and they landed there, picked me up, and Ban Me Thout got hit a few hours later by the Viet Cong. They had this beautiful house made of teak. There's a name for it. I have forgotten. But it was built in honor of Theodore Roosevelt, who was on a tiger hunt there during his presidency or after his presidency and the Viet Cong just burned that thing for malicious reasons.

But Barry took me back to Saigon and he says you can use my -- it was after curfew -- he said, "You can use my car (with diplomatic plates) to get back to your... I lived downtown above a bar in Saigon. They took me there. But anyway, when I got ready to leave Vietnam I dropped a line to Barry and I said, "You got a job for me?" And he says, "Sure," he says. "I'll tell them in Bakersfield to hire you." So they hired me in Bakersfield, KERO, but I wanted to come back to Alaska. So I came back to Alaska, worked for Augie Hiebert there in Fairbanks.

Hilary: And this was... you were an engineer at this point, engineering then?

Marv: I was chief engineer for Augie at KTVF and KFRV. I was back with the radio stations that I had begun with in 1949. Tom Jensen was there. Larry Holstrom, who later died in an accident, was on air. It was a good assignment. I left there in 19... I think was '72 and went down to Juneau and then I got word that they needed an assistant director of the Alaska Broadcasting Commission. So I made application for the job and went to work for Bob Arnold. Now Bob Arnold is key for that period of time. Very, very important, along with Charlie Northrip because they were involved in the ATS-6 satellite project. And Charlie and Dick Dowling had come up with a concept of the low-power TV station and they got licensing for experimental use of these little translators, low-powered translators, and for feeding tape into them and broadcasting it around. And that set the stage later for the low-powered television project that the Alaska Broadcasting Commission got involved in.

But Bob Arnold and Charlie Northrip, University of Alaska; and Sue Pittman. They and Dr. Martha Wilson they showed what could be done with satellites and satellite communications through this experiment. This experiment involved education and medical use. It didn't involve the use of satellites for switch traffic and things of that

nature. It was at that time or shortly thereafter that Bob Arnold left and I took over as head of the broadcasting commission.

I held hearings for the broadcasting commission on the importance of communications for the rural areas. I got testimony from people all over the state. They came in... some of them could barely walk that were involved in medical emergencies in the village and they had no way of calling for help. They had a very antiquated HF high frequency system but it just didn't do the job. There was one fellow that was in a snowmachine accident where the snowmachine turned over on him and gas spilled out and it was set afire and he sat there or lying there burning up so to speak and he was crippled for the rest of his life because of that accident. If he could have been evacuated at that time he -- and a lot of others -- would not have suffered the way they did. The stories were just horrendous.

Dr. Martha Wilson, bless her. If there's sainthood, she is certainly a saint in this area. She told me how important it was for them to have medical communication to the rural areas. There was a satellite that was still in operation other than ATS-6 and that was ATS-1. Walt Parker was keeping it alive so to speak in Alaska and traffic was being handled on it but it was inadequate for our needs.

Hilary: It couldn't handle television?

Marv: No, it couldn't handle television and the ATS-6 project showed that television could be used, you know, all the way from Sesame Street to medical television. And we had a demonstration of that in Ruby, Alaska. I forgot where Dr. Wernher Von Braun was on a trip up there at the time and we sat, I guess it was Fairbanks, we sat in the control room and watched a little girl who had been in an accident and she was in Ruby, Alaska. (She'd) been in an accident and she was on her way to recovery. I forgot what her problem...it was her hand.

Hilary: Something with the hand. It was in Tanana, the hospital in Tanana.

Marv: It was Tanana and the... and we watched as the doctor via television told her to flex her fingers and everything. If we didn't have that, she would have had to gotten on a plane with her mother and fly from Tanana to the closest medical facility for them to check out just flexing the fingers and it showed clearly what could be done. Then how do we do it? How do we get it done? That was the next thing.

(I'm) kind of jumping ahead a little bit. We were going through the same exercise with other satellites and experimentation on medical use of satellites and they were duplicating what we had done before. Studies that came out of ATS-6 are gathering dust on some shelves somewhere and they are not reading them, anyway.

Hilary: Tell the story about Dr. Von Braun and the teacher in the classroom.

Marv: That is so marvelous. I have told that story many times and I can never forget it. Wernher and I were sitting on the bank of the river, the Tanana River, and he was skipping rocks on the water across there and the principal of the school came down and said, "Dr. Von Braun, would you mind talking to one of our classes?" Probably about a fifth, sixth grade class and Wernher said, "Ah, no, I'd be happy to." I said, "Boy. Here you have the most renowned scientist in rocket communication talking to a sixth class in Tanana, Alaska."

We went up there and that presentation had more of an effect on me. I didn't realize it at the time but it planted in the back of my mind and stayed with me for years and years. But anyway Dr. Von Braun went up to the blackboard and every kid in there knew him, you know. The library had him in the books on Dr. Von Braun and satellites and everything. But he drew this circle representing the earth and then he drew the satellites that were in synchronous orbit around the earth and then the earth stations, Tanana earth station, and explained how it worked and everything.

And I remember commenting at the time. I said, "Wernher," I said, "Will you initial that? I would like to take that back home with me as a Von Braun original. It will be worth millions." He laughed and then he asked, "Are there any questions?" Well, you know these kids are, awestruck. There was one little boy in front (who) raised his hand tentatively and he says... Wernher looked at him and he said, "Yes, son?" He says, "Dr. Von Braun," he said. "I understand everything you're saying to me." And he said, "What I don't understand is, what can we do with this?" It is a very simple question on the surface. Wernher, instead of going into some long diatribe about the technical aspects of the satellite, he looked at this young boy and he said, very simply he says, "What do you want to do with it?" And years later, the engineers that worked for me and in projects I have been involved in, that was always the first question: What do we want to do? Not what *can* we do, what do we *want* to do with the project? Not how much does it cost? What do we want to *do*?

