

**Oral History Interview of  
Lou Diekemper**

**Interviewed by: David Marshall  
October 19, 2015  
Lubbock, Texas**

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### Preferred Citation for this Document:

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### Recording Notes:

*Original Format:* Born Digital Audio

*Digitization Details:* N/A

*Audio Metadata:* 96kHz/ 24bit WAV file

*Further Access Restrictions:* N/A

*Related Interviews:*

### Transcription Notes:

*Interviewer:* David Marshall

*Audio Editor:* N/A

*Transcription:* Savannah Calvert

*Editor(s):* Katelin Dixon

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## Transcript Overview:

This interview features Lou Diekemper of Lubbock. Diekemper discusses her experiences traveling and the different spiritual practices she has witnessed. Diekemper talks about traveling in Asia, Africa, and South America. She also discusses the value of travel and how it has shaped her worldview.

**Length of Interview:** 00:45:29

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### Keywords

Africa, Lubbock, Texas, religion, spirituality, travel

**David Marshall (DM):**

Okay so the date is October 19, 2015, and this is David Marshall interviewing Lou Diekemper at her office in Lubbock, Texas, and then if we can just start talking about some of your travels beginning with the first.

**Lou Diekemper (LD):**

Well my first trip was to go—and Ray was invited to go also, but it was too close to his experiences to World War II and he didn't want to go—so I went with—I asked him if he minded if I went with Mother and Daddy, and he said no not at all, and we visited—I can't remember which one we visited first—but we went to—in those days we said Formosa instead of Taiwan and Japan and Hong Kong

DM:

Oh how nice.

LD:

And so it was quite an interesting experience, and at that time I had started doing some workshops, and I learned about hugging trees and I'll never forget Mother and I while Daddy was attending meetings in Japan, Mother and I did some sightseeing on our own and went to a park, and I said, "Mother I really want to feel the energy in these trees," so I stood there and put my arms around it, and I said, "Oh it's got wonderful energy." I looked around and several Japanese people saw me doing that and doing the same thing, so it was quite an interesting experience because by that time, I'd started work on my master's, and I had through that work, I had learned about a little bit about some of the oriental religions and beliefs which was a very interesting growth experience for me to be involved in that, and so anytime we were able to visit a Shinto temple or anything like that, we did that, and when I came home, Ray was exhausted. He had had the responsibility of three girls, and of course, he wasn't alone in that my sister and her husband lived here, and he had wonderful help during the day to look after them, but he told me that night, he said, "Well, I've learned one thing from this trip. From now on, if you go on a trip, the girls and I are going with you." I said, "Do you mean that? And he said yes, and I asked him that three times, he said, "Yes I really mean it," so the next morning I called, we had a wonderful travel agent in Lubbock named Mr. Felsher then.

DM:

I'm sorry the name?

LD:

Felsher, F-e-l-s-h-e-r, and he planned a trip to take the girls, and Mother and Daddy if they wanted to go to Egypt and Greece, and we were going to be gone about six weeks, and Ray agreed to it, he was kind of panicky when he found out what all we were planning to do for that

length of time, but the girls got permission from school, and there were requirements were they would keep a daily journal and write reports and things like that, well—and the trip was a great experience. I dressed them alike which they hated, but I thought they looked very cute and very nice, and they wore their school uniforms, and they got tired, they'd go into hotel or something, if there was band, or orchestra I should say, they'd start playing music from *The Sound of Music*, well they were just embarrassed to death that I caused them that embarrassment, but it was a wonderful trip, Mother and Daddy did go with us, and we—I'll never forget the first look of the pyramids, flying over and seeing them, something you read about for years, and we had, I had read quite a bit about it already, and we spent a night, I was kind of disappointed at first when I saw we spent a night out in, not far from the pyramids and the sand, and we had an orange crate bathroom to use, and dogs that chewed bones all night that were watch dogs, and they had all kind of entertainment planned for the girls; they had a magician, they had a very plump belly dancer, and Ray got a—they had a white Arabian horse for Ray, well Ray was never much of a rider, but he—I thought, Oh gosh, will he ever come back? We divided up three tents and divided up the children and so forth, and it was quite an experience.

