

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training  
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project

**HELEN BRADY LANE**

*Interviewed by: Charles Stuart Kennedy  
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*Q: Today is 16 September 2014 and an interview with Helen Lane. Any middle name?*

LANE: My middle name, which is my birth name, is Brady.

*Q: And you go by Helen.*

LANE: Yes.

*Q: We are doing this at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, where we are both residents.*

LANE: And growing older in a pleasant environment.

*Q: This is a retirement home so we are doing it in Helen's apartment with her husband, Larry. To begin at the beginning, when and where were you born?*

LANE: I was born in Portland, Oregon in April, 1935. My father, George D. Brady, was an auditor for the Public Works Administration (PWA), a New Deal government agency set up by the Roosevelt Administration. He had been working in western Washington state at Grand Coulee Dam, which in 1934 and '35 was just an enormous construction site. Grand Coulee was one of the largest PWA projects. Today it is the largest electric power producing facility in the United States. When my parents were first married they lived in Wilbur, Washington, the settlement nearest the dam site. My mother's birth name was Flora Grimm. Before she married she had been teaching high school in California. She said that it was an adventure making a home in a rough and tumble place near the dam site. But as her pregnancy progressed but she realized Wilbur, Washington was not a good place to have a baby. I had no idea how rough the place was until recently when I saw an American Experience film on PBS about the building of Grand Coulee Dam. The living conditions there were not nice for anybody. My dad shared mother's misgivings and got himself transferred to the PWA office in Portland. That is why I was born there.

Before I was a year old Dad was transferred to California. We lived in various places in California. We lived in Oakland for awhile and then in Los Angeles, in Beverly Hills. I remember our apartment in Beverly Hills. It was near the La Brea Tar Pits, a now famous site. I remember the tar pits as a sink hole out in a field with a fence around it to keep people out. And I remember scary stories about the tigers and wild creatures who got stuck in the tar and perished.

*Q: I know that place well because my aunts lived near there, where dinosaurs and saber tooth tigers and creatures like that died and left their remains in the La Brea Tar Pits. I know that neighborhood because my aunts lived just off of Wilshire Blvd. near La Cienega.*

LANE: That is the area where we lived in Los Angeles. I remember Wilshire Boulevard as a very wide and busy street, that my mother and I, she with her hand guiding my tricycle, crossed very carefully.

*Q: Café Circle movie theater was there.*

LANE: Speaking of movie theatres in Los Angeles, something about them aroused my sense of wonder. I marveled at the great beams of light that sometime swept across the evening sky. My parents told me the light came from searchlights that were put on the sidewalk in front of a movie theaters for the opening of a new movie. I longed to go and see where the light was coming from. But I don't think I was ever taken to watch that.

*Q: Oh I know that area extremely well. My aunts there just inside Beverly Hills, the streetcar tracks ran along the way. I remember the Fox Theater.*

LANE: My younger brother was born in Los Angeles in 1938 and was named Louis Howe Brady. He was named after President Roosevelt's political advisor, Louis Howe, who had recently died. Howe was someone my father, who grew up in New York, had known and admired.

I must have been four years old when we moved from Beverly Hills. We moved to Modesto, California where my mother's sister, Helen, and her family lived. We had a house around the corner from their house. I liked my Aunt Helen and Uncle Arthur Shull and my three cousins, boys who were a little older than me. It was nice having them close by.

*Q: How long did you live in Modesto?*

LANE: We lived in Modesto until early December of 1940. The PWA was winding down, and as World War II began in Europe and Asia, the US military was building up. My father had taken a new job as an auditor with the Department of the Army and was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Base near Dayton, Ohio initially. He was angling for a transfer to the California so we wouldn't have to move back East. While he was in Dayton, he had a cerebral hemorrhage. He had always seemed a strong, healthy man but one morning when he was at a bus stop waiting to go to work, he complained of a head ache and then dropped dead.

So my mother was left with five-year-old me and my little brother who was going on two. My mother's oldest sister, Bernice, and her husband Howard Stoner had a comfortable house back in Pennsylvania. The Stoner boys were grown up or off at college. They invited Mother to come back East with us to the town of Mount Pleasant, where we could live with the Stoners while mother looked for a teaching job. And then, when we children were a bit older, find our own apartment. It was a good solution to my mother's dilemma. Mother had graduated from high school in Mount Pleasant and, after graduating from Occidental College in California had taught

high school in Mount Pleasant for two years. So my mother, hiding her sorrow after losing the love of her life, put a smile on her face and took us by train across the country. We traveled by train in a Pullman car to Pennsylvania. Mother described Pennsylvania to me as a wonderful place where there was snow in the winter, where I would be able to play in the snow and make snowmen. I loved riding on the train. That trip was a formative experience; it made a traveler of me. When we arrived in Chicago we had to change trains. I remember not liking Chicago. We had to wait in a big train station. My mother wouldn't let me do anything but sit on this bench beside her. She said she didn't want me to get lost in Chicago. So I sat on the bench and listened to her complain that the trains in the East weren't as good as trains in the West.

But when we arrived in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Aunt Bernice and Uncle Howard were waiting on the train station platform to meet us. It was dark outside but I could see them waiting for us to get off the train. Mother had showed me a picture of them so I knew what they looked like. I went running down the platform to meet them and we gave each other big hugs. It was snowing which thrilled me. I remember riding in their green Ford sedan as we went over the hills to Mount Pleasant, which was about 20 miles from Greensburg. I rode between my uncle and aunt in the front seat and watched the snow coming at the wind shield. I thought it was beautiful. My aunt told me that people called her Bun or Bunny and that I could call her Aunt Bunny if I wanted to. I liked that.

*Q: This town you went to....*

LANE: It was named Mount Pleasant.

*Q: Where was that located?*

LANE: It is in Westmoreland County which is east of Pittsburgh. Mount Pleasant is one of the oldest towns in southwestern Pennsylvania. It was at the crossroads of two Indian trails. During the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794, local men who protested the tax on whiskey were arrested. In those days it was called Hell Town, a place of rough taverns and rougher people. But Hell Town prospered and before long the inhabitants decided it needed a nicer name so they called it Mount Pleasant.

My Uncle Howard was the owner and publisher of the town newspaper, The Mount Pleasant Journal. The Stoners had a houseful of books. Aunt Bunny was on the town library board. We got many newspapers because my uncle's print shop did a lot of photo cuts for other papers. That was before the time of wire photos. Photographs were transferred to metal plates put on a piece of wood and then mounted on a type bed with the text of the articles. I loved the newspaper; the big press in the basement ran on Thursdays when the weekly local paper was printed. The mechanics and process of printing a newspaper interested me.

*Q: How long did you live there?*

LANE: We lived in Mount Pleasant until I was in the seventh grade, because the Second World War came along. During the war it was very hard to find apartments or rental houses. Mother soon found a teaching job but it was not in Mount Pleasant. It was in New Kensington, a bigger

town at the far end of the county. So she would be gone during the week, and then come home on Friday evening and be gone on Sunday evening. I started to the first grade the next September. My little brother and I were with my aunt and uncle during the school week and Mother would be there on the weekends and during school vacations.

*Q: Well being surrounded by books at such an early age, were you much of a reader?*

LANE: I learned to read in the first grade. I enjoyed learning to read. My teacher's name was Araminta Galley. She was strict but very kind.

*Q: Did you find that any types of books were particularly interesting to you?*

LANE: A book that I remember well was The Wizard of Oz. My second grade teacher had started reading the Wizard of Oz to the class. If our class had been well behaved, she would read us a chapter at the end of the day. Then in the spring I got scarlet fever and had to stay home for the rest of the school year which was maybe about six weeks. I remember being quarantined. I had to stay in my bedroom, and my little brother couldn't even come into the room. He could only stand in the door. My aunt had to take care of me and bring all my meals on a tray, and my mother couldn't come home on the weekend. There were some books that were children's books around which must have been left over from my Stoner cousins. My aunt or uncle also got me books from the town public library which was not very big. I remember being given a picture book for children about the Royal Air Force. The war of course was going on by then.

*Q: The Royal Air Force.*

LANE: The RAF pilots in my book asked school children to collect used postage stamps and send them to them to put in their planes to scare away the gremlins. The gremlins were tiny creatures that caused engine failure and things of that nature. I had model airplanes, nice paper and balsa wood airplanes that had been made by my Stoner cousins as boys. So those were strung about the room. My uncle and aunt would bring me the envelopes that came in the mail and I would cut off the postage stamps and put them on the model planes hanging in my room. So I remember that book. My aunt also obtained a copy of the Wizard of Oz from the town library. She said she would read it to me in the evening. But in looking at the pictures in the book I discovered I could read it. After that I could read just about anything.

*Q: Were you sort of keeping track of the war?*

LANE: Absolutely. Newspapers almost always had a map on the front page that would show how the war was progressing, the Allies territories were in grey and the Axis territories were black, so children like me learned about maps. But I knew about maps before then. We had a globe in our house and I have always liked to have a globe handy. Today in our retirement digs we have a National Geographic globe that I refer to frequently. On the globe of my childhood there was a worn spot because over the years people had put their finger on Pittsburgh, the closest big city to where we lived. But I also knew where California was, because we had come on the train from California. It was the other side of the United States of America. I had been told that if you could dig a hole straight through the world it might come out in China and I could

find China. So I had a sense of what the world looked like. I remember when Pearl Harbor happened on a Sunday afternoon. Somebody showed me on the globe where Pearl Harbor was. It was way out in the ocean beyond California. So there was some good didactic material in the house while I was growing up.

*Q: I must say for myself included, we were both of us in the Foreign Service, and WWII was a great time for young children to get a sense of geography and where things were. We had much more of a feeling for the world than kids today.*

LANE: Yes. I remember some earlier things that got me interested in exotic places. One was being taken to Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey circus by my father when we lived in Los Angeles. I was thrilled by the parade of elephants, and my dad told me where the elephants came from told me about the camels, too. The elephants came from the jungles of India and Africa, camels came from the deserts of Egypt. He showed me the picture of the camel and the pyramids of Egypt on his cigarette package. I thought that was really terrific.

When my brother was born, and my mother had to stay in the hospital for a week or more, I was taken to stay in Pasadena with older relatives of my mother. I knew them as Uncle John Leonard and Aunt Laura. Uncle John was a retired minister who had been a missionary in Japan. (My mother was not an admirer of missionaries. Some years later she told me that the Japanese had interesting religions of their own and didn't really need to add Presbyterian to the mix.) But as a little child I noticed the odd way Uncle John spoke to a man who come with a truck selling vegetables. He was a Japanese truck farmer and Uncle John would speak words of Japanese to this man. I asked Uncle John why he talked that way and he told me about Japan and showed me some paintings, plates and carvings from Japan that he and Aunt Laura had in their house. So I had a little sense, of foreign places, and foreign places sounded interesting to me.

*Q: You grew up I mean basically most of your childhood was located in Pennsylvania.*

LANE: Yes, after my father died, my childhood was in Pennsylvania, in a coal mining area. There were a number of different ethnic groups in Mount Pleasant. There were many different churches and a number of different Catholic churches too. Coal mining is hard, dangerous and dirty work. In our family we were Democrats and respected coal miners. They are people that who do very hard work and get little pay for it. I learned how the mine owners had brought one ethnic group after another over from Europe. They might bring in Slovaks for awhile and they would maybe work for five or ten years and the Slovaks would get out of the mines as quickly as they could. Then the Slovenians would come in, and then the Poles and then the Italians, so you had a mixture of groups in our rather small town. The old people spoke different languages, but the kids spoke English. We did not use the word 'ethnic' in those days. People did sometimes speak with disdain of the foreign element, but I found the foreign element interesting. Westmoreland County gave me a good background, a good background for someone who would one day join the Foreign Service and represent the United States in foreign countries.

*Q: Well now in school, let's take elementary school first. What subjects particularly turned you on and what ones didn't turn you on.*

LANE: Geography is what I liked best. I remember really liking geography and history. I didn't like arithmetic very well until I got into junior high school and we started solving more interesting problems. I didn't like memorizing multiplication tables. My aunt told me once, that if I asked her one more time what seven times eight was, she was going to hit me 56 times with a hair brush. My aunt was good in math. I found out later that before she was married she had taught calculus at Findlay College in Findlay, Ohio, where she and my mother grew up. So there was none of this 'you are just a dumb girl; you don't need to know math,' attitude around our house.

*Q: I will come to it later, but did you pick up any emanations that a woman's place was not meant to be overly educated but meant to be a wife or that sort of thing?*

LANE: Not in our family, where the women were educated. My aunt and my mother had were both college graduates. They had both been teachers. However, there were certain activities that girls were often pushed toward. I did like my dolls but I also liked the electric trains and model airplanes that I inherited from my Stoner cousins who were engineers. I remember back in California when I was in kindergarten, one of the things that I really liked to do was build things with blocks. The boys in my class were often building things with blocks. So I would go over and play with the blocks with the boys. The boys didn't mind, but the teacher thought I should be playing with girl toys. I didn't think much of that.

*Q: Where did you go to kindergarten? Do you remember?*

LANE: I went to kindergarten at the John Muir School in Modesto, California, for a few months. Then when we moved to Pennsylvania I wasn't sent to kindergarten there because they didn't have public school kindergartens. There were some private kindergartens. My mother and my aunt said there was no point in sending me to kindergarten because then I would just be bored in first grade. I think it was more likely a question of money. Money was hard to come by and my uncle had almost lost the business during the depression.

*Q: What was the business?*

LANE: The newspaper and the printing shop. His father had been a banker. The bank failed and his father lost everything including his house. He and his wife had to move in with my uncle and aunt, that is with his son and daughter-in-law. He had given them the house when they married. The house was mortgage free and in my Uncle and Aunt's name, so the bank's creditors weren't able to take that house. The Depression was a dicey time for the Stoner family.

*Q: What religion was your family?*

LANE: Well, my mother's family was Presbyterian. My father's family was Roman Catholic. I was therefore exposed to both religions. My mother's attitude was that the many religions of the world were paths up the same spiritual mountain. I did figure out as a child not to believe what the Presbyterians said about the Catholics because they don't know what they were talking about and vice versa. People rarely understand what they are talking about when they criticize other religions.

*Q: I forgot to ask but on first your father's side, what was sort their nationality, where you all came from in the old country?*

LANE: Ireland. My father's parents were Irish American. Although his mother was born in Wigan, England, which is a coal mining region.

*Q: I remember reading the book, The Road to Wigan Pier.*

LANE: My grandmother was from Wigan, but her family was Irish. Her father, John Conroy, had come as a young teen from County Roscommon in Ireland to the Wigan area at the time of the Potato Famine. According to British Census records he initially worked as a laborer and then as a beer seller. He was literate and had nice handwriting. Later he was managing somebody's pub and eventually he had his own pub and hotel. He must have been quite a man, one who made the best of whatever chances came his way.

*Q: A really energetic driver.*

LANE: His daughter, my grandmother, Ellen Conroy, was energetic too. She told me that she got the idea when she was a child, that in England everyone knew his place in society. But people thought that in America you could rise in the world. Her ambition as a young girl was to emigrate to America and marry an American. Which is what she did. When she came to America she came with two of her sisters. All were in their teens. I think they were something like 15, 17, and 19. Grandmother was the middle one. They had an aunt, Aunt Quigley, who lived in Queens. They came with enough money to prove to the immigration authorities that they were not likely to become public charges. Of course, the money had been borrowed, so they sent it back as soon as they arrived. Aunt Quigley found them jobs in factories. But living with Aunt Quigley was not to their liking. As my grandmother said "she wanted to monitor all of our comings and goings." And their paychecks went to Aunt Quigley to cover their room and board and Aunt Quigley then gave them back small allowances. The girls didn't like that, so they looked for jobs in service.

*Q: When we are talking about jobs in service, we are talking about jobs as maids.*

LANE: Housemaids, cooks and so forth. The advertisements had this now infamous line at the bottom of the ads "Irish Catholics need not apply." But the Conroy sisters were English born. My grandmother said that back then most Americans were so unaware they did not know a working class English accent from a posh English accent. My grandmother's accent would have been working class. I remember my grandmother always had just a slight English accent. But when it is your family one gets used to the way the elders talk. You don't hear their accents. She met my grandfather through his older brother who was a policeman on the block in Manhattan where she was working in a big house. She said that the people she worked for were nice. It was far better than working in a factory. She met the Irish-American policeman on the block. He introduced her to his brother and the brother was to be my grandfather. My grandfather was a comer, too.