And that really set the stage for everything else that... and kind of led into the next phase with Gov. Bill Egan answering the question, what do we want to do? And Bill's response: "I want basic telecommunications, telephone service in every village of 250 or more."

Hilary: Two hundred fifty people?

Marv: Yeah. That was a flat mission statement, clear, unequivocal. He wanted basic telephone communication. And with that goes the emergency communications that we so desperately needed. Those were my marching orders. I loved that old man. Again, if there is sainthood for people in Alaska, Bill Egan is one of the men right up at the top. The Defense Department came to Bill and asked... or offered to sell him the White Alice system. He asked me, "What do you think about it?" I said, "You're crazy, Bill, if you go along with that." And he said, "Why?" he said, "It's a good system isn't it?" I said, "Yeah, good and expensive." And I explained everything to him and then I wish I could

remember that pompous ass from the State Department or from the Defense Department (who was) in there, but Bill turned to him and he said, "I'll give you a dollar for it." The guy says, "A dollar?" "Yeah, that's about what it's worth isn't it?" And the guy, you know, he left and went out, and Bill was so happy with that response.

Then, of course, the election came up and I received a telephone call late one night and I answered the phone and he says, "You don't remember me do you?" I said, "Well..." "My voice you may recognize," and he said, "This is Jay Hammond." He said, "I think we worked together in Fairbanks back in 1947." I said, "Geez, I was a kid then, Jay." And he said, "I've got a problem." He says, "I think I'm going to run for governor and they keep telling me that telecommunications is a big thing and that you know something about it." And I said, "Yeah." He said, "Well, do you mind tutoring me on it?" So we got together and I gave him an overview of it. I felt, well... I felt bad about it from the standpoint I had a loyalty to Bill Egan also but at the same time I didn't want someone going in and stubbing their... who didn't know what the hell he was doing.

So I tutored him and, of course, Jay won the election and then I got another call from him. I was at the broadcasting commission at that time as an executive director and he said, "Marv," he said, "I've got a problem." I said, "What's that?" He said, "Well," he said, "I'm going to Snowmass in Colorado (I think it was) and one of the items on the list there for governors is telecommunications." He said, "Can you travel?" I said, "I can't do that. I've got work I've got to do here." And he said, "Well, can you help me?" I said, "Yeah, I'll have someone meet you there at the conference and we'll sit by your arm and keep you out of trouble." He laughed and he says, "Okay, who's it going to be?" I said, "It will be Bob Walp." I called Bob Walp on the phone and I said, "You're free as a consultant for the State of Alaska to go and meet with Jay Hammond there." And Bob did and kept him out of trouble. And then Jay came back and started organizing things.

It got a little bit cloudy at that time from the standpoint of the Office of Telecommunications. Augie and I went on a trip to Colorado together and attended a conference – the Satellite Consortium. It was basically all of the various sections of the country that were involved in the ATS-6 satellite experiment. The Federation of Rocky Mountain States, Appalachia, and I guess I made a speech there that impressed Augie and I kicked in \$5,000. I didn't know where the hell I was going to get it to formalize the organization of the Consortium, but that was enough to get Gordon Law, the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, and others to kick in more money to get this thing organized and I figured I needed some group that I could go to for expertise in satellite communication. It was already in my mind that I knew that was the direction we had to go. We had to be dedicated to expanding and developing satellite communications for the state. Unfortunately I...

**End of Tape 1, Side A**

**Tape 1, Side B**

Hilary: Okay?

Marv: Unfortunately in developing satellite communications I had a few hurdles. Hurdle number one is the certified long-distance carrier with state of Alaska was RCA. They had bought ACS from the government back in '69, I think it was.

Hilary: Formally the first day of '71.

Marv: '71?

Hilary: Was when it switched but everything was happening in '69 and '70, yeah.

Marv: And they were going to be a problem that I had the State of Alaska... they were going to be a problem. I mean, I was executive director of the broadcasting commission, which had pretty limited jurisdiction, and then there was a third element. Well, I had to prove to everyone, the public at large, that satellites were the future. You know, I had people like Augie Hiebert on my side. I mean the whole thing was Augie's idea anywhere.

Hilary: And Bram, of course, never thought they were here to stay.

Marv: No. And there were a few others out there that were rather Doubting Thomases on the whole thing. Bob Atwood was another one and what was his daughter's name – Elaine?

Hilary: Elaine.

Marv: God, it really... well it doesn't surprise me. We had the Doubting Thomases in Alaska for the statehood deal. You know, you will never be able to survive and the state'll stay a territory, go commonwealth and all those things. Thank God, we'd still be in the dark ages in Alaska if we had listened to those asses. But people like Augie -- and Augie Hiebert you know, he was the father of this whole thing. He's the one. I was merely an instrument which he planted the ideas in and I went forward with it.

So when we got back... or Augie, bless him, he sent a telegram to Jay Hammond from Denver saying what a great job I was doing and recommended me to be head of the Office of Telecommunications, which Jay didn't give any thought to not giving it to me, I don't believe. Bob Palmer was his chief of staff at the time and I had stepped on his toes too much. Later on I would... but anyway, Jay Hammond made me his director of telecommunication. I was talking to Jay and he said, "What are you doing now?" I said, "Well, I'm executive director of the broadcasting commission." He said, "Well, can you do both of them?" I said, "Well, geez," I said, "For a while I think I can." I had Mike Porcaro as my assistant and I knew Mike was competent to handle the broadcasting end of it and I did concentrate on the Office of Telecommunications.