DM:

It sounds wonderful.

LD:

To ride there, but still the camel drivers that were leading—our camels kept saying Bakish [?], but going in and seeing Cairo, I'll never—I think that was the most outstanding trip we ever took, and I guess that was 1967, and then Daddy was not feeling well on that trip, but he wanted to go ahead and go, and then when we got the same thing, but it was wonderful in those days, you could take pictures everywhere you went, even in the tombs.

DM:

Did you go inside some of the Pyramids, the larger Pyramids?

LD:

Well, I started down, the rest of the family went in, but I began—the claustrophobia, and I had to get back because you had to stoop and I couldn't have all that, and I think it was some past life experiences that came up also for me while I was there. There weren't tour busses everywhere, this was before the days, and then when you got to the Valley of Kings and Queens and all that beautiful area, they didn't have any electricity in there, and when you'd go down the steps, some man would stand at the top and hold a piece of sheet metal, and the sun would shine down in there, and they still had remains of a few dummies, not dummies, mummies—excuse me—you can tell it's Monday—mummies in there, and they didn't care if you sat in chairs, took pictures, anything. I had read so much, we all had, about those who explored the tombs and what they found and all that King Tut and all that we were all very familiar, we remembered a lot about the

different dynasties, and then going to Luxor and all those places and seeing the sound and lights. When you had that opportunity—of course now the world is such a situation you can't do things like that anymore—and then we went to Greece.

DM:

Where in Greece did you go?

LD:

We covered quite a bit of territory. We went by boat the first part of it, and that's when we had terrible rough seas, the boat had been an old ferry boat, and I just knew we were going to go into the water, and Ray took one of the girls, they had our daughters were young staying down in the bottom level of the boat. We said we can't do that, so he stayed down there, and then Daddy got very ill on that and they were afraid—Greeks are very superstitious—they were afraid he was going to die, and they called a boat to take him, they said, told Mother, "You'll be fine, you're going to be taken to an island, and they'll get you transportation onto Athens." Well they dumped him on this island, and Daddy was sick and Mother was trying to find someone, and finally this man come up, and he spoke English, and he said, "Do you need help?" And Mother said, "Yes my husband is ill, and they told us we could get help here," and he was a Greek American visiting from the states.

DM:

Oh. Do you remember which island it was by chance?

LD:

I don't remember the island. I don't even know if I wrote it down. It's things like that you don't want to remember too much anyway, but he saw that they got to Athens, and Daddy knew a doctor, a Greek doctor's name that he wanted to see and he was out of town, but then he told Mother, "No, I want to go home," and Mother got him on—I think it was an Olympic airplane, and they let him stay on the plane at all the different stops they made, and he went back to Dallas; they insisted we continue on with the trip, which we did, and we had a very interesting man as our guide who—we had a mini bus, we drove around a lot of Greece, and he would tell—and of course the children were fascinated with the stories he told. He had been in the Greek resistance and had a son that worked at the museum in Athens, and he showed us on his wrist where he had been bound and so forth, but we went to all of the main cities, the small one, Sparta, the ones you've heard about and where the Olympics began and that sort of thing, Agamemnon's Tomb, it was a wonderful experience.

DM:

Do you have photographs?

LD:

Oh, we have a lot of them, in fact I don't know what we're going to do with all the pictures. Ray carried a tremendous camera bag, we've got slides, we've got everything. He's got scrapbooks of every trip we ever made, and I don't know what we're going to do without those things.

DM:

We need to talk about that.

LD:

Oh right because I need to ask the girls again if they're interested in them, and I really don't think they are because they don't have the equipment to show the slides or anything like that, and he's got an awful lot of film equipment, and because we traveled so early, it's the way things used to be, which was a wonderful—

DM:

It would be wonderful to see.

LD:

And we happened to be—it was very interesting when we got to Athens, we couldn't figure out why all these Greek army officers were in uniform, navy, and all the officers were in uniform and they said, "Oh well, they're having a—" oh what word did they use, it was a religious trip for them I guess is the best way to describe it.