*Q: This was the policeman.*

LANE: No, my grandfather, Thomas Brady, was the younger brother of the policeman. Their parents were Irish immigrants. His father, whose name was Michael Brady, emigrated from Ireland at the time of the famine in the early 1850's. He came to New York, married and had four children. But two of the children died one summer from malaria or something. His wife and a new born baby died of tuberculosis the following winter. He was left with one child. He struggled on in New York and remarried. According to census records he was illiterate. His second wife, my great-grandmother was also Irish born. So my grandfather, a child born of the second wife, grew up on the lower West Side of Manhattan in a neighborhood of dock workers. My great-grandfather was a teamster which probably meant that he drove horses or wagons shuttling things around on the docks. Sometimes he was employed; sometimes he wasn't. It was a tough life, but my grandfather did well in grammar school. He then got a job as a Western Union messenger boy. My older (half) sister has a wonderful picture of young boys in their Western Union caps and jackets all lined up on the bench. Our grandfather was one of those boys. Meanwhile he kept going to school, to night school, where he learned bookkeeping. Then he got a job at City Hall. The Brady family was active in Tammany politics. If you weren't into Tammany politics it was harder to get a civil service job.

*Q: Tammany was the Irish political machine.*

LANE: Grandfather did well as a book keeper and then as an accountant. When my grandparents were first married they lived on the lower West Side. At one point they moved over to the Jersey side of the Hudson, but malaria was a serious problem over there, so they came back to the city where the water was safe. Later they became prosperous enough to buy a house in Brooklyn. It was a nice house, a comfortable looking house. I have seen pictures of it. The lot where it was is now under the Belt parkway.

They moved to Brooklyn when my father was maybe in grade school. The children all went to public schools. My grandfather wanted the priest to start a Catholic school in their parish. Grandfather thought a parish school would be nicer for his children than the public schools. Some public school teachers considered the Irish to be lazy and dirty and stupid. But the parish priest did not want to start a school. He is known in our family lore as "Bad Father Gardner". He told my grandfather that he wasn't going to build a parish school and have the neighborhood change and have the church and the school fill up with Italians. My grandfather in telling this story would laugh and say "now this fellow was a priest in the Roman Catholic Church but didn't like Italians and maybe didn't know where Rome was." Grandfather had another run in with that priest. Father Gardner, trying to raise Sunday donations, told his parishioners that the church was going to have to pay a tax. Grandfather knew that churches don't have to pay taxes. So grandfather, taking some other pillars of the parish along, called on the priest and explained to him priest that there weren't any such taxes, that Father Gardner must have misunderstood something. Grandfather went so far as to offer to explain this to the bishop, too. My point is that my grandfather knew how to talk to people.

*Q: This is on your mother's side of the family.*

LANE: No, my dad's side.

My mother's family was from Ohio, Findlay, Ohio. Her father, John Grimm was a lawyer. Mother was the youngest of five children. Her mother, Alice Miller had been a country school teacher. In those day one did not go to law school, one read law with a judge or established lawyer. My maternal grandfather became a successful lawyer and was active in the Republican Party in Ohio. (That was in the day of Theodore Roosevelt when Republicans were progressive.) In 1906 he and two other men were on their way home from a political meeting in another town and stopped to drink at a well. The well was polluted and all three of them got typhoid and my grandfather died. So my grandmother was left with five children and a nice house but no income. My grandfather said, as he was dying, that he was glad that at least they had gotten the coal in for the winter and had paid for it. My grandmother turned the house into a boarding house. Since the house was on the edge of a college campus she could fill the place with interesting boarders from the college.

*Q: What college was this?*

LANE: Findlay College, in Findlay, Ohio, which is in northwest Ohio south of Toledo. Findlay is its own metropolitan area. So my mother grew up in a large house with lots of people around. The children all had chores to do around the boarding house. They had a big garden in the backyard and grew their own vegetables. My grandmother was well known for her good pies and for being a good cook. (Both of my grandmothers were good cooks.) The college campus being so handy the girls in the family all went to college. The boys didn't go to college. They went to work when they were out of high school. My Uncle DeWitt became a draftsman in Toledo and later worked for the Marchant Calculator Company in Oakland, California.

My Uncle John had been expelled from high school. Some of his friends were smoking in the school basement and my Uncle refused to tell the school director who they were. Uncle John once told me that it was better to stand by friends than to be a tattletale. He was handy at fixing cars and started a service station in Findlay. It was the most attractive service station in town. He also loved gardening and in the summer decorated his service station with hanging baskets of petunias. If anyone drove through the town in a car his was the service station where you would likely stop. He started a bunk house with showers for long-distance truckers. In those days highways did not go around towns and cities. They went through town. Later Uncle John got into the trucking business and prospered. He joined the army in WWII. He went into the transportation corps and was an officer. He was stationed in Khorramshahr, Iran. On our old globe it was called Persia. The task of his division was to truck supplies up through Iran to the Russians.

*Q: That was a really major supply route.*

LANE: A major supply route and they did the job well. The British had tried to do it but they had a lot of trouble with their trucks, because they didn't understand long distance trucking and the need to change lubrication and oil if you are going over high mountains. The Americans were better at long distance trucking over long distances and extreme conditions. Uncle John would write v-mail letters to the family but, because of war-time censorship, he could not say where he was. But he liked to write poetry. He would write poetry to his wife Hester and in poems he

often wrote about the beautiful land of Omar Khayyam and that was enough to let his wife and the family know that he must be in Persia.

*Q: You were old enough to feel the effects of WWII. So how did this strike you? Did you find yourself getting interested in what was happening in Europe and Russia or in China or the South Pacific?*

LANE: Oh I think in I was interested in many of the places where the war was being fought. My father had been previously married and I had a half brother and half sister, who were raised by my grandmother in Brooklyn. My sister Grace is 12 years older than me, my brother George 14 years older. My sister married at the beginning of the war and her husband, Dick Fitzpatrick was in the Army on different islands in the South Pacific.

My brother George was first in England, which concerned us because it meant that he would be among the troops who were going to invade the continent of Europe. Although he was a fine raconteur, he didn't talk much about war time heroics. He was an Army Ranger, and among those that got caught in the Battle of the Bulge and had to fight their way back to US lines. It was not until many years later when we were driving out to the end of Long Island to my brother-in-law's burial that he spoke about his own wartime experience. He was a squad leader and he and his men were cut off. Most of his men perished. The first American soldiers that he encountered as he got back to US lines were some goofy intelligence guys who were afraid that he might be an English-speaking Germans who had infiltrated the retreating American troops. So they took his weapon away. He was absolutely furious. They put him on a truck and tried to put him in handcuffs. He said he wanted to punch them out, but he couldn't. Finally the truck got to a base where someone with more sense said my brother could not possibly be a German, not with his classic Brooklyn accent. I remember later at his wake --he lived to be 91--that among the photo display was an old photo of an armored vehicle, a small tank camouflaged with branches with George and his patrol posed in front of it. After the war, he had been sad that, although he got back, many others didn't make it. George was not a great letter writer. But during the war we kept his picture on the mantel and knew he was over there in France or Belgium and then knew when he was back home and was OK.

*Q: As a kid, what did you do when school wasn't on? Sort of grouped together or what?*

LANE: We lived near the edge of town, so I played outdoors a lot with friends or my younger brother. The family encouraged us to play outdoors because it was healthy. But we were also encouraged to read. I remember there were nice sets of books in my uncle and aunt's house. One set, bound in red leather, was a the complete works of Mark Twain. Of those, the book I liked most was "The Prince and the Pauper."

*Q: There was a movie of that with Errol Flynn.*

LANE: It was a strange and funny story.

My friends and I also avidly read comic books. One year my two best friends and I found an advertisement in a comic book for a candy making set up. You could send away for this and get

all the materials that you needed, molds and recipes and flavorings, to make candy. Then you could sell the candy you made to your friends and neighbors. We thought we would go into the candy making business. We didn't have quite enough money to buy this set but we got loans from parents and sent off for our kit. One of my friends, Susanne Levin, was very good at math. Her parents had a clothing store. She kept very good records of the money we invested in our business. We did our candy making after school at her house. We had to use the gas stove, but as 10 or 11 year olds we knew how to light a stove. Mrs. Levin told us to always read the directions twice and be careful before we did a recipe, but we made the candy ourselves. Suzanne's mother worked in their store in the afternoon and was not around to oversee us. We chose the Levin's house because it was the in between of our three houses. Suzanne had an older brother who was around but not a pest, I had a younger brother who was a pest and my other friend, Helen Anne McCullough, had younger brothers and sisters who were pests. Suzanne's house was ideal. I remember when I would come home at five o'clock, my aunt sometimes would call Mrs. Levin to make sure that we cleaned up the kitchen properly. Our project taught us useful math. We had to figure out how much we owed Mrs. Levin for the sugar that we were using. The recipes called for cups of sugar, but the sugar was in a bag that was in pounds. That was a tremendous math problem. But Suzanne was pretty good at math and we got it figured out. Then once we had made our candy, we added up the cost of the ingredients and put prices on each piece. Suzanne's mother told us that our prices were too low. She said we should charge more. She told us to add something for our labor. So she helped us re-price our candy. We sold the candy during the summer at the neighborhood playground. We didn't get rich but we paid our parents back and had a bit of profit left over. It was a real little enterprise, the idea for which came from a comic book.

During the summer vacations of 1946 and 1947, my mother took my brother and me to Chautauqua, New York for the summer. Chautauqua is a summer resort on Lake Chautauqua in the western corner of New York state. There were concerts and talks in a big amphitheatre and there was a small opera house. Those were wonderful summers. We lived in a big house that was divided into apartments, and some other renters were musicians and their families. Some were from the NBC Symphony Orchestra where Toscanini was the director. Chautauqua was my introduction to classical music. I remember my mother bought opera tickets, one for her and one for me. The first opera we saw was by Gilbert and Sullivan. The next one was Rigoletto. I had a friend, Gwen Peters, whose mother told my Mother that Rigoletto was not a fit opera for eleven-year old girls. Mother told me what Mrs. Peters had said. That was enough to get me interested in seeing Rigoletto. I read the libretto beforehand. It is a great opera and with all its show stopper arias, it made me an opera buff.

*Q: How wonderful. How about movies? Did you go to the movies?*

LANE: Oh, yes. The Tarzan movies were the best ones. My friends and I sometimes managed to see them twice. We would get enough money for one kid to buy a ticket for an afternoon movies. Then when cashier was busy at the box office, the kid with the ticket would go down to the fire escape door and open the door and let the other kids sneak in. That was my introduction to the life of petty crime.

*Q: In high school, where did you go to high school?*

LANE: I didn't go to high school in Mount Pleasant. When I was in the seventh grade moved to Jeannette which was a larger town, also in Westmoreland County. It was sometimes called "The Glass City." There were several glass factories, a company called the Elliott Company that made electric turbines and a tire company. It was a busy industrial town. It has been sadly rust-belted since then. It almost brings tears to my eyes to see the place now, with its run-down, boarded-up houses and empty store buildings. But when I was high school it was a lively, busy place. My high school prepared students for trades or for business or for college. I took the college prep course of study; other students took industrial arts courses; some learned book keeping or stenography. You could also take beauty culture and become a hair-dresser. The shop courses there were not for students who were barely getting by. The kids who were barely getting by took the general course. The brightest of us tended to be in the college preparatory classes. But I remember, for example, in math classes a number of the students were from the industrial arts or commercial program. Only maybe 10% of the kids went on to college but we went to pretty good colleges. Perhaps it was easier to get into a good college then.

When I was in high school my mother subscribed to Holiday Magazine which she said was fantasy magazine. We could not afford holidays in wonderful places but it was fun to look at the pictures and read about them. When I was a junior, Holiday did articles on Yale University and Smith College. There were nice pictures of Smith College and the article interested me. I got the Smith College catalog out of the school library, studied it and told my mother that I would like to go here. My mother looked through the catalog and said, "That is an expensive college, Helen. But they give scholarships and they have to give them to someone, so you might as well apply if you want to, but don't get your heart set on it." So I applied to Smith. I also applied to the University of Chicago which also sounded interesting. If I did not get a scholarship to Smith or Chicago, I could go back to California, live with Aunt Helen and Uncle Arthur, and go to Modesto Junior College which cost next to nothing and then go into one of the colleges in California. So I wasn't really tense about having to get into Smith or Chicago. I took the college boards, I remember the one in American History in which I excelled and in the one in chemistry, a subject in which I had an excellent high school teacher. I am pretty good at multiple choice tests and did well enough to get a scholarship at Smith.

*Q: Anyway before we move to that in high school, did you get involved in any extracurricular things?*

LANE: I was in band for a year or two.

*Q: What did you play?*

LANE: I played the flute. The best thing about being in our high school band was that we to go by bus to all the away football games. The worst thing about band was that once football season ended we had to practice for concerts. It was my least favorite subject once football season was over. I have no real musical talent anyway. So I took an art course instead. I always liked to draw.

I was also in the Junior Forensic League. We competed against other schools. We would draw current events topics out of a hat and then would make a five minute talk about that topic. There were people who would judge us. Sometimes the Junior Forensic League would have student congresses in which a number of high schools competed. We would get together with other schools and try to pass bills. That was fun and probably good training in learning how to quickly organize one's thoughts and defend one's ideas.

*Q: Did you find yourself interested in American politics at all? What particularly grabbed you?*

LANE: I have a memory from kindergarten in Modesto. Children were marching around saying, "We want Willkie!" So I came home and I was going around the house saying, "We want Willkie!" My mother made me stop. She said, "We don't want Willkie. We want Roosevelt." I thought Willkie had a nicer sounding name.

*Q: I got in to a fight with a kid in San Marino on that. He was for Willkie and my mother was an ardent Roosevelt supporter.*

LANE: My parents were avid Roosevelt supporters, and my younger brother was named for a close advisor of Roosevelt, Louis Howe. My father, who was a World War I veteran, was very involved with the Bonus Army. He was not on the bonus march that came to Washington, in the last days of the Hoover Administration, when Douglas MacArthur drove the ex-soldiers out and burned their tent camps. But there was a second bonus march after the Roosevelt administration came in. My father was an organizer of that one. The marchers camped in different places around Washington. The government did not have the money to pay bonuses but Roosevelt didn't send the troops to drive the marchers away. Louis Howe thought it would be good to send Eleanor Roosevelt to have coffee with the men. And that was what Eleanor Roosevelt did. She went to their camp and explained that there was no money to pay the bonus. Later I think maybe in '38 or so the government finally did pay those bonuses. I learned about my father's role in the Bonus March several years ago when my son Joel looked up his grandfather's name on the internet. There he found a reference to the book called "The Bonus Army." I have a copy of the book over there in our book case

*Q: The Bonus Army. An American epic by Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen.*

LANE: It was well reviewed by notables such as John Eisenhower, Mark Shields and William Cullen. It is a good read and of interest also for people who live here in the Washington area because it is a Washington story. Anyway my parents were ardent Democrats.

The next election I remember very clearly was the '48 election when we were living in Jeannette, Pennsylvania. The big issue for people in our area was the Taft Hartley Act.

*Q: Yeah, call it a union busting act.*

LANE: A union busting act that contributed to the decline of the trade union movement. Before the election the polls said that Dewey would win easily. My mother said that she did not think the polls were right. She observed that Truman was drawing big crowds as he went "whistle

stopping" across the country from the back of a train. My mother thought Truman might pull it off. She was right. I remember listening to those election returns with her late into the night. The radio commentator H.V. Kaltenborn was saying that yes, Truman was ahead in the East but when the votes came in from the Midwest the tide would turn. But it didn't. Mother and I stayed up all night happily listening to the election returns.

*Q: It was one great amusing time for many of us. I was a strong Truman supporter and I was in a fraternity at Williams College. There were a lot of Republicans there. They started out drinking politely and enjoying it, but by the end they had far too much and were very unhappy. For the rest of us, the few of us who were good solid Democrats we enjoyed their discomfort.*

LANE: Well Larry's family also were Democrats although I think there was a year when they supported Eisenhower, Texas-born Ike. But by the time Larry was in college, he was back in the Democratic fold. He was president of the Young Democrats at North Texas State College.