Okay, now I've got one of the elements, the State of Alaska neutralized to a degree. I'm in control of things to a degree. I guess there is something about my personality... I don't ask for permission to do something or I don't say, Can we do this? I just go ahead and do it and that's not always a good thing. As I found out later, as I got chastised by Bob Palmer and a few others. But anyway, I called for a meeting of RCA, a public meeting, for them to outline their plans and what they were going to do on long distance communication. And Heller, Steve Heller and myself. And I had Bruce Lusignan. I had Bill Melody. I had Bob Walp. And Heller, of course, had all of his people from RCA and we met... I think it was at Westward Hotel and they stole my damn briefcase there. I guess they had expected to find the secret plans there -- and all they found in there was my passport which was dear to me 'cause it had all my Vietnam stamps in it and everything and just stole the damn thing.

Hilary: Did you ever get it back?

Marv: No, never did, it wasn't found and I had it right there at the table with me. But anyway, the whole idea of the meeting was to put RCA on notice there was a new sheriff in town and that we weren't going to put up with their crap. Their plans for expanding telecommunications to the rural areas was to put unmanned (inaudible) repeaters on mountain tops all around Alaska. The most ludicrous, outdated, stupid thing I had ever heard in my life. And I said, I announced at that meeting, I said, "I do respect, RCA..." The APUC was there also and, of course, they certify the long distance carrier. I said, "I do respect RCA, but let it be known that the State of Alaska will determine the future plans for long distance carriers and systems in Alaska, not RCA. (Inaudible) didn't like that. RCA didn't like that and the pressure really began to mount on me then. I mean, it came down on me.

(Discussion of health issues follows, off the record.)

The (doctors) said, "Quit your job or you'll die." And I said, "Well, I'm not going to quit my job and I said I'm not going to die."

Hilary: So what's the third alternative?

Marv: They said, "Well, it is our duty to tell you this." And I said, "You've told me this." But anyway the pressure really began to come down on me.

The second problem I had – or one of the problems I had – is (that) I could dictate and put pressure to get a satellite communication system but RCA could thumb their nose at me and say, "We're not going to do it." And there was not a damn thing I could do about it and they knew it. So I told Bob Walp and Bruce Lusignan and (Bill) Melody. I said, "You guys come up with a working document for a satellite communication system and

put it in a bid form. We want to kick this out to bid.” Walp said, “You’re crazy. You don’t have any money.” I said, “You let me worry about that.”

Hilary: But Parker and –

Marv: Yeah, it was... what the hell was that lady’s name) that he lived with for a long...

Hilary: Heather Hudson.

Marv: Heather Hudson, yeah. God, yeah, Heather. When we moved down here, Heather had me out at the university (of San Francisco). I think (I had) walking pneumonia and I gave a talk to her telecommunications group there.

Hilary: She’s still at the McClaren School of Business, head of telecommunications program.

Marv: God, I should call her.

Hilary: Yeah, yeah,

Marv: She was something else, but anyway I have to cut away for a second. I had another problem. Not a problem, but something I wanted to pursue on the broadcasting commission and that is the low-power satellite television. It was my sense that if we could get these in operation in various sites around the state that it would help our overall plan of telecommunications. The problem is that the FCC was (granting them only) experimental licenses and there was a finite life to these things, so I wanted to regularize these licenses.

I think it was Ted Stevens, or his office, that I used to (gain) entrée to H. Rex Lee at the FCC. And I explained to Rex what we wanted to do, and I said, “I want a regular license.” And he turned to his people and he said, “You see any reason why we can’t do this?” “No.” “Well, why don’t we do it?” So we got a procedure for regular licensing of these. And I had the pleasure of installing the first earth station that was installed. It, of course, was (done) by the University of Alaska at Fort Yukon. Dick Dowling did a wonderful job there. Charlie Northrip. The first regular (TV) station to be installed was at St. Paul. St. Paul, and then Unalaska and I carried the equipment out to St. Paul and installed the station there. Now these are people who – many of them – had never seen television in their life. Their whole economy, of course, evolved around the seals and the Native corporation, etc.

I went out there and I installed the station, and I had in my baggage a couple weeks worth of tapes and Reeve (Aleutian Airways) lost the bags. I had one tape, one tape from PBS. It was ice skating at Rockefeller Center. I installed that station at St. Paul and put that tape on. They had in the community hall... they had a television set set up and the kids and the old people and everyone sat around that and kept playing the tape over and over

and over. But what was interesting about it (were) these young kids: they had never seen buildings like, you say, Rockefeller Center. The opulence, the whole scene, the golden statute of the horse – or whatever it is there at the ice skating rink – just absolutely blew their minds. I left there, and later on the tapes got there. They got their tapes then and what have you.

Then, as kind of a sidenote, I went back to St. Paul about two months later just to check everything out. Before I made that trip, I had received a call from the University of Alaska complaining that I was corrupting the values of the Natives and changing their way of life. I said, “Isn’t that up to them to decide as opposed to you?” “Well, Mr. Weatherly we’ve studied these people for a long time and you are doing a lot of harm.” And I got on the plane and went to St. Paul. I got off the plane, and I’m walking down the street of St. Paul, which is a very nice, well-organized little town, and this lady came up to me, grabbed me and hugged me and kissed me. And I said, “I appreciate this but what’s it all about?” She said, “I want to thank you, Marv, for what you did.” And I said, “What did I do?” She said, “Before we had television here,” she said, “My husband would stop off at the bar and get drunk and the kids had nothing to do after school. They’d go down and throw rocks at the seals.” She says, “We’re a family again. They come home and we watch television together, we eat together, we are a family.” And she said, “I can never thank you enough for that.” I said, “That story... what you have told me is thanks enough.” So...