DM:

Like a pilgrimage?

LD:

We found out later what they were planning was the revolution, but they had to call it a pilgrimage to do that, and then when we got to Athens, they had had the one day revolution, and we went—our hotel overlooked it, and we saw the parade and the kings horse with the boots turned upside down, and it was paraded through the streets, and there were Greek people up there and gave us little candles to light and hold, so we did that, and periodically through the night, we heard some gun shots we'd guess, so we don't know, they had the hotel completely blocked off, they let Ray get out early the next morning to—I don't know why we thought we were going to starve, we bought some bread, and it was really a historical time to be there when all that was going on, and then we got in—then we left Athens and began our trip driving around, and we found out about the significance of the Orthodox church celebrates two weeks later than we do, and so it was a very educational trip in a lot of ways, and then when we'd go through a lot of the villages, people had to turn their guns in and we saw people walking carrying guns along the street, and then we ate, we were given, whole eggs, colored eggs to eat and that sort of thing, so

it was a wonderful experience, then we came back to find out daddy, he kept saying, and because he was a general surgeon, he said, "I can feel a tumor," and of course that was the days before they had all the tests they could do, and he went twice to this doctor in Dallas, and he said, "No Sam I can't find anything," and then it was cancer of the pancreas, and Daddy said, "Well I have three months to live," and he died actually in three months on Diane, our youngest daughter's birthday. He knew exactly how long he had and went through terrible chemotherapy, double whammies of it, but it was just one of those things that we came back, and I had an awful lot of work to do because I had to close his office, I had to go through files, I had to go through mail, I would fly into Dallas, and the time I wished, I had had shorthand in high school as well as typing—typing I did have, and I did well in typing, but I tried to write notes, letters for him, and that was a very emotional time for me having to do all that, but it got done, and we learned about—and Ray was a big support to me because he said, "Lou you've got to keep three separate books," when we found out about Daddy's will and so forth and we did, and that was the day before banks had computers, and by Ray insisting that I do that as well as keeping a separate set of books for Mother, we found that often there'd be carelessness in who got checks, all checks went to the bank till we got that all worked out, and even after that for the three of us, my sister, my brother and me, we had to check and see well did this account get their third of it, did this one, and we found a lot of mistakes, so you're appreciative now with what computers can do, that sort of thing.

DM:

You mentioned on one of these trips, and I wanted to know if this is typical that you studied about what you were going to see in advance or after you returned, was there a lot of study involved?

LD:

It was for me growing up. Ray didn't have time he was busy with his work, but I read all of Mary Renault's books and lot of them, the customs of Greece and the ancient ones, I was a history major, so this was just right up my alley you might say.

DM:

The icing on the cake.

LD:

To visit these places and then learn how—the ancient Greeks like at Sparta, that still horrifies me to think about, if they had too many girls, they threw them off the mountain, or if a child was born handicapped, they threw the baby off, and it's just a lot of things now we would think be horrible to happen. But we tried to go over it with the girls, and they had studied a little bit because they were in grade school about that and some of that, so we tried to field them on it and everything. I forgot to mention in Egypt, we were invited to dinner, my brother, brother-in-law

and sister had become the host families for an Egyptian student, and we met him just before we left at their house, and he had told his parents about us coming over, so they had us to their home, and that was quite an experience for the children, and after that trip Ray and I became host families for a lot of the Egyptian and at one time we had two Egyptian couples that—well one couple was married and the other one he was dating quite a few Tech girls, we had one from Kuwait, and one from Yemen, and so that was a wonderful experience.

DM:

Isn't it? And another wonderful learning experience.

LD:

Yes, and the girls were involved in that too, and we had parties a lot for them, and so it's been—it was really a wonderful experience being host families.

DM:

That really means a lot having someone from another country. We have that advantage on campus you know in the Southwest Collection, right now there's a girl from Nepal, another from China, a few from India, and it's so nice to get to talk to them, and they learn us and we learn from them.