*Q: Well then, when you were at Smith and before then, what about the role of women and what you could aspire to and all?*

LANE: I always wanted to get married because I liked the idea of having children and a husband, but I wanted to marry the right kind of husband, and I also thought I should have a job and be able to earn my own way in the world. My mother had had a job. And her mother had run a boarding house. I thought ideally it would be great to go to Washington and get a job there. I day-dreamed about a job in Washington. I wasn't focused on any particular kind of a job and I did not know anyone who was working in Washington.

But when I went to Smith I thought I would probably major in Government and find out more about government. Majoring in Government at Smith was a disappointment. I enjoyed the first half of the basic Government course, the material that was new to me -- political theory: Plato and Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas and Hobbes and Rousseau and Locke, Marx and so forth. That I thought was fascinating. The second part of the course was about how politics worked in the United States and elsewhere. I knew most of that. I read newspapers and knew how politics worked. As a sophomore I took a course in International Relations that was taught by Allan Burr Overstreet, a well-regarded academic who was quite full of himself. He used wonderful phrases like "the simultaneity of peripheral pressure," and similar ringing phrases. But I did not want to spend my college years listening to such pontification. So I majored in American Studies, which was American history, American literature, American art, where I had the pick of excellent professors. I did not have the Foreign Service in mind at the time, but it was good background for a Foreign Service career. When you are representing your country abroad it is good to know your own country well. If you know how art, literature, politics and history fit together in your own country, you have a better sense of how things fit together relate in other countries, be they Bolivia, Germany or where ever.

Then when I was a senior, the Foreign Service exam was being given in Boston. Kay Quinn, a friend of mine, wanted to take the exam, and talked me into taking it, too. It cost \$20.00 or something like that to sign up for it. So we went off to Boston to spend a weekend and take the exam. We went out the night before the exam to a party with a crowd from the Fletcher School at

Tufts. A fellow from Tufts told me I was not likely to pass the exam, that everybody made between 60 and 69 and 70 was passing. I thought, well, I am probably a little smarter than this guy. The next morning Kay and I found our way out to a high school in a suburbs of Boston. There were hundreds of people there and Kay and I were a little bit hung over after the party. We wondered if we should stay. Taking the exam looked like buying a lottery ticket and the chances of winning were looking slim. But we decided that, after having come that far, and since it was mostly a multiple choice test, that might not be too challenging. So we took it, and I did fine. Then having passed the written test, the next step was to take the oral exam before a panel.

*Q: An oral exam.*

LANE: The oral exam. I also had to do that in Boston. Kay had not passed the exam. I think Kay probably got a 69. (Too bad for the State Department. Kay would have been a great Foreign Service Officer.) Kay said she would drive me to Boston. I didn't drive as well as she did, and our house mother lent us her car. So we drove off to Boston early in the morning so I could go to the Federal Building to take the oral exam. We didn't know where the Federal Building was. But there was some kind of military base on the way into Boston, an Air Force Base I think, and there were guys outside the gate there trying to hitch rides into Boston.

*Q: Hanscom maybe?*

LANE: So we picked up two who said they knew where the Federal Building was. Kay left me in front of the Federal Building and we agreed to meet at a nice hotel for lunch. I took the elevator up to the floor where I was to take the exam. The schedulers had made a mistake. They had scheduled three people for 9:00. So the examiners decided that somebody would go at 9:00 somebody at 10:00 and me at 11:00. So I had a couple of hours to kill. When I met the other two people who were taking the oral exam that morning and talked to them for a few minutes I thought, I bet if they are hiring one out of the three of us, the examiners might pick me. These nice men have come all the way from Washington to hire people for the Foreign Service. Maybe my chances aren't so bad. I had been warned it was better not to smoke during the exam because the examiners were capable of offering you a cigarette and not having any ash tray so they would see how you would handle that, there were legends about that.

*Q: I at one point in the 70's I was on a panel giving this oral exam and we were told the candidates were going to hear such stuff. They are going to hear about dribble glasses or such. We would very quickly assure examinees who had likely heard such things that we were not going to play tricks with them.*

LANE: They didn't play any tricks. I had written a required biographical essay and they drew on that and on the courses I had been taking in college. As I recall one thing that impressed them favorably was a humor column I had written for the college newspaper, so they asked me about the humor column and American humor. I remember that I told them I was no longer writing the column, that there was not enough humor in my life to grind out a column week after week. They were easy men to talk with. I think maybe the fact I had written a humor column may have been helpful because basically they were thinking would I want this young man or young woman working for me in my office.

They did ask me about marriage, about getting married. "One of the things we find is that women come into the Foreign Service and then soon get married. "Are you interested in marriage?" I was asked. "Well yes I am," I said, " but I have no prospects at this point."

*Q: What year was this?*

LANE: That was 1957.

*Q: We came in the same time. I want to go back to college at Smith. When you arrived at Smith how did it strike you?*

LANE: Well, I was really happy to be there. When I arrived I met my roommate, Vida Simenas, and I noticed that our names had been put on the Lawrence House mail boxes. One of the mail boxes said Sylvia Plath. I knew her name, because Sylvia had been one of the guest editors of the Mademoiselle Magazine that college bound girls buy to learn what the new college fashions are, and because it had good stories and interesting poetry by college women. I had been pleased to see that one of the articles was by a Smith student Sylvia Plath. I thought her writing was the best in the college issue. I mentioned to Vida, who was from the Boston area, that it was great to have Sylvia Plath in our house. She then asked me if I didn't know what happened to Sylvia. No, I did not. Sylvia had tried to commit suicide that summer. Vida being from near Boston knew the story which had been headlined in the Boston papers.

Vida was one of the most remarkable people I have ever known. She was Lithuanian born and had been a displaced person. Her family had owned a large farm and a hotel in Kaunas, which may have been the capital then. When the Russians invaded in 1939, Russian officers stayed at the hotel. Her father, who was running the hotel, did what he could to accommodate them. Her father was also an officer in the Lithuanian army, which was more like a national guard and never really got into action against the Russians. After a month or so one of the Russian officers told her father that the Simenas family was on a list of people to be deported; that the Soviets were going to deport the Lithuanian business class and the intelligentsia to the hinterlands of Russia. The Russian warned him not to tell anyone, but suggested he might want to leave if he could find a way out. Vida's mother had been born in Hamburg and has some claim on German citizenship so they went to Berlin. Vida's family lived in Berlin until about 1943 when they had to leave Berlin. Those who were not Berliner born were forced to leave. So they walked, the parents and three girls, from Berlin to a town some distance to the south, where a kind woman let them live in a room in her house.

When Germany surrendered and was partitioned by the US, the Soviet Union, France and Britain into zones, the Simenas family found itself on the wrong side of the line. So they walked to the west to the American zone. Vita didn't tell me this story when we were college roommates. She told me 40 years later.

But as a student she knew a lot about Europe and her experiences were very different from mine. She did tell me that when she first started to high school in Norwood, Massachusetts, her English was poor. The school thought she should take the commercial course instead of the academic

course. She said somehow she argued with them. Her English was poor but she got her point across and she was allowed to try the academic course. She did well in her courses. As a freshman at Smith, her English was odd. As we were struggling with our freshman English papers she would often have insights into the story we were studying and I would have other insights. We would read each other's papers. I would say, "Vida, that is not the way to say that it in English. You would say it this way...". She would answer, "but that is not what I mean."

In our Lawrence House dorm room we liked to have tea when we were staying up late. An exotic Russian or Eastern European thing that Vida did was add jam to her tea. In Lawrence house, which was a scholarship house, I had friends of different backgrounds. Jane Nawrocki was from Brockton, Mass. She was the 13th and youngest in her family. Her father was a Polish-born bricklayer, who told her she had to learn to speak Polish or she wouldn't be able to speak to God. Lynne Trowbridge was an orphan whose mother had drowned on her fifth honeymoon. Lynne been lived on Park Avenue and sometimes with her grandmother in Independence, Missouri. She was insecure and pretentious, but a straight A student. In her later years she mellowed and was witty and down to earth. My friend Kay was from Casper Wyoming and during summers worked on a family ranch. We were an interesting mix. Sylvia Plath came back to Lawrence House after being out the first semester. She had been in a psychiatric hospital, which she later described in The Bell Jar. We were instructed by the college psychiatrist not to discuss with her the suicide attempt.

*Q: The interesting thing is my wife Ellen, she was Ellen Fox at the time, was in your class. She was in Laura Scales House.*

LANE: That was a big house on the other side of the campus.

*Q: One of the other freshmen with her was Gloria Steinem who later became a well known figure in American society.*

LANE: Yes, she later became a star in the Women's Movement.

*Q: What sort of courses were you taking?*

LANE: I remember history courses that I liked. My first history course was European History. The course provided an over view of a good chunk of the History Department faculty. Each week there was a lecture by a professor who was an authority in his field. The course began with the Fall of the Roman Empire and ended with the Second World War. The lecture were on Monday afternoon. Later in the week there were two smaller section classes where the material was discussed and expounded upon. I was lucky in that I had excellent professors in my section during both semesters. They taught me to think about the flow of history. Although my highest grade was in physics, I had chosen Smith because I was more interested in government and history than in science or engineering. My sophomore year I had an outstanding professor, Daniel Aaron, for American literature. My senior year he my advisor for the honors paper which I did on the American writers who wrote about the Spanish Civil War.

*Q: Who were some of the writers about the Spanish Civil War?*

LANE: Well Hemmingway was the best known, for writing For Whom the Bell Tolls. John Dos Passos also wrote about the Spanish Civil War. Then there were a number of good left wing writers, such as Alva Bessie, who served in the Lincoln Battalion. I think George Orwell was the writer who wrote most tellingly about the Spanish Civil War, but as he was British rather than American, I did not focus on Orwell in my paper.

*Q: Well did you find yourself attracted to the Spanish Civil War, you know looking at it even today it was a very confusing situation of whom you wanted to root for and all.*

LANE: I was a small child at the time of the Spanish Civil War, but remember being told later that it was controversial in our family. My parents favored the Republican side, who were the elected government, but who were finally overthrown by the military, led by Franco and supported by Nazi's. But other family members had the idea that those who supported the Republican side were Communist sympathizers, and it is true that the Soviet Union gave strong support to the Republican side.

My mother had had a bit of international experience. Before she was married, she had spent a summer in Mexico City. She had been teaching high school Spanish in California and she went to Mexico to take some summer courses. This was the year of wide spread demonstrations against the Sacco-Vanzetti trial. I remember mother talking about watching those demonstrations in Mexico City. When I was in high school I read John Dos Passos' USA, which contained a vignettes about Sacco and Vanzetti. Mother had spent a happy summer in Mexico and she transferred some of her enthusiasm about things Mexican to me.

*Q: Did you find that you were particularly interested in any other areas of the world or in American foreign policy?*

LANE: I was also interested in Ireland because my father's people had come from Ireland. And I was interested in Germany because some of my mother's people had come from Germany. China was also of interest to my mother and my Aunt Bernice who were admirers of Pearl Buck. My aunt and uncle also had a college friend who was a missionary doctor in China. I knew there was a big, interesting world out there.

*Q: Well you went into Smith in what year?*

LANE: I entered Smith in the fall of '53 and was there until the spring of '57. Senator Joe McCarthy was riding high in the early 1950s and a mini-political controversy took place at Smith. A letter was written to the alumnae by one of the Buckley sisters, whose brother, William F. Buckley, Jr., who wrote God and Men at Yale, was a well-known right-wing conservative. The Buckley sisters had gone to Smith. The letter to the alumnae denounced a group of professors as communist sympathizers and urged alumnae to stop contributing to the alumnae fund. Benjamin Fletcher Wright, the President of the College, read the letter to us in chapel and denounced the letter. The Alumnae Fund did very well that year as the Association received donations from many alumnae, who wanted to counter the Buckley denunciation. I met a

younger Buckley sister who was at Smith when I was. She was friendly and a star on the debate team. But Smith in the 1950's was not a place of much political ferment.

One May Day in my junior year, Dee Schoonmaker, a Lawrence House classmate, and I were sitting in her dorm room, musing that it was May Day and nothing was being done to celebrate it, which was a pity since it was such a nice, sunny, spring day. Dee had a red bed spread. I suggested that we hang the bed spread outside her window like a flag. The window faced Green Street where there were little shops and passers-by. So we hung out the bedspread and it looked glorious hanging out the window. The spectacle was reported College Hall and the administration was not amused. Dee was called to College Hall and had to be contrite. She was already engaged to be married so there was no point in expelling her. She was a Republican and a good student. It was just a funny prank and we did enjoy our moment of notoriety as campus radicals.

*Q: Had you before you took the Foreign Service exam done any research on what the Foreign Service is all about?*

LANE: I think I tried. I looked at some issues of Foreign Affairs magazine. I also found a copy of the Foreign Service Journal in the periodicals room at the library at Smith and I looked at that, which was not enlightening at all. The focus was on selling real estate in the Washington area. I don't think I learned much from that.

*Q: But there was no person who had been in the Foreign Service teaching at Smith anyone like that?*

LANE: No, I didn't know anybody like that. I didn't have anybody to talk to about what I might be getting into. I was on the list and eventually I would be called and told to report to Washington for training. Meanwhile, I got a job in New York, working in a department store, the B. Altman Co. I lived in Brooklyn at my sister's and thought the job would help me acquire some career-type clothes, like a good coat and a proper suit. And I could get a discount on clothes as an Altman's employee. It is fun to work in New York anyway, even if one is living in Brooklyn at one's sister's and commuting at rush hour on the subway. I also wrote a letter to Congressman, Augustine B. Kelley in Pennsylvania. I didn't know if that might move me up on the list, but I guess it didn't hurt. My Uncle Howard knew Congressman Kelley. Congressman Kelley died later that year, shortly after I entered the State Department.

*Q: Well by the way when you were in college did you have any jobs or anything like that?*

LANE: Yes, I was in a scholarship house, where everybody had to have a job. The first year I was assigned to the lunch dishwashing crew, which meant washing and drying dishes in commercial dishwashing machines. There were five people on our crew. You got every fifth day off. It was noisy and hot in the dishwashing area. Then sophomore year I was put on the crew again and I was head of the crew. That was my first exercise in management. I figured out that three people could do the work as well as four, which would give us more time off.

So I adjusted the set up there and it worked fine. I was pleased with myself that I had made the job better for the dishwashers. I had another job which was delivering campus mail on a bicycle. That was pleasant unless the weather was bad. The most interesting job I had was with a professor in the Physics Department who was studying cosmic rays. Photographic plates were exposed to cosmic rays, then the plates would be scanned to find the streaks that the rays had left on the plates. Occasionally a streak would break or split into pieces. Then I would make note of the number on the plate and draw a picture of the cosmic ray even. I didn't keep the job for long because looking into a microscope and scanning the plates was hard on my eyes. I could do it only for about an hour at a time and my eyes would still bother me for a while after I stopped. But it was interesting to be part of serious research for awhile. (Cosmic rays are actually high energy particles that come from outer space. Some reach the earth's atmosphere and split into other particles as they get closer to the earth's surface.)

*Q: Did you get involved in or interested in Massachusetts politics?*

LANE: Not too much. In 1956, a presidential election year, then-Senator John F. Kennedy came to Northampton to campaign for the Stevenson ticket. Many Smith students went to the rally regardless of their political persuasion was because Kennedy was super attractive and was witty.

*Q: What was social life like there at Smith?*

LANE: Since it was a woman's college the guys had to come to the college to find us. I didn't know any Ivy league guys when I went to Smith, but the colleges arranged mixer dancers. We would get dressed up and take cabs to Amherst, the nearest men's college to a mixer. Then one had to figure out how to talk to college boys one had never met. I remember my first weekend at Smith when swarms of college guys men descended on the campus. Almost all were wearing dark charcoal grey suits and rep ties. They were like a swarms of flies at a picnic table.

*Q: I remember going to Dewey House and being invited in. We knew a couple of girls there, the Blitz sisters. So with a couple of friends we'd go in there. It was rather pleasant. It was not immediately pair off or anything.*

LANE: Sometimes too we would be invited to fraternity parties. I remember going to a week-end fraternity party at Dartmouth. On Sunday morning the guys made a concoction called milk punch, made from the left over liquor of the night before, which they dumped into a bowl with ice cream. That punch really packed a punch.