Then I came back to Anchorage and we expanded out to over at Unalaska. I installed a station there right after St. Paul, but they were very organized. Fred Kent was the superintendent of the schools there and just really a delightful guy and I slept in the nurses’ quarters of the school and they were all prepared. They had television sets all around town and they had tapes. They were a hard-charging group. And they carried it even further. They put video input other than tapes, so that a person could read the news or deliver the information on the activities at Unalaska from a small studio there in the school and it worked out marvelously.

Hilary: And this then eventually evolved into RATNet? (Rural Alaska Television Network)

Marv: That’s correct. That’s correct.

Hilary: And this was all the bicycling of tapes, the initial –

Marv: Initially I recorded the tapes, I and Helen recorded the tapes and had special containers built and I would carry them to the post office every morning and mail them to the various places, one of them (inaudible). And Helen did a marvelous job and then they would bicycle around to one earth station to the other and then finally the station at Bethel started doing it and we had Andy, I forgot his name.

Hilary: Andy Edge.

Marv: Yeah, Andy Edge. I had – I first met Andy when I was working for Bob Arnold. Bob was out town and Andy Edge came in from Bethel and the first thing he came in and he says – and Andy's a big guy, he says he starts using profanity... and how he was going to kick his ass out. He's going to do this. And I said, "Andy," I said, "Just shut up." I said, "Shut up or I'm going to throw your ass out that window." He looked at me and he says, "You're serious." I said, "You're damn right I'm serious." I said, "You don't know what you're talking about and plus the fact I work for Bob Arnold and he's a good man and you better show him some respect or I'm going to throw your ass out that window." He sat down and we became friends after that... had no problems whatsoever.

And of course, he's dead now, but I helped him build a station out there. The tower that was a kind of feed onto itself. I don't remember the television tower. The problem of building a tower in...like that out there... is the permafrost. And I had read an article in some obscure magazine (about) how an engineer out at Fort Richardson had developed these refrigeration units, self-contained refrigeration units, that would keep the ground frozen and later they were used on the pipeline. I used them first on that tower. I said, "Why can't we do that?" And I hired this guy and he designed the unit to support that tower and we kept... I guess it is still up.

Hilary: It's still up.

Marv: We kept that tower frozen -- the legs of the tower frozen -- and then were able to put in a better antenna and broadcast a good television signal to the complete area.

The radio station, God! That was the radio station was something else. I was always going out there and having to retune the antenna which was... oh, it was a pain. Bob Tinkle was the chief engineer and Bob was a nice guy, but he didn't know how to handle that particular problem. Every once in a while I'd get a call and he said, "It's out of tune again, so I went out there."

Hilary: That was him. And Jim Kroll (sp?), was he out there, and Corey Flintoff.

Marv: I'd like to know what happened to Jim. I was in Chile and Jim called me in Santiago.

Hilary: No!

Marv: Yeah, and he says, "I want to say goodbye, Marv." And I said, "Where the hell you going?" I said, "I don't even know where you are. Where are you going?" And he said, you know, he says, "I don't know if you realize it or not but," he says, "I'm manic depressive." And I said, "Gosh." And, of course, they call it 'bipolar' now. He was manic depressive just a little too much. But he was, he and Alligator, his wife...

Hilary: I remember her.

Marv: Were going to move somewhere and I did get the gist of it as to the tie-in with his being a manic depressive that he was going there to get help and that was... We reminisced and that was kind of the end of it. I haven't heard from him since. But Jim was ape-shit. I mean, Jesus, he was just (a) totally crazy, crazy dude.

Hilary: Yeah.

Marv: What ever happened to Eric Eckholm?

Hilary: Eric lived in Juneau for a number of years in the course of doing his video thing and he started the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and did that for a while and he got bone cancer that spread to his brain and he died about four years ago.

Marv: Oh, my God. Really.

Hilary: I kept in touch with his kids.

Marv: Did he suffer much?

Hilary: The last about five months were pretty tough but he was in the University of Washington Medical Center, in and out, and he had remarried and moved to Seattle and was living down there.

Marv: How old was Eric when he died?

Hilary: Forty-eight.

Marv: Ah, gee,

Hilary: Forty-two then.

Marv: I met Eric when he first came off of the boat. He walked in my office in Anchorage at the broadcasting commission and said, "I want to work for you." And I said, "Hell, I don't have a job for you," and we became friends after that.

Hilary: And then he went to work at Bethel.

Marv: Yeah.

Hilary: For (George) Hohman.

Marv: Yeah.

Hilary: And I was working for Ted Stevens and he came back with Hohman to a hearing I Washington, DC and that's where I met him.

Marv: Is Hohman still alive?

Hilary: George Hohman? You bet.

Marv: Geez. Talk about... Bob Arnold hated him with a passion.

Hilary: Oh, I know. It was a terrible situation.

Marv: Bob seldom expressed any dislike for anyone but he really disliked Hohman.

Hilary: I interviewed Bob in Olympia this summer.

Marv: What's he doing?

Hilary: He's retired, gardening, phenomenal garden, and just...

Marv: Oh, that's marvelous. You see him again, give him my regards.

Hilary: I will. I'm in touch.

Marv: He was wonderful to me, really wonderful. And he started a second family. You know his regular kids were well along and then he had a baby, another baby, and his wife Ann?