LD:

Well and then in later years Ray and I became the host family for two boys from Russia, and we entertained them a lot because they were all from one school, and they all came over here to study electrical engineering. Some ended up being the party people, and we had one that was kind of that way and got homesick and wanted to go back, but the other one, Max, we went to his wedding last year in the Virgin Islands, and we're still, he considers us his United States family, and so we really—Ray always said, Lou I think we got the pick of the bunch because Max was eager to learn and he—and Ray introduced him to Jerry Bell who at that time was head of Johnson Controls, they used to call it Johnson Controls, I don't know what they call it now, and Ray introduced him to Rotary, and then Jerry Bell gave him a job when he graduated. He went to Tech, got his electrical engineering degree, and then got his MBA, decided he wanted to get his MBA here and be involved in business in the states, and we had a lot of fun doing that. Then we were kind of host families for some of the boys at Reese when the Shah's son was here because we met the general and his young wife and their little girl who came with Reysa [?] because we were friends of the Reynolds, and then we kept up with—I still hear every once in a while from her, and the mother of the—and she invited me to London to go to her daughter's wedding, and oh that was a wonderful experience, the Reynolds were there, they gave us places of honor across from Reysa and his mother and the Inam [?], or however you pronounce his name, was down at the end. And she gave us in English, a description of the service and what everything meant and that sort of thing, and then they had—it was at a very expensive hotel, and

you change clothes in-between the wedding part and then the seated dinner—oh it was something I'll never forget.

DM:

That's something.

LD:

And her father had been the Shah's friend and banker, and I don't know how he got money out, but he must've gotten some money out some way.

DM:

This must've happened in the what, early eighties or so? That trip to London.

LD:

Yes uh-huh whenever—

DM:

Because he was here in the late seventies I think, or early eighties.

LD:

And we would have big parties in the back, in our backyard, and have steaks cooked out or something, you know like that, it was just a great time.

DM:

You know, I'm sure your daughters have this same outlook too, but it seems like early on you were able to develop kind of global perspective, and I think that's so important. Many people don't ever get that global perspective.

LD:

And Idris Traylor has always been a friend of our family, when he was at Tech, he was great help to us and of course by speaking Russian, it was ideal that he come to all of the parties that the Russians attended.

DM:

Exactly, did you ever travel with him?

LD:

I've been on a few of the museum trips.

DM:

Oh have you? Okay.

LD:

I haven't been to all of them because we were doing our own—Ray liked to go on Stanford trips or Harvard trips, and because he always knew a lot of people on the Stanford trips and he enjoyed that.

DM:

Right I'll bet. Tell me about some more of your memorable, more memorable, travels.

LD:

Oh—one time Ray told me he was going to the—well he went both times, both to the Arctic and both to the Antarctica, and I'd heard these scary tales about how the water was so rough when you went to the Antarctica that sometimes they tied you in your berth, and I said, "Ray I don't swim and I'm not going to do that, but why don't you take your brother?" So Ray took his brother and I got a thing, we got a thing in the mail that Harvard had a thirty day trip across the Indian Ocean, and I was working on—I had a lot of books to read and things like that for my master's and I decided to go on that. Well, I shocked Ray to death when I found—I told him that I had signed up to go and he said, "You're going by yourself?" I said, "Yes I'm sure there will be some other single women." Well that was quite an experience alone because the crew was all Greek men, and we who were single on the trip, sometimes they'd want to teach us Greek and have a drink, and we knew what all they meant. It was quite an experience. We picked up two people in Kenya that shouldn't have been on the ship, and I'll never forget that I got lost in the camels at Mogadishu and then we—there again have been so many changes in that area.

DM:

Apparently you came down through the Suez Canal.

LD:

We went—we flew to—actually the trip began in Kenya, and then we went from there to Somalia and all of those places along and then went across. I think we went all the way down to—I'm trying to think where that interesting place is that's supposed to be so exotic, and we had a lot of—visited islands—Zanzibar I think and then we went straight from there across—ended up in India.

DM:

How many days was that crossing from Zanzibar?

LD:

Oh it was, well I think five days at water or something like that.