*Q: When I was there the big drink was Sea Breezes which is grapefruit juice and gin. We had milk punch too on Sunday.*

*I think this is probably a good place to stop.*

LANE: Good idea.

*Q: I will put at the end here where we pick it up. So we got to the point where you were going to go into the Foreign Service.*

LANE: Right, living at my sister's in Brooklyn and working at the B. Altman department store on Fifth Avenue at 34th Street in Manhattan.

*Q: What year was that?*

LANE: That would be the fall of 1957.

*Q: I don't know if I asked you do you recall any of the questions that were asked you in the oral exam?*

LANE: I remember I had taken a course in U.S. relations with China so we talked about the history of US-China relations. They asked me some questions about the Constitution. They asked me something about what the Federal Reserve did. I had not taken any economics courses. I should have majored in economics, but as an undergraduate I thought economics would be dreary. But I managed to say the Fed set our money supply. Fortunately for me they did not ask any follow up questions about the Federal Reserve. They asked me questions about the steel industry because I was from the Pittsburgh area. So we discussed the making of steel. They asked me about if I knew what manganese was. I said yes it was a mineral ore used in making specialty steels. They asked me if I knew the source of manganese. I said, "I don't know, but we must import it or you wouldn't have asked that question." They laughed.

*Q: OK, well we will pick this up next week.*

LANE: Let's move on to the A-100 class.

*Q: Today is 19 September 2014 with Helen Lane. I believe we left when you came into the Foreign Service.*

*What year did you come in?*

LANE: I came in late 1957. I was living in Brooklyn, New York, at my sister's and I had been working at the B. Altman Company. The store was willing to hire me on a week-to-week basis and would give me an employee discount on clothes.

*Q: What was Altman's?*

LANE: Altman's was a very good department store. It was on Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, diagonally across the corner from the Empire State Building. It was about a block from a subway station. It was not too bad a commute from Brooklyn.

*Q: There are an awful lot of young women who were in the same position you were. I knew so many of the girls I knew at Smith, that would be '50-'52 or so were going to jobs in New York.*

LANE: I was going to move on to a job in Washington because I had already passed the exams. I didn't have relatives in Washington. I always got along very well with my sister who is 12 years

older than me. I could stay with her family rent free. New York is a fun place to be when one is 22. I had some friends who were musicians. One of them was the youngest cellist at the New York Philharmonic. I met co-workers at Altman's who were looking for jobs in theatre. They were interesting people, so that was a good place for me while I waited to be called to Washington.

*Q: OK, so when you got to Washington what was the basic officer's course class like?*

LANE: There were about 30 people in the class. There were three women out of 30. There were three of us, me and two other fellows, who had just graduated from college. We were considered the class babies. At that time I think you had to be 30 or under to come into the Foreign Service, so there wasn't anybody older than 30 in the class.

*Q: What happened to the three of you, we will get to what happened to you, but to the other two women?*

LANE: One of them, Sue Dress, became a close friend; we are still in touch. She had an initial assignment to Spain which was a place she really wanted to go. We filed out the April fools sheet where you put down first, second, or third choice, and she just wrote Madrid, Madrid, Madrid. Guess what she got? Madrid. Her next assignment was Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. There she met an engineer, Ian Keith, who was developing a nickel mine for Falconbridge, a Canadian mining company. He was a South African, but later became a Canadian citizen. Sue and I have kept in touch over the years. We each had four kids, and later when Larry and I were assigned to the Dominican Republic, Sue and her husband were leaving and returning to Canada. We rented their beach house, which was only an hour's drive from Santo Domingo. It was great.

My other female classmate was Maureen Harris, and I know she had an assignment in Oslo. She was shy and uncomfortable with men. She did not socialize as much as Sue and I. After one or two assignments abroad she went back to Kansas and became a librarian at the state university.

*Q: In a way it is typical of the time that the three of you all three of you all left the Foreign Service, two probably unwillingly.*

LANE: After training, I had a Washington assignment. I took the A-100 course and then since I didn't have a three level in a foreign language (the requirement for promotions), I had to take a language. I took Spanish which is normally a three month intensive course. But the Department was having a budget shortfall, so it cut back on transfers and kept everybody who was in language training for three additional months. I made good friends among the language instructors. One of them is still a close friend. After that I was assigned to OES, the Office of Educational Services. We worked closely with the Institute of International Education in New York to administer educational exchange programs. It was not the greatest assignments for a junior Foreign Service Officer and would have been more appropriate for a USIS junior officer. I was one of a number of junior FSO's assigned to OES. But I had a good boss in Bea von Almann, who had had tours in Paris and Vietnam.

*Q: OK, let's talk about the A-100 course. There were about 30 of you in it. What was your impression of the various students?*

LANE: Well there was a gamut. Some seemed likely rising stars. A few seemed to me pretty marginal. It was an interesting group of people. I came to Washington not knowing anyone, and was lucky to be thrown in with a group of 30 other young people, most of them very nice guys.

*Q: Did you find in a way any of them kind of full of themselves?*

LANE: Oh, we were all full of ourselves. Some of us more than others.

*Q: Well this is the Foreign Service, no matter how you slice it, it was considered to be joining an elite. You had gone through a battery of tests which other people hadn't.*

LANE: I think that was probably true.

*Q: Did you get much of a feel for the movers and shakers in the State Department?*

LANE: The A-100 course was taught at the Foreign Service Institute, which in 1957 was in the ground floor of an Arlington Towers building in Rosslyn. I don't recall much about the content of the course. That was during the Eisenhower administration. The Secretary of State was John Foster Dulles. Later I remember attending a large birthday party that AFSA held for John Foster Dulles. The birthday cake was flaming Baked Alaska. We all sang Happy Birthday. People were not quite sure whether to say Happy Birthday, Mr. Secretary or John Foster or whatever. Our A-100 class started in November. We did not get any leave at Thanksgiving or Christmas. For Thanksgiving the Director General of the Foreign Service, Aaron Brown, invited some of the single people to his house for a family-style Thanksgiving dinner which I thought was pretty nice.

*Q: Yes.*

LANE: People were interested that I was from Brooklyn. On the A-100 list I was Helen Brady from Brooklyn, New York. I was not really from Brooklyn, but I didn't mind being identified that way.

*Q: Well Brooklyn had a certain cachet of being identified as different you know in those days.*

LANE: Many notable people have come out of Brooklyn.

*Q: Did you have any problem with the more senior Foreign Service Officers hitting on you or the other young girls or not?*

LANE: Not that I recall. When guys start to move beyond casual flirtation it is pretty easy to turn that off.

*Q: Well, sometimes this can be overdone. This I would say is the nuptial dance of that period.*

LANE: The nuptial dance should be fun. I enjoyed opportunities to meet nice single guys and was definitely not interested in married men.

*Q: Were there any issues at that time buzzing around the Department of sexual concern?*

LANE: One of the concerns at that period was what was then called homosexuality. I remember the Director General of the Foreign Service, E. Tomlin Bailey, gave a talk to our class about security risks and said that anyone engaging in homosexual practices would be terminated. It was couched in terms of a warning: don't get involved in that. But in retrospect I think surely he would have known that among that number of close to 30 men a few of them were likely to be gay. It was kind of a forewarning to them to watch their step. That is the way I took it.

*Q: Well, the Cold War was running well wasn't it?*

LANE: Yes. I remember when, not during the A-100 Course, but in the period after that when I was in the FSI intensive Spanish course, that Vice President Nixon made a trip to South America, and his car got roughed up in Caracas. We were told to go out and stand near Memorial Bridge, so we could cheer Nixon and Eisenhower when they came into DC from the airport. The President had gone to the airport to greet him, as though Nixon was a hero.

*Q: The FSI at that time was located in apartments where the diplomatic entrance to the State Department is.*

LANE: No, when Larry came into the Foreign Service it was that way. When I came in FSI was in Arlington Towers which was the newest apartment building complex in Arlington. It is within easy walking distance of Rosslyn. FSI was in what was to have been the Arlington Towers first floor parking garage.

*Q: It was basically a parking garage.*

LANE: Yes, basically it was a parking garage divided into classrooms large and small.

*Q: There were no windows.*

LANE: No, no windows.

*Q: What class were you in?*

LANE: I think we may have been called the November class of '57. Our picture is hanging on the wall at DACOR House. We had a 40th reunion in 1997 and a 50th reunion in 2007. One of the youngsters in my class is Ray Ewing who has been active in DACOR and was one of the reunion organizers. He was one of the people who made Ambassador.

*Q: Yes in Cyprus.*

LANE: A really nice fellow.

*Q: Well did as you look at this business were you interested in any particular posts or type of work?*

LANE: Since I was studying Spanish I was expecting to be assigned to a Spanish speaking country. I read the post reports for a number of different countries and most of them sounded pretty interesting. Spain was everybody's first choice. Not that we were looking down at South America but because Spain has a deeper history. Spain would have been my first choice. I was also interested in Mexico as a country, but I didn't have any particular feeling that I had to go to one country or another. I definitely wanted to go to a Spanish speaking country.

*Q: Did any of your classmates particularly distinguish themselves?*

LANE: I think two became ambassadors: Ray Ewing and Bob Duemling. Bob had some 7th floor executive assistant jobs and was Ambassador to Surinam. He married into the DuPont family. But where he really distinguished himself was later as the first Director of the National Buildings Museum. Bob was a good friend. He was very interested in the history of American architecture. It was just fun walking around places in Washington with him because he knew the history of many buildings and would point out interesting details.

*Q: So when you graduated from that you went where?*

LANE: From Spanish? I, like most of my fellow language students, was disappointed when I got my assignment. Because of budget issues, the Department put a freeze on reassignments overseas. FSOs who were already in Washington had to stay in Washington and those who were overseas had to stay overseas. So I was assigned to a job in the Department which was not my choice at all. I wanted to go overseas.

*Q: Well of course, one is all cranked up. Well what did you do? Tell me about the job and what the program was in Washington.*

LANE: My office was not in Main State. Main State was much smaller than it is now. It was only the north east corner of the current building, what had been built to be the War Department, before the Pentagon was constructed. I was in the Educational Exchange Bureau, which was in a building at 1910 K Street. I was responsible for overseeing graduate student exchange programs for a group of countries. My group of countries were the North African countries as well as Greece and Turkey and India and Pakistan. We had a large program with Turkey. We had programs with Morocco and Tunisia. I also had Iraq and India. So basically I was handling paper work for USIA and the posts abroad. I would review the applications sent from our embassies and then send them to the Institute of International Education in New York which would find placements for the students in US colleges and universities. The students almost always were quite successful academically.

*Q: These were at the college level.*

LANE: These were graduate students. I don't believe there was a program for undergraduates. I remember how slow and cumbersome communication was between the Department and the field. Each telegram had to go up a chain for clearances and then to a correspondence review staff, where the telegram was reviewed to make sure it was written in perfect English and that nothing was miss-spelled.

*Q: Well did you get a chance to interact at all with the students?*

LANE: Almost never. I only saw their dossiers. I did get interested in the Middle East. I started an Arabic language course at the Islamic Center next to the Mosque on Massachusetts Avenue. I had an apartment in Foggy Bottom and it was a pleasant walk up to the Islamic Center, where there were evening classes in Arabic. It was interesting to see how Arabic worked and was written. It would be a very difficult language to learn as an adult.

*Q: Did you have any particular problems with the students?*

LANE: The purpose of the exchange program was to give the student a taste of American education and culture. I remember the case of a Moroccan student who was getting his doctorate in physics. He was interested in advance particle physics, a field of study for which there was little opportunity in Morocco. His advisors at the university thought he was brilliant and wanted him to stay as a teaching fellow. We couldn't permit that. The policy was that an exchange student must return to his home country. This was a case where, if it had been up to me rather than our policy guidelines, I probably would have said yes, let him stay.

*Q: How long did you do this?*

LANE: Oh I did that for about a year. Meanwhile my boyfriend, Larry Lane, was assigned to Bolivia and I missed him. He was assigned to Cochabamba, Bolivia, a two officer post in the middle of South America. I decided I preferred life with Larry to my job and that I would get married. Larry came back to the States for the wedding and I went off to Cochabamba as a bride.

*Q: All right let's talk about Larry a bit. Who was he?*

LANE: Larry Lane was a young Texan, from the Gulf coast. He had gone to North Texas State. It didn't occur to him to go to college in another state. North Texas was about as far away from home as he could imagine. He did not want to go to Rice or one of the Houston colleges because they were too close to home. He was interested in politics. He was the president of the Young Democrats chapter in North Texas. He ran as a freshman for some class office and his opponent was Bill Moyers. He thought Bill Moyers won because he got the Baptist vote.

*Q: Bill Moyers became quite a figure in the Johnson administration, as his young press man.*

LANE: Lady Bird was the one who spotted Moyers, according to Larry. She convinced him he should go to the University of Texas rather than North Texas State. I think Moyers only went to North Texas for a year and then he went off to Austin.

*Q: While we are talking college I forgot to ask you about two major figures in the women's movement of our century who were your contemporaries at Smith, Sylvia Plath and Gloria Steinem.*

LANE: I did know Sylvia Plath. I didn't know Gloria Steinem. While still in college, Sylvia Plath was recognized as someone who would probably become a significant poet. She was in my house at Smith. She had made a suicide attempt during the summer between her junior and senior year. So she came back to Smith at the middle of my freshman year. She was attractive, friendly and a terrific bridge player. Sylvia Plath has been analyzed to death by various people. I find many wonderful things in her poetry. But if you tell a typical Plath fan that she was a terrific bridge player and she had perfect page boy blond hair, they don't believe it. Sylvia loved to discuss poetry with anyone. I remember one time I was reading T. S. Eliot for a freshman English course. She noticed what I was reading and sat down and discussed the poem with me. She was an upper classman and I was a freshman. She was not a snob. My friend Kay Quinn shared an apartment with her and some other girls who were working in Boston during summer vacation. She said that Sylvia could be emotionally strange. Sylvia graduated with highest honors and got a Fulbright to study in England. When I was working at OES in the student division I read her file, which included recommendations from Smith professors. One was from Dr. Booth, the senior professor in the psychology department. It made no mention of her mental instabilities. I thought well, that is interesting.

I remember reading her obituary in the New York Times, at that time we were living in Hamburg. I knew Sylvia had married a handsome, young English poet named Ted Hughes and that she had two small children and was living in England. I also had two little one and had thought it would be interesting to run into Sylvia and compare notes on life as young American mothers living overseas. The obituary didn't give the cause of her death, but I knew what happened. Later that year my roommate Vida and her husband stopped over to see us in Hamburg and Vida filled me in on the details.

*Q: Where did you meet Larry?*

LANE: Actually the first time we laid eyes on each other was in the Department of Commerce.

*Q: One of the more romantic spots in Washington.*

LANE: Actually the room was a nice conference room with wood paneled walls, definitely nicer than FSI. The A-100 class spent a week at the Department of Commerce learning how trade is promoted at diplomatic posts abroad. Actually doing commercial work overseas is an easy way to make good contacts in the business community and to find out who the real movers and shakers in the host country are. Helping to resolve commercial and trade issues can be rewarding. I later was the US Commercial Officer in the Dominican Republic and liked the work. However, the one week commercial course that was part of our A-100 training was dull. I remember sitting and doing crossword puzzles, while another classmate was sitting across the table writing Haiku poetry. That week some new people joined our class. These were junior FSO's who had completed a Washington assignment and were getting training in commercial and consular work before going to an overseas post. I remember there were three single guys in the

group all of whom had southern accents. There was Larry from Texas, Ernie Johnson from Alabama, and Vance Hall from Virginia. I wondered how to tell them apart. I got to know Larry best. The A-100 class members were new to Washington and we would socialize together especially over lunch and after work. Then when it turned out that our next assignments would be in Washington, Larry and I were part of a group that rented a beach house in Rehoboth. There were 16 of us renting a spacious beach place that summer. We rented it to married couples during the week and then we singles would be there on the weekend. So I got to know Larry better that summer.