Hilary: Ann, yeah. She is still painting. Yeah.

Marv: But he – Bob was a very – in the AST-6 project was a very inventive type of fellow and rode herd on Charlie and the rest of the group. Very, very tight reins on...but it was we had another fellow there Joe Princiotta, who was, I guess, artistic advisor or what have you (who) came up with various ideas and he lived with a Japanese lady, Cotseco (sp?), was her Japanese name. She married a carpenter later and she works for Alaska Telecom there in Anchorage now.

Hilary: And Joe Princiotta is doing filming for court depositions.

Marv: Really.

Hilary: Yeah, he's in Anchorage now.

Marv: He is in Anchorage.

Hilary: Yeah, yeah. I saw him this summer.

Marv: The last I heard of him he was in Las Vegas.

Hilary: I saw him this summer up there.

Marv: Oh, God. Well, anyway we... the cast of characters that we had to draw from at that point in time projects with low-power television that gave, as I planned, the people a kind of a taste -- or sense of what could be -- and that was very important to me. Augie again was very supportive in all of these efforts and later was with George Shaginaw... were very instrumental in getting the networks to agree for these stations to carry their programming.

And you know there was a suggestion at one time to cut out the commercials and I pointed out to them -- as was pointed out to me by some of the Native leaders in the villages and what have you -- the commercials were important from the standpoint they can't go to Sears and shop or to K-Mart or these other places. The commercials they saw on the network programs were their window on what was new in tires, what was new in dishwashers, what was new. It was their big catalog, if you will, and it was, I guess, finally recognized by the networks that this was good.

Hilary: It was valuable enough.

Marv: Very valuable. But the next step, of course, is to fulfill my threat, promise or however you want to phrase it, to RCA that we would determine what the next step would be. The next step was to get satellite communications for the state. I had no money. I was going out to bid with no money. When we went out to bid...

Hilary: And this was from the specs drawn up by Stanford guys? Yeah, the SRI (Stanford Research Institute) guys?

Marv: And a slight complication at that point in time (was) also the small dish antenna -- the three-meter antenna would not meet specifications as far as Intelsat was concerned.

Hilary: That's right.

Marv: And Lusignan and staffers said, ah, "That's crazy. It will do that." "Bruce, you have a bias. You don't have to fight the political game. I have to fight the political game and Intelsat is in that political arena." So I forget whose counsel I asked (but) I said, "I want the meanest, the most authoritative scientist engineer in this area of satellite communications that there is. Someone that, when I plop that paper down on the desk of the FCC, Intelsat (would say) they are not going to challenge because this guy will just tear them up. And they gave me the name of a person at Cal Tech. And I called him up and I said, "Can you give me such a paper?" He said, "Sure." I said, "How much?" He said, "\$5,000." "Okay, you got it." He wrote up the paper. I gave him \$5,000. I walked in

at the FCC, Abbott Washburn, Commissioner Washburn, and explained the problem and he said, "What support do you have?" And I laid this paper on his desk and he recognized the name and Intelsat dropped their...

Hilary: Objection.

Marv: Their complaint. And we were clear then for the small-aperture antennas to use the birds. There would be no interference problems.

Hilary: And who was the...

Marv: Scientist?

Hilary: Yeah.

Marv: I can't recall his name. All I was -- I just wanted the meanest gun in the west.

Hilary: I'll find out. That's great.

Marv: And he wrote the paper up and there was no problem.

Hilary: Oh, that's great.

Marv: My funds over at the broadcasting commission were getting pretty low, you know. I was financing Jay Hammond's entry into telecommunications. Spent \$5,000 on this paper and I didn't have commission approval one. I just did it. No one asked me any questions about it so I did it.

We met for a bidder's conference in Seattle, Washington, and we had California microwave. We had a whole group of people and the question came up. They said, "Marv, we understand you don't have any money." I said, "Gee, where did you get that idea?" And they said, "Well, do you have the money or not?" I said, "You don't have to worry about it. If I award a contract to you, you're going to have the money." And they said, "How do we know? We're going to put a lot of work into this." I said, "Don't give me this jazz." I said, "You guys spend a lot of money every year answering bids without any idea that you'll ever win it. Take your best shot, with the best. Go for it." Hughes and all the rest of these people were in there. And they said, "Okay." RCA was in it. They were livid, absolutely livid.

I needed \$5 million. That was the magic figure. I went to Jay Kerttula and Chancy Croft. I loved those guys. RCA was all set up to kill this thing in the Senate -- my request for the \$5 million. But the House -- that was no problem. The Senate was the battleground. Now here we have a Republican governor and Republican cabinet. I was a Republican.

My opposition in the Senate was from the Republicans. And I'm trying to think of the name of the Republican leader in the Senate. I can't recall his name. I tried many times.

But what happened is... was the bill was brought up early in the morning. RCA had their lobbyist there. I'm trying to think of the lobbyist they had there, who later became a good friend of mine. Well anyway, Chancy and Jay Kerttula had it all set up that this Republican leader who was going to raise a point of order -- or was going to object -- and was going to kill the bill by doing this. When Chancy got ready to bring the bill up, he signaled to Jay. Jay got this guy aside and started chewing his ass out. He said, "You dirty... no good... you know you're double dealing it," And this guy was taking it personal. Jay is a nice guy, and here's Jay just coming down on him. In the process, Chancy is talking and he says, "Bill number..." such and such. "Are there any objections?" And the RCA people see what's happening over there and (they're) pointing like this and waving and this Republican leader is just... he's beside himself. He is not even listening to Chancy, he's listening to Jay Kerttula. And then Chancy's saying, "Hearing no objections, bill (such and such) has passed." (Clap) And I got my five million bucks.