DM:

Okay, wow yeah, and you ended up in India where?

LD:

I think, I think what we called in those days Mombasa probably, and I've been—I've made five trips to India and five trips to Africa, and I say I think I'll finish my karma in both of those places. But then Ray and I went on some other trips that were very—and soon I went, he said, "Lou I don't believe like you do, but I'll go with you and support you whatever you do." Well I went through a voodoo ceremony one time in Togo. I was really frightened by that, and I had paid I \$85 to do this to have my question answered and my question was, "What can I do to increase my spirituality and learn more." And I'll never get—it was, oh it was hot and these people had walked to get there. By the time we got there, it was nine o'clock at night, and they were already, they had been drumming all day, already in trance. A lot of them had perspired a lot, and they pour white talcum powder on them, and as I walked by, this woman reached up to go back and meet the priest and his brother, she grabbed me by the hand and tried to pull me down and they pulled me away. Well that made my heart pound, and then we went in there, and the brother was dancing around, this young man was—the priest was—I even had him come to Lubbock to do a workshop later, he had been educated in Paris and had planned to be a doctor. But then he went back to believing in the priest and the priestess and all that, I can't think now what they call all that, their religion. But he gave me something to eat in a little ball and held it out in his hand and told me to put my mouth on it and eat it, and I eat it, and I've always had a delicate stomach, I thought I was going to throw up, and then he hit me three times on the forehead and the brother told me to go back. Well I went—I said, "Ray I've got to have some water quick." But some of our group, our tour guide's wife got in a, was in a trance and she began standing and dancing and I'll never forget that night. I was glad when it was over and we were home back in the hotel. It was—

DM:

But what an experience.

LD:

It was, yes it was.

DM:

Did you ever find out what you ate?

LD:

No and I think I'd want to be glad I don't, I didn't know because—

DM:

Well, I won't ask you again then.

LD:

It was dark green, and no telling us what it was.

DM:

But who gets an experience like that? Not many people, you have to be adventurous, though.

LD:

Well, you have to and you have to—Ray also went with me to Brazil one time with the purpose, there was nine of us, and I knew Jeffery Mishlove who was leading it. He was the first man—he used to have a television program—and he was the first man to get a PhD in parapsychology in the states, and he would interview all these interesting people. Well, he got a trip to go visit psychic healers in Brazil, in particular the spiritist, so I said Ray, “Would you like to go with me?” He said, “Sure I'll go with you,” and on that trip our translator was a young Brazilian whom we later saw in San Francisco, he was a psychologist, and we had some interesting experiences on that, and I was a guinea pig in one of them, and Ray was taking pictures and watching all of this going on, and—

DM:

What did they do, how were you a guinea pig?

LD:

I was laying down on this table like thing, and he would have me lift one arm and one leg, and I would do all of these things. Ray said he knew that I didn't know what I was doing, I mean I did what I was told, there wasn't anything embarrassing or anything like that. But we visited at \_\_\_\_\_ [?] a spiritist University, and they have a university just to teach students their religious beliefs, and then we got to Sal Paolo which is really their headquarters for the spiritists and we visited—it was really quite interesting to see some of the ceremonies we went to, and they would get in true trances through drumming and through, they drink a lot of alcohol, and I've forgotten whether it was gin or something like that, but they'd go in these—sometimes they'd take—and all of their guides have animal personalities, and sometimes when they were up there they would be taking that—

*Pause in Recording*

DM:

All right we're back on.

LD:

And then we went to Rio and visited another spiritist group—Ray and I did some of this on our own—because we got a translator often to be our guide and driver, or sometimes there would be two individuals.

DM:

In these travels to different parts of the world and talking about the spirituality, did you see common links? Were there lots of common links?