*Q: Obviously you were aware of the restrictions. If you got married, you had to leave the Foreign Service. Was this a concern for you? I understand it was for others I have talked to.*

LANE: Well it was unfair, there is much that is unfair in the world. But I came to the conclusion that it was harder to find a good man than a good job. I think I made the right choice.

*Q: The State Department had been wrestling with married couple assignment ever since the policy changed. It obviously complicates the assignment process. But did you sort of question the rule or was this just the way things were?*

LANE: It was the way things were. The same anti-nepotism policies applied to women working elsewhere, in businesses, in banks or at universities.

Phone rings.

*Q: We were talking about Larry.*

LANE: The happy days of one's youth.

*Q: When you made the announcement to your office that you were getting married what happened?*

LANE: The Department had procedures. I think I wrote a letter to someone saying that I was planning to get married in June. I worked up until a week before I got married. We were married in Texas and Larry's mother gave the reception. I had to then get a diplomatic passport as the wife of Larry Lane. I remember I filled out the forms before I left for Texas. After the wedding we came back to Washington for a few days. I got my passport and then we went to the Bolivian Embassy and got the diplomatic visa put in it. Our friends, our Washington crowd, had a very nice party for us that evening.

Our honeymoon was returning to South America by ship. Grace Lines had ships that were basically freighters but they also carried about maybe 60 or 100 passengers. So that was going to be our honeymoon going back to Bolivia. The ship sailed from New York.. We spent a few days in New York and Larry got to meet my New York relatives. My mother and my brother Louis were there, too. We went to the ship with our relatives and had a lively cocktail party on board before we sailed. In those days passengers often had shipboard parties before they sailed.

*Q: How did you find your Texas relatives?*

LANE: They were an interesting bunch. Larry's father was a log hauler in East Texas. He had a few trucks and with a crew hauled logs out of the woods to the saw mills. His mother was also from East Texas. His parents were married young. They lost all their savings in the crash in 1929 when the banks failed. It was a tough time. At one point they had to go live on a relative's farm. My mother-in-law said she cooked over a fireplace. They didn't have a cook stove but they never went hungry. Larry was the third of three children. His mother was ambitious for her time and place. She said she did not want to spend her life living in unpainted houses. She also decided that she did not want to be married to easy-going George Lane anymore. She saw an advertisement for somebody to run a store down on the Gulf Coast. So she took her three children down to the coast and ran a store. Later she bought the store. Later she and her third husband had a lumber yard. She was a good business woman. It was a rather chaotic life for Larry but he loved both his parents and got on well with them. But he really wanted a stable marriage for himself. His mother had three husbands, and I think she was actually married five or six times. Sometimes she would marry and divorce the same husband. When we were engaged to be married he wrote me a long letter from Cochabamba about his family. I thought well this is a problem family but we are not going to be living in Texas. Larry thought we should be married in Bacliff, the town where his Mother lived, so that his mother could meet me and so she wouldn't worry he was marrying a black. When I came to Texas to get married and met my mother-in-law and her husband, they couldn't have been nicer. I also met his sister and his brother. His brother who was six years older told me never to get involved in any of his mother's marital dramas. He had just done that and it was useless exercise. He had held her hand while she got a divorce and a week later she re-married her ex. There were no more divorces after this. But it was not a serene household for Larry when he was growing up.

*Q: Well it amazes me. I have a friend Mike Mahoney who served with Larry. He talked about Larry some years ago in glowing terms as a supervisor. Coming out of seemingly unpromising circumstances was his mother pushing or was it genius or personality on his part.*

LANE: I think his mother didn't regard him as a genius. He was not a kid who was quick to learn to read. She had to help him. I think she wanted her children to live their own lives and she was a supportive parent. The three kids had savings bonds during WWII and at the end of the war she told the children they could cash in the savings bonds. His older brother bought a car. His sister bought a horse. You know what Larry bought? The Encyclopedia Britannica. He must have been in junior high school. Larry's circumstances were not unpromising. His mother was a reader and so was his grandmother, who was a great John Steinbeck fan. His mother made sure that the Galveston County Library bookmobile came to Bacliff every week. Larry did well in high school, and was his class president. From there he went to North Texas State College. There was a teaching assistant, Malcolm Barnaby, who had just taken the Foreign Service exam and passed. One of Larry's professors encouraged Larry to take the exam. So he took the exam and passed.

*Q: Did he get out of the military?*

LANE: Yes. He was not in the military.

*Q: What was Bolivia like at the time you got there? This was '58 or '59, something like that?*

LANE: It was '59. We arrived by ship at Arica, Chile. That is the northern most piece of Chile. We were going to take the train from Arica up to La Paz. We had missed the express train and Larry did not want to take any more leave just to sit in Arica and wait for a better train. So we took the regular second-class train which turned out to be the smugglers special. It left in the evening and was jam packed. There was a US Consular Agent in Arica, a Chilean who was advising us about transportation. I remember when he realized we were on that train, he came and found us on the train. He stood on the platform looking in the window at us and said, "Mr. Lane what are you doing there?" Well we went on the train with the indigenous population. The only other non-Indian passengers were some Chilean students going to La Paz on an exchange-program.

Our train ride was unforgettable. Most of the local commerce in the Andean counties is done by sturdy market women. In those days wore full skirts and multiple petticoats. They hung bottles of wine or liquor and sundry items under their skirts to hide them from the customs agents. A baby was born on the train. The Bolivians were very pleased that the baby was born on the Bolivian side of the frontier. The baby was washed in Chilean white wine and at the next stop the mother was seated on the ground by the side of the track being given some soup. And somebody was holding her new little bundle. People applauded.

When we got to the border we had to change trains. The Chilean train was parked a little distance away maybe 100 yards. We decided we better move our stuff because we had a lot of bundles, suitcases and wedding gifts and things like that. So we got our things off the train. We had to move it. The altitude was pretty high. It must have been 15,000 feet. So here we were trundling along with our suitcases and wedding presents. We would move the stuff a short distance and then rest to catch our breath and then move everything a bit further along. Anyway we caught up to with the train and got on the train. It was a good thing we did it our way. Most of our fellow passengers waited until the train moved closer. So were among the first and got pretty good seats. The market women around us would sometimes try to put some of their bundles under our seat because they realized we had some special status and the customs agents wouldn't bother us. Before we got to La Paz the train made a stop where people went out and bought meat, great sides of beef or lamb. These they hung from the luggage racks. Anyway we finally got to La Paz.

*Q: You must have been sort of wide eyed weren't you?*

LANE: No, we acted cool. It wasn't what either one of us had anticipated, but Larry can take things pretty calmly. And I wasn't afraid of crowds. I had worked in New York. I had ridden the subways in rush hour.

*Q: Once you have done that you have done everything.*

LANE: We spent one night in La Paz at the Hotel Crillón, which was the best hotel in La Paz, and then we took the plane the next day down to Cochabamba and were met by the consul and his wife. They were wonderful characters.

*Q: Who were they?*

LANE: Charlie Gilbert and Mercedes Gilbert. Charlie had been a code clerk at the US Embassy in Madrid and then became a Consular Officer. When the consular and the diplomatic services were merged he became a Foreign Service Officer. He had wonderful stories about Spain during the Civil War. Some of them you could believe and some of them you would wonder about. He smoked like a chimney. Whenever Larry would come home from the office he would smell of smoke. Larry never smoked. Both of his parents were chain smokers and Larry just didn't like cigarettes. If Charlie came over to our house he would leave little burn spots on the sofa cushions. Our furniture was not very expensive, but when I knew Charlie was coming I would put the cushions with the burned side up, so our living room furniture soon had a good side and a burned side. Mercedes was Spanish, lively and kind-hearted. Her father had been a general in Franco's army. She had a most wonderful repertoire of off color stories which she could tell in English, Spanish or French. When our first child was born she had knit four little sweaters for him with booties to match. She was not your stereotype principal officer's wife.

*Q: So Cochabamba, what was going on in Cochabamba?*

LANE: The Embassy was in La Paz. The Department thought a Consulate was needed in Cochabamba because there was oil exploration going on, and most of the oil companies were locating their headquarters in Cochabamba. There was also what was called then a Point Four program which later became USAID. There were a number of USAID personnel working in Cochabamba. The Maryknoll Order also had a language school in Cochabamba and a primary school for local children. There was also a small U.S. Military Group detachment. Together these constituted an interesting international community mix.

Bolivia had gone through a revolution in the early 1950's. There had been a land reform during which large estates were broken up and the parcels were given to the indigenous local people. The tin mines were also nationalized. By 1959 when we arrived the situation had calmed and violence was abating. In early 1959 there had been anti-US demonstrations in both La Paz and Cochabamba sparked by an article in Time magazine in which the statement was made that the only solution for Bolivia would be to divide it among its neighbors. There were also skirmishes between indigenous groups in the villages around Cochabamba. There were also occasional anti-US demonstrations by leftist student groups. On one occasion our ambassador, Carl Strom, came down to Cochabamba to make a speech at the local university. I was pregnant at the time. Larry said I should not go to the speech at the university as an anti-American demonstration had been forecast. He also said the speech was likely to be truly boring. But the demonstration was not boring. The consulate driver barely got the embassy carryall van away before it would have been torched. Larry got through the demonstration and found a ride home with a friendly Bolivian who had happened on the scene. Ambassador Strom, who had also been the US ambassador to Cambodia, had once been a professor of mathematics at a college in Iowa. He had a reserved personality and his speech was about some aspect of higher mathematics. The students were in a mood to demonstrate and didn't listen to anything he said. When I joined the Foreign Service I expected adventure and I don't remember being frightened by the event, just glad once Larry was home safely.

*Q: What was Cochabamba's society?*

LANE: In 1960 it was as a small city of less than 100,000 inhabitants. Maybe 10% were literate. Most of the people were Quechua, an indigenous people who had been settled in the Cochabamba area in pre-colonial times when it was part of the Inca empire. Despite the political flare ups, the people were friendly and interested in meeting newcomers. We knew the local officials and at parties people socialized across the political spectrum. I remember the young Trotskyite mayor who was personable and had read quite a bit of American literature in translation. It was a plus being part of a diverse international community, in a small city in the middle of South America. When I read *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by the great Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, some of the details about the town of Macondo reminded me of Cochabamba.

*Q: Did you make use of things you learned in A-100 or as a junior FSO?*

LANE: The most useful thing was that at FSI I had learned to speak Spanish. After our baby was born I taught at a Catholic normal school which had been started by a group of Dutch Augustinian fathers. The students were high school graduates, most of whom had jobs during the day. The classes were in the late afternoon and evening. I taught a class at 5:00 and one at 6:00 P.M. and then came home. I taught English the way I had been taught Spanish at FSI. It was easy to be a working mother because I had excellent help at home. We had a wonderful cook, Victoria Pinto. She was illiterate, but she could do numbers very well. She did the shopping for us. I would give her the money and she would come back and give me a list that had the numbers written and her own odd little marks to tell the prices where for. There were no supermarkets in Cochabamba. There were two little stores run by Yugoslavs. The stores were not quite as big as this small apartment.

*Q: Maybe 15'x15' or so.*

LANE: Yet we ate well; there was plenty of fresh food available from door-to-door vendors and in the market place. Victoria was a great cook. When the baby was born...

*Q: The baby being who?*

LANE: Andy, my oldest boy who is now a teacher. The worst thing that happened to me when I was in Cochabamba, was getting hepatitis A. I was pregnant so I had to stay in bed for six weeks. It seemed like forever. But Victoria was good company. She would sit with me and talk every afternoon. I remember asking her how she learned to do math so easily. She said, "My father was a comerciante (a petty trader). We would take our mules and go out to villages and sell things, the things you couldn't get in the villages." Victoria spoke both Quechua and Aymara as well as Spanish.

*Q: What was the language.*

LANE: The main language was Spanish, but local people spoke Quechua. Quechua was the language of the Inca Empire. The Aymara are the indigenous group on the Altiplano and around La Paz. Their culture is older than that of the Inca.

*Q: What was going on there? Was this an agricultural area, a mining area, what?*

LANE: The Cochabamba area was mainly agricultural. The most famous Bolivian mining areas, Potosí and Oruro, are on the Altiplano, at 12,000 feet. Cochabamba is mid level about 8,500 feet, not nearly as high as La Paz. Bolivia also has extensive lowland tropical areas where oil resources, and later gas resources, were being developed. For many years tin had been the biggest foreign exchange earner. In colonial times it was silver. There is a famous wealthy Bolivian family, the Patiños, who owned major tin mines. The miners have a miserably tough life on the Altiplano. There was an article recently in The New York Times about problems at the famous silver mine at Potosí. So many tunnels have been mined into the famous mountain that the top of the mountain is starting to sink. A mining disaster may be in the making there. The geography of Bolivia is very diverse and it is a spectacularly beautiful country. A poor country but not a hopeless one.

*Q: Was coca leaf and the cocaine trade a problem?*

LANE: Chewing coca leaves was traditional among the indigenous people. In 1960 the U.S. and European market for cocaine had yet to be developed. So coca leaves were not being grown on a big scale for export. It was being grown for local use. People chewed coca because it gives stamina particularly if one is doing hard work at a high altitude. I am sure the miners chew plenty of coca.

*Q: Did you have coca tea at all?*

LANE: I don't remember having coca tea back then. Later in the late 1980's when I was the Bolivia desk officer, coca tea was popular. When one arrived at the airport in La Paz one would be offered coca tea. While I was sitting and waiting for the Embassy vehicle to come and fetch me, I would be offered coca tea. La Paz was high altitude and the airport is very high so you were well advised to drink coca tea to ward off altitude sickness. It just tastes like a herbal tea.

*Q: Well Bolivia particularly in that period was renowned for having sort of a government a year or something.*

LANE: When we were there from 1959-1962 there was one government which was been popularly elected. The government party was the MNR (Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario). It was definitely left of center but not communist and the government kept the currency stable. There were Communists of various kinds in Bolivia. The mayor of Cochabamba was a Trotskyite. We was young and we got to know him socially. His wife having a baby about the same time I was, so we had that in common. He liked to discuss American literature. He liked Howard Fast and John Steinbeck..

Skirmishes sometimes took place in small towns around Cochabamba, some of which pitted one town against another. Our meat woman was from one of those towns, a town called Cliza. Buying meat was like nothing I had ever experienced before. The meat lady would come with the meat carried on her back in an aguayo, the Quechua word for Indian blanket. That is the way indigenous women carry things throughout Americas. She would come to our house once a week and lay out her meat on our front steps. Victoria would look the meat over and buy what we needed for the week. I might also come to the door to observe. She generally had large cuts of pork, beef and lamb. Victoria would take these pieces of meat to the kitchen chop and trim them, or grind some of it if we needed ground meat. The meat woman had a baby boy the same age as our baby boy. Sometimes the baby would be in there in the aguayo with the meat and we would compare our babies. One time she asked for our empty Coke bottles to make Molotov cocktails because they were having a skirmish with the next town. Victoria and I didn't accommodate her. We said we didn't have any Coke bottles.

*Q: Did you get involved with political arguments and all that?*

LANE: Not arguments. I did sometimes discuss politics. I enjoy discussing politics. I remember talking politics with our landlady, Sra. Bokovic, who lived half a block away. She spoke English very well and had been educated at an English girls' school in Santiago, Chile. The Bokovics were Croatians and had been back to Yugoslavia. I remember talking with them about Yugoslavia. She thought Tito was doing well for Yugoslavia.

The landowning class had for the most part lost their farms and big estates. My obstetrician, Joaquin Lopez, was a good doctor. He had done a residency at Columbia Presbyterian in New York. He delivered our baby. His family had lost their country estates. He spoke Quechua and also gave training to Quechua-speaking country mid-wives. In talking to people about our country and their country, I was always more interested in what had happened to them and how they felt about what was happening. With people like my doctor for example, why would I start touting how great the U.S. is. He had studied in the U.S. In general foreigners know much more about our country than we know about theirs.

*Q: Well one of the things, I have talked to people who have served not exactly at the same time you were there. They would arrived and go off from the airport, and there were signs as they drove down to the embassy saying death to the American ambassador.*

LANE: I don't remember signs quite like that, just "Yankee go home" graffiti. But, as I said before, Ambassador Strom was not well received by the students in Cochabamba, but he toughed it out and did not go home.