Jay called me on the phone. He says, "Are you sitting down?" I said, "Hell, I'm in bed." I think it was a Sunday. I don't know what they were doing. Well, anyway, I was in bed and he says, "You got your \$5 million. Now go out and build it." And, God, you could hear my yells from one end of Anchorage to the other. I took the \$5 million and started procurement.

## **End of Tape 1, Side B**

## **Tape 2, Side B**

Marv: The thing was with Jay Karttula just --

Hilary: Great story. I'll have to look up the senate at that time.

Marv: Or talk to Jay.

Hilary: Yeah, good idea.

Marv: Because Jay and Chancy... Oh my God. But RCA asked for a meeting and I was really having health problems at this time.

Hilary: From the same?

Marv: Yeah, from the same thing. I was going up and down and Helen was worried about me. Bob Walp and I flew to New York and we met with Peterson there, the top finance person and that other guy over in RCA, I can't recall his name. I disliked him with a

passion. Their offer was to give us -- if we withdrew from the satellite area -- to get the state of Alaska to transponders. I got very ill at that point. I don't know why. I said, "You guys have to excuse me." I got up and walked out. Bob Walp was running after me. "What's wrong?" I said, "Bob I'll be all right. I'm going back to the hotel." I went downstairs. I guess he went back and talked to Peterson and this other guy and I started walking. I got about a block away and I had to sit down on the stoop of the building there. And I began to feel better so I got back to the hotel and rested. And RCA took it as a signal I didn't want to talk to them, which didn't make any difference to me, as a rejection. That wasn't the reason-- I just wasn't up to handling it right there.

We came back and I was catching a lot of flack in the months following getting that \$5 million from people internal to Jay Hammond's organization. And I finally walked into Jay Hammond and I said, "Jay," I said, "I hate to do this to you but," I said, "I got to get out of this. I'm catching too much heat and," I said, "I'm a person that normally can take the heat but believe me this is too much for me right now." I said, "I'd like to be on the Alaska Public Utilities Commission." Jim Hendershot had resigned.

Hilary: That's right.

Marv: And Jay called (Bob) Palmer in and he says, "Bob, Marv wants to be on the APUC," and then he left. He said, "That will serve RCA right" and he appointed me to the APUC. Of course things are history after that. But what wasn't appreciated was the difficulty I had then on the APUC. Everyone expected me to go in and to rip RCA up and that was the last thing that I could do. I could **not** do that. What I had to do was to keep the pressure on them but to be even-handed. Walp and then later (Duncan) and those people said, "You just have to throw open the gates and let competition come in and competition will take care of everything." And I knew better than that from the standpoint of the small telephone exchanges that were then developing in Alaska.

That was another thing. The small earth stations which were then, at that point in time, were going forward under a joint arrangement between RCA and the state of Alaska. Shaginaw was working for RCA, was working for the state, and then later went over to RCA or to Alascom. And things were working up to fairly well in the joint-venture that was going forward and the medical... Every community had two medical lines and so I was totally happy there. What was being unserved – (doorbell)

Hilary: That's my (ride).

Marv: Is it that late or that early or?

Hilary: They can come back.

(break)

Marv: I just got appointed to the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

Hilary: Yeah, actually you don't know much about the APUC at this time?

Marv: Yeah, I was in a real quandary there because, like I say, they expected me to be anti-RCA and to open everything for competition. And before we could do that, I had to get a good sound financial base for the operating companies in the Bush. There was an agreement between Caroline Guess, Susan Knowles, and myself. Susan would concentrate on moving up the chairs with the (Ney Group?), the national association, and I would concentrate on the communications committee and getting on the joint boards, which was very, very helpful. I was on five joint boards at one point in time and it kept me pretty active.

Ted Stevens came through like a champion. What I needed in order to leverage the joint board in my direction (at) the FCC was some demonstration that I had political clout. Ted Stevens got an appropriation for \$100,000 to cover travel expenses for the state people and other things the FCC may want to do. Haller, the FCC, and others they were all over themselves because this meant that Marv Weatherly could talk to Ted Stevens.

But I got a lot of activity out of that. And I upset Bob Walp and (Ron) Duncan and people that are now with GCI because I didn't take that hard approach with RCA, with Alascom, who at that time was being run by Ben Agee. I had no problem with Ben. He could be manipulated and he could be handled without any real problem. He had Spencer under him and Chuck Robinson. Chuck was knowledgeable. Chuck was talented and Chuck was more of a problem than Ben Agee was.

But anyway, my next quest through the APUC was to find some way for the small villages to get regular telephone service. Well, we had one line going in there for public telephone access and we had people standing in line when it was 20 below zero to use the telephone and that's not going to work. So I got Redcom and some other switch manufacturers sold on the idea of developing switches, small switches -- self-contained -- that could be put in out there that could do telemetry back to the home office and wherever and you could connect, and disconnect the phones. They wired all of the houses for phones, so then they could connect and disconnect the phones. And it worked just very, very well. It took a while for them to develop the right telephone and the right switching configuration.

There was an operator in Alaska, a hustler named Dick Hangar, who has now passed away who put in a regular PBX type switch at Point Hope. It worked to a degree but it wasn't the answer. The regular switch for telephone purposes was the way we had to go. And I had, like I said, Redcom and others interested. I had a lot of switch manufacturers come in and say, ah, "That's not going to go anywhere you know." At the same time we had countries like Australia and other areas of the world that needed this type of... what

we were doing in Alaska with satellites. They wanted to replicate it in other parts of the world. Japan... in there and a lot of people.