LD:

Yes I always had, if I could remember it, I would carry a tape recorder and I would ask, I would tell the translator what I wanted to ask, and in all of them I would ask the healer, "Where does your power come from?" And they would all point up, and then the one time we visited, on the Ivory Coast, we visited a juju, which was a Muslim who had power, and I was so fascinated I forgot to record it, and I know I thought—well he said, "Tomorrow you will visit in another country a healer, and don't eat anything or don't drink anything that he gives you." He said it will make you sick, don't do it. And then, it was very interesting because he brought out, he said, "You will have trouble when you get home with someone that works for you," and it was just, I was so fascinated, you know, he had four wives and four little huts in his yard, and sure enough we went to Senegal the next day, and I asked the guide there if he could, I said, "I don't have—we're flying out of here tonight," this was on our way back, we had already been to Senegal first, and I said, "I want to get back but is there a healer that you could take me to?" And Ray—Ray was on the top floor of the hotel, and he took a license plate number because he knew I was supposed to be back to get on that Pan Am plane, and I got a little uneasy because we kept driving and driving and going through these little villages, and then finally I said, "How much farther is it? I need to get back in time to catch a plane." He said, "Oh we're almost there." Well we got there, and it was the healer had—I don't know whether they were wives or daughters or what—but they were combing each other's hair, and I met him, and he pointed me to the jugs that he kept things in, and I said, Uh-oh I hope he doesn't, and it was hot and we were all perspiring. That humidity is just awful, and then we started talking and then he said, through the interpreter, "I really need vitamins, have her send me some vitamins," and I thought, Here I am supposed to be asking questions. Well I said, get his address and I'll send him some vitamins and I did when I got home, but of course I never did hear from him. But he was kind of large, and I could tell he was ill, but I was so happy to leave there and get back to the hotel, and a little bit of that goes a long ways.

DM:

Did you often—you know you've been in some interesting places in the world, have you ever thought back and said you know that was kind of a close scrape. Things could've happened that I wouldn't want to happen there.

LD:

Yeah, that really worried me, like we visited—do you know—you know Isabelle Howe?

DM:

Mhmm.

LD:

All right. One night mother and Ray and I called—we had many plans because she was a real good friend of my sister Sammie and so was Bill, her husband, because they had known him at Tech and then when he went to—I think he worked for the CIA and did some, his job was to go to different embassies, and that's why they lived in so many different countries, and be sure that the, particularly the Russians, couldn't get the information from where, from the embassy and that sort of thing.

DM:

To make sure they embassy was secure and the information wasn't leaking out, was that it?

LD:

Yes, they didn't want any—and when we had dinner at their home they sent their driver to pick us up who carried a gun, and she says, "We have to do this because of the crime and the problems they had." And when we left, he went with us, and I just thought, Well how in the world, to myself, could you live like this? And that's why they sent the boys off to school. So you know because they just felt it wasn't safe to have—

DM:

Right, okay.

LD:

But oh there are a lot of things like that.

DM:

How many overseas trips to you think you've taken? You've already just casually mentioned so many places in the world you've been.

LD:

I don't know. I know I've been to a 150 countries, and Ray was real good to put a pin on every place that we'd been to, or he had been to in World War II on a map.

DM:

Have you written these up, any of these trips? Or are they documented in mostly in photographs and some audio recording?

LD:

Mostly in photographs—we each took pictures but I took mine, and I went on a trip alone to Somalia with eight other women, and that was quite an interesting experience because they were—I said Somalia, I don't mean that, Ethiopia, and that was really an interesting experience, and we kept up our friendships for good many years after that, and you saw the extreme poverty they were living in, and we had a wonderful older man as a guide that took us to his home and so forth. We saw Lucy, and she was in a case that was cracked glass and—

DM:

Oh did you really? Wow. Really, this was down in the rift valley near the Serengeti?

LD:

Uh-huh. Well this was actually in the capital of—

DM:

Oh I'm sorry, I just figured—

LD:

Wherever she was.

DM:

I know they now have museum right down there at the discovery site where the Leakeys were, so I just figured she was there but—

LD:

Yeah where the Leakeys were, they call that where that was all done. And Ray had given me two plastic bottles of scotch, and one I'd emptied on the trip, and the other one, there was about this much left in it, I didn't think anything about it, I left it on the top shelf of the hotel room because it was a very nice hotel, and when we got home, and we were unpacked and I said, "Ray there's a little bit of scotch left in that bottle, you want to have some scotch on the rocks?" And he said, "Sure." He said, "I'll go get it," and he opened it and he said, "Lou they took the scotch out of here and put something else in here."