*Q: What type of work was Larry doing?*

LANE: He was doing consular work. He did many of the things that a junior officer does in a two man consulate. He was doing visas and passports, helping American citizens in distress, being a witness at American weddings, identifying plane crash victims. When the consul, Charlie Gilbert, was transferred, there was a staffing gap before the new consul arrived. Larry was the acting principal officer for a couple of months. The worst thing about that was we had to host the

Fourth of July reception which was a big deal in Cochabamba society. Then he had a new consul to break in. Fortunately the local employees at the Consulate were excellent.

*Q: Was there much of an American community there?*

LANE: Yes, there was a diverse American community there. In addition to the official Americans, there were the oil company people. Bolivia California and Gulf were American companies that had offices there. They had young dependents, so there was an international school for the English speaking community. I wasn't involved in that because we didn't have any school aged children.

*Q: You were there for how long?*

LANE: I was there for about a year and a half. Larry was there for a full two years.

*Q: Then what happened?*

LANE: Well, Larry filled out the "April Fools" sheet on what posts and what kind of assignment he would like for his next assignment.

*Q: I should explain what the April Fools sheet is. It is called a post preference sheet. It was due on the first of April which is why it is called an April Fools sheet. Also because you might ask for Bombay and end up in Iceland or something like that. The Department usually did not heed your wishes although sometimes it did. But it is not possible to assign everyone to Paris or London.*

LANE: The needs of the service came first. But Cochabamba was considered a hardship post and thus Larry had a good chance of being rewarded with an assignment in say Tokyo or western Europe or a place that more people sought. I forget what Larry requested on the April Fools sheet. Probably Madrid, Paris, London or something like that. I recall that he once said "I hope we don't get Germany." So we get Germany. We were annoyed that our assignment was almost up in Cochabamba and Larry hadn't heard anything yet. The telegram with his assignment had gotten as far as La Paz and it sat in La Paz for a week or so before it got down to Cochabamba. We were annoyed about that. Cochabamba was a little out of the way.

*Q: Where in Germany were you sent?*

LANE: We were assigned to Hamburg. Larry was assigned first though to Washington to learn German at FSI. At that time there was no provision for teaching wives languages. So I didn't start learning German until I got to Hamburg. We had an excellent language teacher at the Consulate General in Hamburg. Madame Claire Malignon. She sized me up as a promising language student because I know what a declension was as I had taken Latin in high school. Studying German with her was probably better than going to FSI.

*Q: So what was Hamburg like then?*

LANE: Hamburg was the largest city in West Germany and its biggest port. At that time there were two Germanys, West and East. East Germany was like the other side of the moon. Americans could not go there, even though the border wasn't far away. Hamburg is a working class city with a vibrant arts community. Hamburgers care deeply about music, especially great opera. One of the first buildings that had been built back after the devastation of the war was the opera house, which was a state of the art opera house, one of the best in Europe. Hamburg had great opera and ticket prices were reasonable. Larry and I became opera lovers.

There was also a large international community. I made close friends among the young junior officer wives. Hamburg was an interesting place, but if anybody had asked me if I would like to go back to Cochabamba I would have been on the first plane because I missed Victoria, my super Bolivian maid. I had Andrew, who was an active toddler and Julia, our new baby girl. I missed the household help I had had in Cochabamba.

*Q: Did you have the baby in Hamburg?*

LANE: No, I had the baby in Washington before we went to Hamburg. Our daughter Julia was born in George Washington Hospital in Washington while Larry was learning German. So in Hamburg I had to learn how to be the full time mother of young children. But I know I was probably happier in Hamburg than I would have been in McLean or Annandale out in the suburbs with two babies. In Hamburg there were things to do and much to learn and we weren't that far from the city center. Through friends, we met Ingrid Matzke, a young East German woman -- a refugee, who was looking for an inexpensive place to live. In exchange for our rent free spare room she agreed to babysit in the evenings and the weekends if we were going out. So I wasn't as tied down as I might have been in Annandale or McLean. It was a challenge to learn German but I soon got to where I could read the newspaper (Die Welt), do our grocery shopping and talk to taxi drivers. But my main focus at the time was raising little children.

*Q: Did you get any feel about the cold war being played out in Germany?*

LANE: It permeated everything. We had been in Germany only a week when the border crossing between East and West Berlin closed and buildings on the East Berlin side of the wall were leveled to create the Death Strip. Several years later the Berlin Wall went up. To go to Berlin from Hamburg one could fly or drive by a roundabout way via Helmstedt on the one autobahn between West Germany and Berlin. We made a visit to Berlin to see the German production of My Fair Lady. We went on a Meine Schöne Dame Reise (My Fair Lady Trip), which included airfare, a hotel stay and theatre tickets. The German production of My Fair Lady was terrific. The Berliner dialect was used instead of Cockney and was hilarious. We also made a visit to the East Zone, a very sad-looking place where there had been little post-war reconstruction; the contrast with the lively West Zone was total.

Another historic event while we were in Germany was the Cuban Missile Crisis. We had gone for a week's vacation in South Germany. It was late October and had a wonderful time. The countryside and the mountains were beautiful. When we came back to Hamburg, we found out that something awful might happen. Everyone was worried but, optimist that I am, I thought things would likely work out. I do remember that Larry said that every post had to have an

evacuation plan. He had recently updated Hamburg evacuation plan. He told me that according to the plan we were supposed to get in a caravan of cars and head up to the Danish border. (Laughter). But things did work out.

The saddest and most shocking event during our tour in Hamburg was the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963. Kennedy had made a very successful visit to Berlin several months earlier. West Germany mourned as though he were their own. White candles of mourning appeared in many windows in Hamburg. Larry and I felt as though we had lost a best friend.

*Q: When I think of Hamburg I often think of the tremendous fire raids there in the bombing of Hamburg during World War II. Did that come up much?*

LANE: Yes, it did come up. Our neighborhood had not been bombed. We lived in an upper class neighborhood. The neighborhoods that were fire bombed were the working class neighborhoods. Few people survived in those neighborhoods. Even if they managed to get into a shelter the fire was so intense they smothered because the fire consumed all the oxygen. We had a nice babysitter, a woman who often looked after the children for us. She could stay overnight too if we were going out of town. She told me that her family had lived in one of those working class neighborhoods. At the time of the fire-bombing, she and her mother were visiting her grandparents who lived on a farm south of Bremen. So she and her mother were not in Hamburg when the terrible fire bombings happened. Her father was a dock worker and he was at work the night of the bombings. When he came home from work there was nothing left of their neighborhood. Anyone who was there was gone, dead, burnt to a crisp or asphyxiated in a shelter. The life changing thing for her was that in Hamburg she had done very well on her exams and had been admitted to a gymnasium. A gymnasium is a college prep high school. Out in the country where her grandparents were there was no college prep high school, so she never got to go to an academic high school. She was an intelligent person, and for a working class family to have a daughter studying at a gymnasium would have been a source of pride.

The bombing was beyond terrible for the people of Hamburg. But the survivors built their city back. By the time we were there, big cranes dominated much of the skyline. A big church was built next to us to replace a major church downtown, that was being left in ruins as a memorial. The brand new high church St. Nickolas was under construction on the property next to our building. Huge bells were hung in the bell tower. That was an interesting thing to watch. My little son and I watched the construction with fascination. German workmen are like workmen everywhere. If a young woman walks down the street they whistle. More than once they made my day.

*Q: What was Larry's job like?*

LANE: Larry was assigned to Hamburg as labor officer. His main contacts were in the German Labor unions. The two major labor unions didn't have offices in Bonn which was the nominal capital, the political capital. The people in Hamburg referred to it as the high village, the Hochdorf. At that period, during the Cold War, the U.S. was very interested in the political

activities of European labor unions. The US labor unions, the AFL and the CIO were also in contact with European labor unions.

When we had been in Hamburg for about a year there was a reorganization. The Department decided to cut positions in Germany. One of the positions abolished was the labor reporting job in Hamburg. About that time the chief of the economic section asked for a transfer to Washington because his wife was unhappy living overseas. The Consul General, E. Tomlin Bailey, decided to keep the good officers he had and to shift some of jobs around. The chief of the consular section became the chief of the economic section and Larry ended up as head of the consular section. Which was a nice opportunity for him because he could get experience supervising a big section and it was a strong section with able employees. He did that for awhile. Then either the Department or the Embassy in Bonn decided that a more senior officer should head the section. The commercial officer was about to be re-assigned, so Consul General Bailey thought Larry should move into the commercial officer's position. An officer from Bonn then came to head the Consular Section. The man from Bonn did not look like a winner to Larry and me when we had him to dinner the night he arrived. A day or two later when Larry came home for lunch he said, "Mr. Bailey came to my office and said Larry, don't give him another thing. He is leaving."

*Q: Wasn't that dramatic.*

LANE: Rather dramatic. So Larry continued to head the consular section until the Department found an officer that met with Tom Bailey's approval. Then Larry did move into the commercial officer job. So really Larry had three different jobs during our three year tour. He went as a labor officer. Then he was head of the consular section, and then he was the commercial officer.

*Q: Did you get involved in any of these changes as the wife of a rising officer?*

LANE: Not really. I hit it off with the consul's wife, Betty Bailey because she was a Smith woman. That was one of the few times in my life when coming from Smith College was of any significance to anyone. Betty Bailey was not a difficult person to get along with. I do recall that one of the CIA wives thought Betty Bailey had favorites and that she was not friendly to the CIA wives. But I hadn't notice that. Excuse me I am descending into tittle-tattle. What was the question?

*Q: I was just wondering whether you got involved with any of Larry's work, representation.*

LANE: Of course. We gave cocktail parties and small dinner parties, so I did get to know his contacts. We also met people from other consulates. We were really in the British zone the British consulate was bigger than ours. So we had friends at the British consulate. We had some friends who were Chinese from Taiwan and friends who were Ecuadorian and Chilean. The consular corps in a big city like that does get together and exchange information and ponder the ways of the host nationals. I certainly was not talking only to Americans. There was also the German-American Women's Club. I remember it as the "Frauen Club." Mrs. Bailey thought it was very important that we go to the Frauen Club and make an effort to meet the German members. We worked together on Christmas bazaars and card parties and played bridge together

now and then. Sometimes we would get together just for coffee and eat wonderful pastries and a big bowl of whipped cream. The custom was to put extra whipped cream on top of the pastries.

*Q: What your overall impression of Germans as people?*

LANE: Germans are harder to get to know than Bolivians. They are more formal and less quick to smile. A week after we arrived in Hamburg, the border closed between East and West Berlin.

*Q: This was in Berlin.*

LANE: Yes, in Berlin. But this affected many people in Hamburg. Many had friends and relatives in Berlin. During our first months in Hamburg I thought the people there looked sad and thought the sad expressions were connected it with the Berlin situation. Later I realized that was just the way they looked.

*Q: Where did Hamburg fall politically?*

LANE: Hamburg voted strongly SDP. The SDP was the Social Democratic Party, a center-left party.

*Q: Again during this time you are pretty busy with kids, but did you have the sort of keeping your foreign service skills honed and thinking about maybe someday I will come back in or not?*

LANE: At that point, no. I don't remember thinking I would rejoin the Foreign Service again as an officer. As a Foreign Service dependent I thought of myself as part of a team. One thing though that I observed was that many of the Foreign Service wives were just as smart as their husbands. Sometimes they were more interesting, more down to earth, and less full of themselves than the guys they were married to.

*Q: I certainly found this to be true. I mean no matter how you slice it being a Foreign Service officer you were dealing with both the wife and the officer an elite corps of people.*

LANE: Many of the wives were well aware that on the officer's efficiency report there was a space about the family and you wanted your husband's boss to know you were pulling your oar. I remember later when Larry was on a selection panel. He laughed about the comments on the ER about wives and said that hardly any reviewing officer would want to be such a cad as report say anything negative about the wife. It was rarely done.

*Q: This is basically true but I remember one time I was a personnel officer and I had the job of showing the full efficiency report including the comments on the wife to officers coming in to Washington. One report said so and so is a good officer but the problem is his wife. She sleeps around. That is basically what he said. Oh God what am I going to say. I just sort of shut my eyes and shoved it over. He read it and said, "Oh she doesn't do that." I just kind of let it go.*

LANE: Did she sleep around usefully? Did she find out useful things?

*Q: It didn't go into that. Did you find that you were resentful of the fact that the service used to make no bones about the fact that you were part of a two-fer. Two people were really one unit and they wanted to get something from you.*

LANE: Yes, but on the other hand the service provided us with housing in interesting places. So if one was expected to give cocktail parties that you wouldn't think of doing on your own, well fine. Throw a cocktail party. I didn't mind being useful to my country.

*Q: My wife never felt that way. I mean it was obvious that it was what you did. Well then this is probably a good place to stop. Where did you go from Hamburg?*

LANE: We went to the Mexican border.

*Q: Which post?*

LANE: Nuevo Laredo across from Laredo, Texas.

*Q: You went when?*

LANE: We went to Nuevo Laredo in 1964, the end of '64.

*Q: One last question on Germany. There were a lot of migrants, migrant labor coming from Turkey at the time. How did you feel Germany was absorbing this type of labor?*

LANE: They were called guest workers. The idea was that they would not become residents but that they would work a few years, save money and then go back where they came from. For awhile we employed a Spanish woman, whose husband was a guest worker, as a house maid. She was from Madrid. They definitely were not part of the German community nor did they see themselves as wanting to be Germans. They saw themselves as Spanish. I didn't know any Turks. But there were a lot of Spaniards working in Germany while we were there.

*Q: Was there much labor unrest in Hamburg?*

LANE: No, there were two labor unions while we were there. Germany is more class conscious than the U.S. so there was a white collar union and a blue collar union. The custom was to give a party for Larry's contacts in the unions and we gave one for the white collar people and one for the blue collar people. It may just have been the actual personalities of the people but I found the blue collar people more open and less pretentious than the white collar people. But whether that is true of Germans across the board, I don't know, but it certainly was true in those particular groups.

*Q: Were you very aware of the British military presence in your area?*

LANE: Not so much. I don't remember noticing a British military presence. We did use an American commissary that was in Bremerhaven which is a couple hour's drive from Hamburg. We could get an a weekly grocery order from the Bremerhaven commissary. I do remember

friends from the British Consulate General. They had a celebrity emerge from their ranks while we were in Hamburg -- John Le Carré, who wrote The Spy Who Came In From the Cold. I enjoy his books, in part because often scenes are set in Hamburg.

*Q: OK, well we will pick this up in 1964 going to Nuevo Laredo.*

LANE: We were there for less than two years, from January of 1965 until September of 1966.

*Q: OK, we will pick it up then.*

*Today is 29 September 2014, and we have got you leaving Hamburg and off to Nuevo Laredo. You were at Nuevo Laredo from when to when?*

LANE: We were transitioning to Nuevo Laredo. We left Hamburg in early July and did not arrive in Nuevo Laredo until after Christmas. This was because Larry was selected, while we were on home leave, to take something called the mid-career course. We thought at the time we hope he is not mid-career. He had just turned 30, not old enough to think about being at mid-career. The course lasted three months. When the course ended we finished home leave in Texas and went on to Nuevo Laredo.

Leaving Hamburg we decided we would go back by way of England. Neither of us had ever been to England. We made arrangements to return to the States from Southampton on the SS United States which was a wonderful trip.

*Q: That was our biggest and fastest liner?*

LANE: It was. We had one little problem leaving Hamburg. We had a cat. We left the windows open for the cat to go in and out in the summer. With all of the work of packing out I didn't miss the cat until she had been missing for more than a day. We called the neighborhood police station and were told that, a cat had been hit by a car and taken to the police station. When nobody inquired about the cat, she was sent to the pound which was on the other side of Hamburg. So what with all the departure frenzy of packing and farewell parties, Larry had to drive to the other side of Hamburg to the pound to look at stray cats. Our poor bedraggled kitty was among them. She had reservations to fly directly to New York since animals are not permitted to be in the UK without quarantine. So the cat was shipped off to my sister in Brooklyn.