And on the APUC, I don't know why I thought that the pressure may be less great but the pressure was even greater in a lot of ways. If I had followed the formula that Bob Walp and others had dictated and been a real bastard as far as RCA was concerned, I would have been in there for one term and that would have been it. But I was able to walk that line and give each side a little bit, if you will, and get the support of governors like Sheffield, for example... and I'll never forget, there was a now infamous newspaper headline that I called the telephone companies... Just a second, turn this thing up (*side noise, tape off*). They were supposed to be getting – gathering data for me. They were supposed to be collecting (information) that I could use in the joint board and that I could also use with RCA and they failed miserably and I came out with this –

Hilary: “Gutless wonders”.

Marv: And Bill Sheffield called me on the phone and he said, “Are you running for something?” I said, “No, Governor, I'm not running for anything.” I said that I was sorely disappointed in the telephone industry and what they did to me... and Shaginaw and others kind of protected my butt and I didn't get too much flack and we kissed and made up. Diana Snowden and I came out with this -- she gasped and Caroline and Susan down the line and by that time they were used to my Weatherlyisms but I was really upset that they didn't give me the information, the data, I needed for universal service phones. And like I said (the Bush was) unlikely to abandon phones because of the necessity of using the phones.

Phones became central to life in the villages from the standpoint of commerce. This was illustrated by the switch in Bethel that went out in the middle of fishing season. It was out for two weeks. If you follow the price of salmon on the London Exchange, you would see the price of salmon at the point in time when Bethel's switch went out -- it went up because the fish was being withheld from the market because the brokers could not contact Bethel and determine the availability of the fish.

So it showed conclusively the importance of commerce development, the development of commerce... and of course we had RATNet and television was beginning to expand throughout the areas. The Native corporations began to develop a greater interest and involvement in Alaska telecommunication. And at that point in time (my doctor said I had to quit).

Hilary: Marv!

Marv: He said, “You're going to die,” and Helen, poor Helen, she was beside herself. And I was honest with her, with the problem, and I submitted my resignation.

Hilary: Was in '85?

Marv: Yeah, it was '85. Then what happened was is I... Carolyn (Guess) was the head of the APUC at that time and I walked into her office. She was crying. Carolyn was like my (sister) and I loved that lady so much. And I said, "What's wrong?" She says, "My cancer is back." She had been fighting lymphoma and I said, "Well, you're going to fight it aren't you?" She says, "Yes. But I can't do this job." I said, "You just worry about taking care of yourself, I'll take care of this." It was only myself and Carolyn and Andy (inaudible)-- the workings of the commission, that could really be the chair of it... Susan didn't. Although later she was chair, she didn't like it. She hated it. But I withdrew my resignation and Carolyn went into chemotherapy, very, very heavy chemotherapy. One day was very, very bad and I told her, Carolyn, to go home. She said, "I have to work." I said, "No, you don't have to work." She said, "Well, I want to save my sick leave." "Well," I said, "First of all, sick leave is for being sick and who the hell is docking you on sick leave?" I said, "If you want to take two months off or a month off, take it off." She said, "Don't do this to me, Marv." But she did go home and her doctor called me. He said, "Don't do this to her." I said, "What do you mean? I thought I was helping her." He said, "No." He said, "You and the commission are her support group. Don't cut her off from it." And so she came back again and I hugged her and kissed her and I said, "You do what you can do when you want to do it. We're here with you." (Long pause.) And she won that fight. Then of course later, years later actually, after she retired from the commission she... it recurred and she passed away. Helen and I went up there to Seattle for the memorial service.

Helen didn't really get too emotionally involved as far as my friends and acquaintances here in the state with the exception of Carolyn. Carolyn was a sister also to Helen. She gave Helen the support she needed and she took me to the hospital when I thought I was going to die in 1975. (Brief discussion of medical issue follows.)

But Carolyn was special, very, very special to both of us.

Then in 1987 I finally retired and we jumped on a plane and moved our things down to Fresno and I felt like the world was lifted from my shoulders that I didn't have to think about. A lot of people criticized me. They said, "Well, you just dropped out. You didn't stick around." I said, "No." My phase of it was over. Someone else had to carry the ball.

Hilary: Then how did they talk you into going to Chile? How did that come about?

Marv: Oh, Jesus, Helen and I in 1985 had one of these Eastern Airline things where you can fly, it was three spots on Eastern's route for \$500 or something. It was great. Helen and I flew down and spent about three or four days in Santiago. We know some friends there and when I quit (in 1987), I retired down here, John Ayers called me and asked me if I'd do some consulting work for him with the Telephone and Public Utilities Commission. And Helen and I came to Alameda, stayed in a hotel, and this whole place just (hooked

Helen.) And John after a few days said, “Why don’t you pack up your bags and come live here and work for me here at CidCom?” I said, “Sure, why not?” So I went to work for him as vice president of engineering and planning. Chuck was having problems with (the Chilean subsidiary). They wanted to sell it.

Hilary: With PTI?

Marv: Yeah, PTI, they wanted – well it was actually, what was the – Telecommunication Utilities, Inc. or something like that.

Hilary: Yeah, that’s right.

Marv: (Inaudible sentence, something about a general manager being the real power in a Spanish organization, not whoever has the title of “el presidente.”) (Chuck) and I were talking one day and he said, “You’ve been to Chile haven’t you? I said, “Yeah, Helen and I loved it down there.” He says, “I want you to go down there.” I said, “What for, for a visit?” He said, “No, to take over the damn operation.’

Hilary: And this was wireless, wasn’t it, cellular?