DM:

Really?

LD:

Oh yes because they weren't allowed to have any in those days, so because they were Muslim they didn't have anything like that.

DM:

They had a party, didn't they?

LD:

They had a party, so I was just thankful we didn't take a sip of it or anything like that happen to us.

DM:

Did you over to Western Turkey, have you been to Western Turkey?

LD:

I've only been to the Istanbul area, two or three times. We just did that because we were—we went one time by ship, and that was quite a thrill to come in with the sails up into Istanbul and that sort of thing, and then I was there other times, but we flew in both times.

DM:

I just think it would be intriguing because it's so much a part of ancient Greek culture on that coast, that Western coast of Turkey.

LD:

Yeah, it has changed so much. We were there with Lou Anne and Peter and their girls—well I won't say we, I was there with them a few years ago, two or three years ago—and I couldn't get over the change in it, the way so many of them are wearing the traditional dress, everything is so very Muslim now, and you don't feel welcome like you used to.

DM:

Well there are yeah, there's a problem with American tourists on the West Turkish coast, probably anywhere in Turkey.

LD:

And so it's just a—I wouldn't recommend anyone going there now. A lot of those places you're just, it's just scary I wouldn't want to travel there again.

DM:

Well are you still traveling, do you have any trips planned?

LD:

Well, I had one trip planned, and we were supposed to leave October 31 with this couple that I'd traveled with quite a bit, and they were a lot of fun to be with, and when I got home from work on the fourteenth of September, I had a call, and it was the husband saying his wife had died, and so it was just an eight day trip on the Mississippi. I had already done a trip with Idris on that, probably the same places, but I just wanted to go on that.

DM:

Is it one of the steamboat trips?

LD:

It's a new one that's a copy of it. I've been on one of the older ones.

DM:

The Mississippi Queen or Delta Queen or one of those? Wow.

LD:

Yeah, Delta Queen, yes, and I really just had planned to go on that trip because of them. We had met each other years ago on some, right after Ray died, I thought, Well no, I'm going to keep traveling, and I learned about these small jet trips, and I met this couple and we traveled on three of those I think, and there are just some people you enjoy being with, and you just feel an instant connection with them, and she was a typical Southern lady except she was from Florida, and so that—I went last spring on the—Lou Anne and Peter gave me a wonderful trip from Rome to Venice and we did—of course I've been to those places but we had fun. But I'm just a little uneasy now; I think I'll plan trips more for the United States and Canada.

DM:

These trips that you—you know there's so many different ways of traveling, some people travel just all out and others go at a more relaxing pace. How would you describe that for yourself?

LD:

I've been both ways. I've been on trips where you spend two nights at a place and then repack and go again, and I've been on some of those that were with Stanford and Harvard and then I've been on some of those with like, the small jet trips which are luxury trips, and I think the most challenging trip, one of those that my brother-in-law was Bill Armstrong, and he was an avid traveler, and he was great to travel with because he had his room, I had my room, we'd meet for dinner, if we didn't want to do the same things during the day, we didn't do them. But it was—

we did one where we visited seven countries, it was a Stanford trip, and we had to pack clothes for cold weather and for India, and it was really exhausting, and by the end of the trip, I was really ready to come home because a lot of it was one night, two nights, and heavy, heavy suitcases and all that sort of thing.

DM:

Right okay. We're about out of time for this morning, is there anything else you want to add about travel in general before I shut it off?

LD:

I just think—I lived in an ideal time of travel when you may have had worries, but you didn't go to—you were advised by the State Department not go to certain areas, and we always obeyed those rules and regulations, and I feel sorry for people that would like to travel now and maybe we have to hope that someday the world will again be a safe place. But it certainly doesn't look like it now.

DM:

Well I'm going to go ahead and shut this off.

LD:

All right.

***End of Recording***

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