We took the train to London by the way of Calais and Dover. When the train stopped in Hamburg we had to hustle to get aboard. Fortunately friends had come to the station to bid us farewell. It was a good thing because if the train was coming from Copenhagen and only stopped for a minute or two at Hamburg. We had three small children and many pieces of luggage but with the help of friends we got everything to the train. On our drive to the station we had our favorite consulate driver, someone our children knew well. Our oldest boy who was all of four was sitting in the front seat with Rudy and was speaking very nicely to Rudy in German. Rudy said congratulated him on how nicely he spoke, and I said, "He was too little to talk when we arrived in Hamburg. In Hamburg he learned to speak both German and English." When we got into Calais, just short of the station a switch engine had jumped the track in front of our train, so

we missed the ferry to Dover and had a few hours to walk around Calais and stretch our legs before the next ferry which was very crowded. We found a place on the upper deck that wasn't too bad, and settled ourselves with the children. We watched for the white cliffs of Dover which look as impressive as they do in movies. Getting off the crowded ferry would have been a mad scramble, but one of the crew told us to wait and they would take us down the luggage gang plank. So they took us and the children down a special gangway. The train was waiting there. Of course we didn't have tickets for it. Larry settled us on the train and then got off to get the tickets. I thought this is going to be very interesting if he doesn't get back with the tickets before the train leaves. But he did make the train.

We got into London very late and went to a hotel, where a Foreign Service friend, Harry Bieling had made us reservations at an inexpensive hotel in a nice location. We took a London cab and arrived at our little hotel at midnight and beat on the door. The worried looking hotel owner came to the door and exclaimed, "Oh, Mr. Lane. You are here. I guess you will have to come in and spend the night, but I have to tell you the staff has quit." At that point we just wanted to go to bed. The next morning we came down and staff serenity had been restored. The hotel owner was personable and helpful. He suggested that we consider hiring a nanny for the children while we were in London. He called a Baby Minders service and we hired a wonderful nanny for our week in London. She took the children out to parks every afternoon and read them stories and put them to bed in the evening. Our family had a great time in London.

*Q: Oh wonderful.*

LANE: We went to plays and saw the movie Tom Jones, which is the perfect movie to see in London. That was Albert Finney's big first role. When we came out of the movie house there was a huge crowd in Piccadilly. There was a Beatles movie opening that night and the Beatles were on hand. People were hanging from lamp posts to see them leave the theatre. We fell in love with London. I am glad we did not miss the swinging 60s's in London.

*Q: The swinging 60's?*

LANE: Yes. Being in London then was neat. Then we had the SS United States crossing took about five days. When we arrived in New York, I called my sister before we were off the ship. She said, "Helen, I have the most terrible news." I said, "Who died?" She said, "Maggie died." Maggie was our cat. Apparently poor Maggie had contracted distemper at the pound and died under my sister's dining room table. But we had our usual happy family reunion there and my mother was also there to greet us. Then we spent a week in Ohio at Lake Erie with some of my mother's family. We were at the lake when Larry was called and told to go to Washington because he had been selected for the mid-career course. So we went to Washington and looked for a place to alight for a couple of months. We needed a furnished place. I called a number of rental places using the yellow pages in the phone book. We alighted at Seven Corners at the Williston Apartments, which was willing to rent short term to families. Everything in the apartment was rather shabby plastic. Nothing that kids could destroy. Even the curtains were plastic. They looked like shower curtains that were ten years old. It was pretty sorry looking, but there were no roaches. We were able to put up with the place for three months. Foreign Service life is full of contrasts. One goes from the glorious SS United States to the Williston Apartments.

*Q: A man I knew, Jack Zetkolic, who had a five year old daughter. He had just been DCM in Bern and came back and he owned a house in Arlington. A very small, unpretentious house. Of course they had lived in a rather large one in Bern. His daughter turned to him and said "Daddy are we poor now?" This is the Foreign Service.*

LANE: Our oldest boy was only four but he recognized the apartment as a shabby place. He called it the plastic apartment. But there was a playground there and kids found playmates. When Larry finished the mid-career course we went off to Nuevo Laredo by way of Texas. We finished the rest of our home leave with Larry's family in Texas.

Then we went to Nuevo Laredo, a border post, one of the two Laredos. Nuevo Laredo was settled after Laredo at the end of the Mexican war when those who didn't want to be Americans moved across the Rio Grande to the Mexican side. But there numerous intermarriages and in 1964 it seemed like one community. There was a fair amount of crime, but nothing like there is now. The drug culture in America was just beginning. So crime was not a huge problem.

Our arrival was noted in the newspapers, in Nuevo Laredo and also in Laredo. When Larry was transferred to Chile 18 months later farewell parties were given in our honor and our pictures appeared in the social pages in the newspaper in Laredo. Nuevo Laredo was not a place that either one of us had wanted to go. But this was the Johnson administration. Personnel told Larry that LBJ wanted better people at the border or at least that is the sales pitch he was given by personnel. So we went to Nuevo Laredo.

And while we were there I learned a lot about Texas. LBJ had a brother, Sam Houston Johnson, who enjoyed the bars along the border. We had met his ex-wife Mary who had married into the Foreign Service. She married George Hazelton who replaced Larry as head of the Consular Section in Hamburg. Sam Houston Johnson would come down from Texas to the border every so often and get very rowdy. His favorite border town was Matamoras. If he ever came to Nuevo Laredo while we were there, he did not misbehave and Larry never got to meet him.

*Q: What was the Mexican community like?*

LANE: There was more to Nuevo Laredo than the bars and the red light district. Our children went to a little kindergarten, Jardin de Niños Luz Maria, in Nuevo Laredo attended by the cream of Nuevo Laredo society. It was run by some very nice ladies in their garage and garden. I recall that kindergarten did a program in the auditorium of the Technological Institute in Nuevo Laredo, a good tech school with a nice auditorium. The kindergarten children, ages about three to five, performed a program of dances. in costumes. The creation of the costumes meant going to dress makers and tailors, together with the other mothers of the children our tykes would be dancing with. This gave me a chance to get to know the other mothers. My mother happened to be visiting us when the performance actually took place and Larry's mother and step-father came down from Bacliff. To our surprise the kindergarten program was a big theatrical event in Nuevo Laredo. Parents who had children in the program brought their extended families and their neighborhood friends and the auditorium was packed to see the show. The little kids were darling and certainly rose to the occasion.

Another unusual performance was the annual competition of the Nuevo Laredo girls jump rope teams. The competition took place in the Nuevo Laredo bull ring. Girls in Nuevo Laredo learned to skip rope at an early age and join teams and compete against each other in the bull ring. Our daughter Julia who was five took easily to the jump rope. She never performed in the bull ring but got to be really good at jumping rope. My mother was there when we went to see the rope jumping in the bull ring. My mother had jumped rope as a child and amazed us by jumping rope with her granddaughter.

Larry and I were in a production in Laredo of *My Fair Lady*. The Laredo Little Theatre Club needed a couple to be Ambassador and Mrs. Ambassador at the ball and enlisted us for that role. So we got all dolled up for that. I wore an enormous bee-hive hair-do. That was fun and we made friends with the interesting group of people who were in the Laredo Little Theater. These included people from the Laredo Air Force Base, where helicopter pilots were being trained. The Vietnam War was going on and helicopter pilots were being trained at the Laredo base.

*Q: Did you get any feel for the politics of the area?*

LANE: Yes, on both sides of the border. On the US side the war in Vietnam seemed to be stalemated. I watched TV news every day and it looked to me that, although we dropping lots of bombs on the jungle, the Viet Cong were fighting back. We met the local Mexican officials who were all from the governing party, the PRI. But in the two Laredos, trade and commerce were more important than politics. Freight forwarding and trucking were good businesses to be in along the border. One of the freight forwarders we knew in Laredo was also seriously interested in the theatre arts. Several years ago he was the sponsor of a production at the Shakespeare Theater here in Washington. We had neighbors in Nuevo Laredo, the Hinojosas, who were in trucking and we would see their trucks on the highway throughout Mexico. That was a business that was profitable. Hinojosa was an example of a rising working class Mexican. His mother had sold tamales on the trains and at the train station, where she had a small stand. Her son bought a truck and then another and another and prospered. Mexico has a large enough economy that the people can rise to the middle class as the economy grows. That is something that very rarely occurs in Central America where there is the economies are small and there are few openings for a rising middle class. Also the countries in Central America did not have the social revolutions that Mexico had. The PRI become the institution that really ran the government. Mexico has certain strengths that the Central American countries lack, with the exception of Costa Rica which is an interesting different country.

Then one hot summer day Larry was called from Personnel in Washington and asked if he would like to have a transfer to Santiago, Chile. Well he said yes he thought he would. He said I am pretty sure my wife will say yes, but I really need to tell her about this before I say absolutely yes. I said, "Tell them yes." So that fall we went to Chile.

*Q: Now you were in Chile from when to when?*

LANE: We were there from '66 to '70. During that period Eduardo Frei was the President of Chile. It was a vibrant democracy and Chile was a show place for the Alliance for Progress.

*Q: How did you find being a part of the Embassy and a wife within the structure? How did you find that?*

LANE: I found it very OK. Santiago had a nice group of Embassy wives, many of whom were young mothers like me. Our first priority was getting the children settled in school, the second priority was finding a house and the next priority was finding a maid. The Embassy young mothers were very helpful. We were pleased with the schools the children went to in Chile. They didn't go to the American school which was far out in the outer suburbs. The bus ride would have been long and the American school had a rigid approach to admissions and wanted to place both Andy and Julia who were 15 months apart in age in kindergarten. I thought it wasn't fair to Julia to put her in the same class with her brother. So we didn't send them there. They went to private bi-lingual schools. Andrew went to a Catholic boys school called St. George's College. Another embassy family was sending their son there and they thought it was a good option. Larry had met a nun, the sister of the director of the school during a plane trip to Washington. They were sitting together on a flight and Larry mentioned he was going to Chile. His seat mate said she had a brother, who was a priest and was the director of a boys' school. Larry made a note of that. The director was Father George Highberger, so we looked into Father Highberger's school. St. George's was less rigid about placing students in the school than the American school was. Father Highberger thought Andy, who spoke both English and Spanish easily, should be placed in the first grade although the academic year was coming to an end (This was because the seasons in the Southern Hemisphere are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere). Then if he went to summer school maybe he could catch up and go on to the second grade and see how things went. So that was what we did. There was not a lot of pressure on Andy to be brilliant but he did well in school. Spanish is not a difficult language to read and he had no problem socially with his classmates. His classmates liked his accent because he sounded to them like Cantinflas, the Mexican comedian.

*Q: A comic actor in Around the World in 80 Days.*

LANE: So Andy prospered there and Julia went to Santiago College, a nice girls school that had been founded by the Methodist Church and the next year we found a very nice nursery school in our neighborhood for Joel. We were also part of the embassy community. I made friends with a group of bright young American women. Some of us have kept in touch as we morphed into grandmothers. While we were house hunting we lived in an apartment downtown. Louise Dunne, her husband was Paxton Dunn, an economic officer in Larry's section, worked out a scheme for getting our laundry done. Their house was near Santiago College where Julia was in the afternoon session of the kindergarten. Louise suggested that, after I dropped Julia off at kindergarten, I come by her house and a bag of dirty laundry. So I would bring a bag of laundry, which the Dunne's maids would wash and iron and have it ready for me to pick up the next day. Another friend Betsy Ambach, the wife of Dwight Ambach also in the Economic Section took care of the children the day we were unpacking and moving in to our house. It took us a long time to find the right house in Chile, but we found a nice house on Calle Quillay, a quiet street, only a block long and not far from Santiago College. It was a friendly neighborhood. We met our neighbors and the children found playmates. Chileans enjoy discussing politics and current events. Our last year in Santiago was an election year in Chile. Our son Andy knew who the

parents of all his classmates would they vote for. And he told us that, if we were Chilean, we would be Christian Democrats. Politics was very much alive. We were given a farewell dinner by one of the neighborhood families on our street. Around the dining table the election was a major topic of conversation. The grandmother of the house said, "Well I am voting for Don Salvador." The rest of the table asked in surprise, "Now why would you do that?" She said, "He is the only one I would want to sit beside at a dinner party." Anyway the election took place not long after we had left Chile. When Allende came in first we were not surprised or shocked by the results.

*Q: Did you get any feel for the social distinctions within the society, very rich, very poor? Did you get into this?*

LANE: Well, there are social distinctions everywhere in the world. Mao tried to eliminate them in China and failed. It was a disaster. Yes, there were distinctions in Chile. But in Chile many of the country people have a bit of schooling, as do many working class citizen in Santiago. They are likely to read newspapers and most listen to the radio. Most of them know enough to make up their own minds. Elections are hotly contested. The political spectrum ran from communist to right wing conservative people and there were a variety of parties. Politics was really interesting there. It was really hog heaven for a political officer.

*Q: What about Indians?*

LANE: There aren't very many Indians in Chile, although many Chileans have some native American ancestry. There are some Indian groups in the far south and along the Bolivian border. It is not an Indian country the way Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador are. Chile, like Argentina. is more like a European country.

*Q: Did you get a feel for revolutionary groups?*

LANE: I remember sitting in a dimly lit cafe, La Peña de los Parra, listening to folk songs and protest songs. The group performing was first rate. In the US folk and protest songs were also popular in the late 1960's. The musicians were left wing. I remember singing "Where have all the flowers gone?" There was also political turmoil in our country. We were in the Vietnam War.

*Q: How did that play in Chile?*

LANE: The Vietnam War was not going well. I had started to have real doubts about what we were doing in Vietnam when I was watching the morning news in Nuevo Laredo (we got the American TV channels there). It appeared to me that we were bombing and bombing the jungle and not making any progress. People around the world were questioning what we were doing in Vietnam. There was some of that in Chile, but the issues there were mostly Chilean issues. When Robert Kennedy was assassinated the Archbishop held a memorial mass downtown in Santiago. Larry and thought parking might be difficult around the Cathedral so we took the bus. As we were walking to the bus stop we met a neighbor from Calle Quillay who was also going to the bus stop and was on her way to the Robert Kennedy mass.

When we arrived in Chile in 1966 the U.S. Ambassador was Ralph Dungan, who had been a close advisor to President Kennedy and had been appointed Ambassador to Chile by President Johnson. He endeavored to support the non-communist progressive political forces in Chile. His Spanish was weak and he was not popular with the US copper companies. Nor was he popular with his Embassy staff. He thought it was unseemly that American diplomats were taking expensive cars to Chile and when they left they would sell them at quite a profit. So he put a stop to that. Unfortunately a number of Embassy officers had invested in those cars with the idea that they were going to sell them later and have some money to help pay junior's college tuition or whatever. There was much grumbling about that. That policy change had taken place before we went to Chile so we were not affected. We took the Plymouth Valiant that we had bought in 1961. I think the car policy was applied world-wide.

*Q: I remember that. I didn't have any skin in that game, but I remember there were people driving around, junior vice consuls with fancy Lincolns. They were going to sell them. It was good that the policy changed.*

LANE: Yes, modesty among diplomats is a good thing. Although it made us look holier than thou to our diplomatic corps colleagues from other countries. Another Dungan policy was to forbid American staff from changing money on the open market or black market. We were required to buy our Chilean escudos at the US Embassy at the official rate, was about 30% to 40% less than the open market rate.

*Q: Who replaced Dungan?*

LANE: Edward Korry. Ed Korry said we had to find another way to do the money exchange. It was not illegal to change dollars into Chilean Escudos if one did so outside of Chile. So a money run was started. US personnel would write dollar checks for their anticipated local currency needs and somebody would take the checks to a money exchange in Argentina, either in Mendoza or Buenos Aires. People took turns as couriers. Being a courier made for a nice weekend in Buenos Aires or Mendoza. The Commercial Attaché, Cal Berlin, took charge of administering this. It made life in Santiago easier for Embassy staff who were paid in dollars. It was like getting a really nice raise.

We eventually sold our Plymouth Valiant. There are mountains ranges in Chile and the aging Valiant was very pokey going uphill. So we bought a new car, a Dodge Dart. When we sold the aging Valiant we sold it for more than the original purchase price and were required to donate the profit to a charity. So we gave half of it to Smith College because Smith College had given me a generous scholarship and half of it to the National Audubon Society because we were bird watchers.