Marv: Well, at the time it was... we didn’t have cellular. We were working on the license for it. They had another (system of) two-way communications, which wasn’t too good. They put it up initially for sale and they would have ended up losing, I think, \$4 or \$5 million. So they withdrew it from the market. And I said, “When do you want me to go down?” This was in December of 1988. He said, “I want you down there now.” I said, “For God’s sake, Chuck,” I said, “I just bought a house.” He said, “God damn it,” he said, “I need you down there.” And I said, “Okay.” So I flew down and then later the next month, Helen flew down and we lived there for a little over three years. And when I left, we had sold the company to Bell South and they made an \$18 million profit. It was a good move.

Hilary: When you look back on that time in Alaska from 1947 until you moved down here, what did you count as your greatest accomplishment?

Marv: Moving the telecommunications... Well, first of all, developing a plan for telecommunications in Alaska, whether it was on paper or not, at least it was a visual concept of moving the state of Alaska into a modern telecommunications system. We would not have got... I really to hate say things like that. We wouldn’t have done it if I hadn’t done this. There were so many people involved in this that I was a small part of a team of people that went forward and pursued what we knew was right. And now I think Alaska can be proud of the system that it has with GCI and ACS.

Hilary: The new ACS?

Marv: Pardon me?

Hilary: The new ACS.

Marv: The new ACS.

Hilary: On the flip side of that, Marv, what was your biggest challenge?

Marv: Changing attitudes. Changing the way people thought and implementing what Von Braun said, "What do you want to do? You have satellites up there. What do you want to do?" Do you want to sit there or do you want to improve the lifestyle and the lives of the people in Alaska?

I never worried about Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau. The big cities were going to take care of themselves. I always worried and concentrated on the small villages, the exchanges, the Huslias, the Rubys, the areas of Alaska that people weren't paying a lot of attention to. And as you well know, you can go to the rural areas of Alaska today and you will hear Alaska isn't Anchorage. Isn't that correct? Alaska is not Anchorage nor is it Fairbanks nor is it Juneau. But Alaska -- the amalgamation of all of the areas I want to call "rural Alaska", and what they can do with the cultural aspects of the Natives and what they can do -- all melded in. I don't know the way it is now. I get clippings from friends up there and some things upset me. I don't like the direction of some of the Native corporations.

I've seen so many changes. A very dear friend of mine was a lady by the name of Nellie Ward from Kotzebue. I remember Nellie and I were sitting having a drink -- and now that I think about it, she shouldn't have been drinking: she was a teenager. There in the bar, some of the Native men were there talking about Native women and the way the modern life was changing things. And Nellie got up on her high horse and she said, "God damn it. If you think I'm going to be chewing skins and chewing these other things you can forget it." And she went on and on and on. Later, I said, "Nellie," -- she's half Caucasian also-- I said, "Nellie just calm down." I said, "You don't want to recognize your cultural heritage?" She said, "It's not that, God damn it. It is when they expect me to do the things that my grandmother did, my mother did, to take the abuse that they took." She said, "I'm not about to do that." Now the clock moves forward and I go back to Kotzebue years later, and Nellie is married, has a child, and I notice the parka. And I said, "Gee, that's a beautiful parka. Who made it?" She smiled at me, "I made it." I said, "You chewed the skins?" She said, "God damn you, Marv," she says, "You were right. There are many of the cultural things that I didn't want to lose and I didn't know (that was) important too."

My biggest disappointment during my entire episode up there is I couldn't convince certain individuals -- people that I had respect for and liked -- that you could not just apply the free marketplace concept to rural Alaska and expect it to take off, to develop. Nobody is going to develop Huslia modern communications based upon the revenues that you could project out there. On my joint board activities I worked very, very hard to get

the support necessary to develop the changes and I'm very proud of my joint board. It was... I shouldn't say "proud". The Buddhists do not have a word pride in their vocabulary. But I'm very happy with the results of what we did. Could I have done more? Maybe I could have. Would I have done some things differently? Yeah, always. There's always in life that, "What if I had done this? What if?" And I can't play that game any more.

Hilary: And we so often are not given to stopping to recognize the part that you play.

Marv: Yeah, I have a new direction. I have a daughter to raise. I return to the university next month.

Hilary: Do you!

Marv: Yeah, and my advisor, "Marv," he says. "You are going to be the most wide-ranging senior we've ever had." And I said, "Why is that?" He said, "Well, he says, "You're taking all these courses that have nothing to do with certification to be an English teacher." I said, "That's very interesting." He laughed and he said, "Yeah, very interesting." I said, "Yeah, I might throw in a degree in history or political science along with my English degree."

Hilary: Now this isn't your first degree?

Marv: Yes.

Hilary: Is it? After all your engineering training and everything?

Marv: Yeah.

Hilary: When do you graduate?

Marv: I don't know. I haven't really thought about it. I have a degree from the non-accredited school. That's where my engineering talents grew out of. But I want to teach.

Hilary: That's so great.

Marv: You know they talk about putting 100,000 teachers into the system, but they better change how they certificate them because it's a big...

Hilary: Try to get them into the system.

Marv: Yeah, it is terrible. The teachers union have a stranglehold on the whole entry system and I have argued with the university up there and, I guess it is about two months ago, I was almost ready to bag it and study law over at John F. Kennedy University Law School

because something had pissed me off. I forgot what it was. I thought I would be a better lawyer than a teacher, but I'd be stepping right back into the pressure cooker that almost killed me before, but I think I'll be a good teacher.

Hilary: I think you will be a great teacher. I have no doubt you'll be a great teacher.

Marv: Maybe you'll be interested.

**End of Tape 2 Side B**