Mrs. Korry organized a group of Embassy wives into a discussion group, which a number of us enjoyed. She thought it would be good to have a debate before the 1968 election. That election was between Nixon and Agnew on the Republican side and Humphrey and Muskie on the Democratic ticket. George Wallace also ran on a segregationist platform. The discussion group asked for volunteer debaters and about half a dozen of us volunteered, but the volunteers were all Democrats. So we drew straws, first to decide which people would debate, then to see which side

we would be on. I ended up on the Republican side. No one suggested that George Wallace be included. I wrote to the Republican National Committee and received a large box of campaign buttons, posters and information to use in the debate. I gave away most of the campaign buttons to trick-or-treaters Halloween evening. I remember talking to Larry about the wives' upcoming debate: "What do I say when it comes to Agnew? He seems rather shady." He said, "Oh just say Richard Nixon is in good health." My debate partner was Joyce Johnson, a good friend who was the wife of USAID officer Hank Johnson. Joyce and I had known each other back in Washington before either of us were married. She had a Masters Degree in economics from Yale. So she took the economic issues and I took the political issues. But we were most worried about the person who was going to be the moderator the debate, Gladys Weintraub. Her husband Sid Weintraub was Larry and Hank's boss. But that was not the problem. Gladys was such an ardent Democrat that we did not think she would be fair to the Republican side. We were more concerned about how do we handle Gladys than we were about the issues.

Sidney Weintraub was head of the Economic Section of the Embassy as well as the USAID mission. The USAID Mission was one of the largest in Latin America and Chile was an Alliance for Progress showpiece. So it was a big section. Shortly after we arrived in Santiago I met Gladys at a wives coffee. She asked me if didn't I think the role of the wife was very important to the husband's career. I scratched my head and said, "Oh I think it might be, but if I were to drop dead tomorrow, Larry would miss me, but surely his career would continue." She said, "Oh I never thought of it that way." That was my first exchange with Gladys. Although she could be overbearing, she was also fun. She became very knowledgeable about Chilean art. She visited a folk art colony at Isla Negra, the village on the coast where the famous Chilean poet Pablo Neruda lived. She discovered that Neruda, who was supposedly helping the artists was underpaying them, or not paying them quite what Gladys thought their art might be worth. Gladys found a way to get better prices for the Isla Negra folk artists.

On election night in 1968 we were at a party to listen to the US election returns. I remember that Gladys wept when the returns came in and Nixon won. She hugged me and said she was weeping for her children and for young people like Larry and me. I told her I was disappointed in the results, but that I had no fear that the USA would survive Nixon. As events were to turn out in the 1970's, when Nixon was elected we should all have been weeping for Chile.

Larry and I enjoyed Chile. He was doing minerals reporting so we were meeting the American engineers and staff at the major copper companies which were American owned. They had their own country club near Santiago, where they would wine and dine people like Larry and me. They were right wing in their political opinions but fun to be around and gracious hosts.

*Q: Did you feel your role as an American Embassy wife was limiting and as a Smith graduate former junior Foreign Service officer, all did you feel somehow cheated? How did you feel at that time?*

LANE: No. As far as being a Smith graduate, when you leave the United States no one has heard of Smith College and why anybody would go to a women's college is puzzling to most Chilean women. Quite a few Chilean women went to universities in Chile and abroad. Some did become doctors and lawyers. In the 1960's the percentage of women in these professions in Chile

probably exceeded the percentage in the United States. In Chile one's status in society was often thought of in terms of who your father was, rather than who your husband was. If at a party you asked someone who another woman was, they wouldn't say 'that is Ana Maria de Sanchez, the wife of Felipe Sanchez.' Instead they might say, 'oh, she is Ana Maria Cueto Vargas, the daughter of Andres Cueto, the banker.' My Chilean driver's license identified me as Helen Brady, not Helen Lane. I am not at all surprised that the President of Chile is a woman. It did not surprise me when she was elected. Today the president of Chile is the daughter of a general, a general who was opposed to Pinochet. Her identity is with her family, her father's family, not her husband. Hillary Clinton's connection is with her husband. It is a very different political relationship.

*Q: Well did you get involved with the military? Did you get any feel for them?*

LANE: No, we did not have contacts in the Chilean military. The Embassy military attaches would have been the ones with Chilean military contacts. One of them, Colonel Paul Wimert, was later involved with the CIA in President Nixon's efforts to overthrow Salvador Allende. Larry's Chilean contacts were government officials connected with the mining industry. Most of them seemed honest, capable and down to earth. I remember Larry often took the bus home from work. Sometimes the Minister of Mines often would be on the same bus.

I enjoy being outdoors. I like bird watching and natural history. Chile was a perfect place for that. Ornithology was at an exciting juncture during our time in Chile. The first bird guide to Chilean birds had just been published. The author, A. W. Johnson, became a good friend and we developed a group of avid bird watching friends. We spent time each summer with our children and friends at a small fishing village called Zapallar, which is on the coast about three hours drive north from Santiago. I remember it as perhaps the most beautiful place in the world.

The moon landing was the great historical event during our Santiago years. We were very proud of our astronauts. NASA operated a tracking station north of Santiago. The director of the station, Chester Shaddeau, did the voice over in Spanish for the Chilean TV stations during the landing on the moon. He did it very well and became something of a local celebrity.

Larry also covered science issues for the Embassy, which meant we had contacts in the science community. The Inter-American Southern Hemisphere Observatory at Cerro Tololo had recently opened. It received substantial funding from the National Science Foundation. On a vacation trip to northern Chile with two other Embassy couples we had the opportunity to visit Cerro Tololo as well as the large open pit copper mine at Chuquicamata. The night sky of the Southern Hemisphere was a wonder to us. One can see things like the Magellanic Clouds and Alpha Centauri, our nearest star. We bought our own little telescope and enjoyed using it particularly at Zapallar, where we were away from city light pollution.

One of the curious things that happened during the run up to the Chilean election was at a meeting at our sons' school.

*Q: Which election?*

LANE: This would be the Chilean election of 1970. I went to a meeting at the school of the parents of our younger son's class. They were electing room parents, room mothers. I think of room mothers as people who bring cookies for parties. Father Highberger, the director of the school, was there and I was surprised that he was attending a meeting of first grade parents. There were two candidates for room parent and it really seemed to matter to most of the parents which candidate was going to be elected to represent this room of first graders. After the meeting I talked to Father Highberger and I told him that I was surprised that there was such animosity over such a lowly election, that I found it weird. He said, "Helen, you don't know half of what is happening. There is a group of parents here that are plotting to take over the school." I knew that there were some parents that were concerned over some of the text books used at the school which spoke well of land reform. They had warned me that communist text books were being used in the elementary school. These were the Chilean history text books that were used in all Chilean schools. But when Father Highberger told me these parents were plotting to take over the school, I thought he was a bit paranoid. But after Pinochet seized control, a group of parents seized the school from the Holy Cross fathers of Notre Dame. Later when I was back in the Foreign Service as an officer and was working on the Mexican desk in the Latin America bureau, looked at our Assistant Secretary's schedule and saw that he was meeting with Father George Highberger. It was none of my business at that point but after the meeting I found Father outside the assistant secretary's office. I didn't think he would remember me so I introduced myself and I asked how the meeting went and he said, "Not well." And I said "I'm sorry."

Chile was a learning experience for me and a troubling one. I think Henry Kissinger was a great Secretary of State, but I cannot forgive him for Chile. Maybe the tragedy of Chile should be blamed on Nixon and the CIA rather than on Kissinger. But it happened on Henry Kissinger's watch.

*Q: Did the term revolutionary theology pass your lips or was it around. This is where the Catholic Church ranks as an advocate for the poor.*

LANE: I wasn't interested in that and theology sort of goes around me anyway.

*Q: It was more a social approach within the church?*

LANE: I think liberation theology was an effort to place more emphasis on working for social justice which is one of the values of the Catholic Church, which is my church. However, it seemed it get cast aside under Pope John Paul. John Paul was a Pole who had lived under the Nazis, and then under the Communists in Poland. He had experienced movements that began in the name of social justice only to become totalitarian and viciously oppressive. I think that was may have been what influenced Pope John Paul to tamp down on the more liberal strain of Catholic theology.

But Chile was also a happy experience. Our children were healthy and happy. We had good friends, both American and Chilean. It was a pleasant place to live. Larry's career was going well. He started out as minerals officer there, but then at some point Washington started shifting jobs. They decided they didn't need a full time minerals officer so he might combine that with an economic officer job. But then an opening came up suddenly. The consul was not getting along

with his staff or with the ambassador. Ambassador Korry asked Larry if he would like to take over the consular section, which was a section in a separate building. Larry liked doing consular work and running his own section. When he was the minerals officer, a senior AID officer wanted him to change his reporting and forecast falling copper prices so that it would look like the Chilean economy would be in difficulties. If the Embassy forecast falling copper prices, the AID director thought he could ask for a larger AID budget for Chile. Larry said, No, he did not want to look like a fool nor did he want the Embassy to look like a fool. In doing consular work you are issuing passports and visas and helping American citizens who get into trouble. You get more immediate satisfaction because you can do things to help people in difficult circumstances. Larry thought that was a satisfying line of work.

*Q: Well you are taking to the choir here. I felt the same way. I felt that both political reporting and economic reporting was a little bit like writing term papers at school. If you hit it right you would get an A, but if you didn't you would get a C. I liked helping people get out of jail. This is before you had a lot of free moving kids, I am talking about Americans who are going down to that area.*

LANE: I don't remember adventurous college dropouts being much of a problem. I remember Larry had a case that was in the papers big time involving an American who had come from Peru to Valparaiso on a small ship. He was a businessman who had run afoul of Peruvian authorities. The Peruvians wanted the Chileans to arrest him. He tried to escape in this vessel from Valparaiso. He was stopped by the Chileans, arrested and put in jail. Larry thought he was a nice guy, but a fool who got involved in some shady business, of which he was not the intellectual author so to speak. I remember Christmas was coming and Larry said, "I have to go see this poor man in jail. I want to take him some of your home made Christmas cookies." So I fixed a little box of Christmas cookies and Larry took it to the jail. With Larry's help, the fellow was released from jail, he had to remain in Chile awaiting trial. He was still in Chile when we were leaving.

Our DCM, Harry Shlaudeman, gave us a farewell party and invited Larry's most famous protection case to the party. So I got to meet him and he thanked me for the cookies.

*Q: So you left Chile in '70?*

LANE: July of '70 and then we went to Guatemala. It was before the Chilean election. Anyway it was summer when we left for the U.S. and winter in Chile. Winter in Santiago is not too severe. But in any case we were coming back to the U.S. and then going to Guatemala. Before the Guatemala assignment came through, the Department had wanted to assign Larry to be the number two person in the consular section in Buenos Aires. Larry was used to running his own section, and he wasn't too happy about being number two. Moreover, sometimes if you are living in one country you pick up some of their prejudices against their neighbors. And we had picked up some of the Chilean attitude toward Argentina. The idea of packing up our nice house and our young family and just moving across the mountains to Buenos Aires didn't appeal to either one of us. The Embassy asked that Larry be given a two year extension in Santiago but the Department would not agree to it. Our DCM Harry Shlaudeman was going to Washington for consultations and offered to nose around and see if there were something that Larry might find more interesting. When he returned he told Larry that there was an opening for chief of the

consular section in Guatemala. Our Ambassador, John Gordon Mein, had just been assassinated in Guatemala City, so positions there were a bit hard to fill. Larry liked the idea of heading the section in Guatemala and we both liked the idea of dealing with a different culture so we went to Guatemala.

*Q: So you were there from when to when?*

LANE: We were there from '70 to the beginning of '74. Guatemala was also attractive to us too because our parents were getting older. My mother had retired to Phoenix, Arizona. Larry's parents were still in Bacliff, Texas which is in the Houston/Galveston area.

*Q: What was the situation in Guatemala when you arrived there?*

LANE: One of the first things that we were required to do was meet with the Embassy Security Officer, who had also arrived fairly recently. His name was Leo Crampsey. He had been the security officer in Saigon at the time of the Tet offensive. This was maybe our second day in Guatemala City. I was picked up at our temporary apartment by an Embassy car with three bodyguards and a gun lying on the floor in the back seat between me and a bodyguard. I thought it was absurdly "over the top." I felt like a mafia moll, but there was something cool about that. Leo told us to be careful, and it would be better if we didn't let the children go to the American School bus stop by themselves. They should go with a maid and they shouldn't wear t-shirts that said Disney World or things like that would identify them as Americans. Leo had had a recent encounter with a dog. He had been walking his dog and it got in a fight with another dog. Leo's nose was mess and he looked pretty fierce. Our temporary apartment came with a maid. The children pointed out to me that a few the maids did come to the bus stop but what was the maid going to do if the children were attacked by terrorists? Our son Andy, who was fairly tall said, "I am bigger than she is." The kids were aware of terrorism, but did not have nightmares about it. Slogans were written on the walls like "Afuera Estados Unidos," the equivalent of Yankee go home. But Guatemalans liked t-shirts from Disneyland and places in the U.S. and shirts with the names of U.S. football teams were status symbols. But then Leo was new, too. We found a house which was in a new neighborhood, where other families with children were moving in, so it was easy for our kids to make friends with Guatemalans. We had a full time guard on the house. That was nice because he could monitor street spats or trouble among the kids. He fixed the kids' bicycles, taught our older boy how to fix bikes, and taught the younger two to ride bikes. He was from the country and had been a rural school teacher. If he stayed in the country his kids couldn't have been educated beyond elementary school. He liked the idea of living in Guatemala City because his children could go to high school. We had another guard on the house who was not as outgoing. He had a small property in the country and he wanted to buy a larger piece of land and he could buy a neighboring plot of land and prosper. Guatemala has a mix of interesting indigenous cultures. In the 1970's the country women still wore indigenous costumes which were picturesque and very colorful. It was several months before our car arrived, so I got around Guatemala City by public bus. On the bus I just couldn't keep my eyes off colorful clothes of the Indian women.

*Q: Well then what sorts of things were you doing there?*

LANE: What did I do? One thing I did was Girl Scouts. Our daughter Julia had joined an American Girl Scout Troop. The husband of the troop leader was being transferred. Julia was concerned about who might become the Girl Scout leader. She was concerned that one prospective leader was mainly interested in teaching etiquette and how to set a table. She wanted me to volunteer to be the leader because I was more interested in camping and bird lore and crafts. She convinced me to become a Girl Scout leader and it was fun. They were a nice bunch of girls and camping in Guatemala is easy. The weather is pleasant and camping can be scheduled for the dry season. I also took painting classes.

Meanwhile the policy of the Department regarding married officer couples was changing and the Department was willing to rehire women who had resigned to marry. This change occurred about 1972, I think. To be rehired I would need to go back to Washington to have an interview. Then I would probably be hired one step up from what it was when I left. So I, while we were on R&R on the Florida Keys, I flew to Washington for an interview.

*Q: How did the interview go?*

LANE: It was fine. I arrived a bit late for the interview because he had given me the address over the phone. The interview was in a Personnel Office on North Kent Street in Arlington, which I had understood it as North Tenth Street. I had spent the night at the hotel in the District and then took a cab to the address on North Tenth Street. There was nothing at that address. Over the phone I had understood Kent as Tenth. So maybe I was five or ten minutes late for the interview. The men on the panel were very nice. At that point incoming officers were asked to select specialties or "cones." I said the cone that I knew the most about was consular work, as I had worked for a few months in Guatemala as a part time intermittent temporary. So I had familiarity with consular issues. The panel thought that might not be a good idea for me because my husband was a consular officer and the policy was not to have spouses working for spouses. The panel asked me questions about Guatemala and politics and we discussed Guatemalan society and politics. The panel was interested in Guatemala and what I had to say and told me I would do well in the political cone. So I thought fine. But coming back in as a junior officer, I knew I would be bidding on whatever jobs were available so I wasn't concerned about what cone I should be in. I think now they hire people to be in one cone or another.

*Q: It goes back and forth. But you came in, well what happened when you got back to Guatemala. What did they do with you?*

LANE: Once I had passed the oral, because I had already been working as a part time intermittent temporary, I was hired for a full time position in the consulate. I had to give up the Girl Scout Troop for that because now I had to work nine to five. Basically I was hired as a file clerk and blue book checker. If a visa applicants name was in that blue book the applicant was probably ineligible for a visa. I also had to check the consulate files to see that the person hadn't applied before and been turned down. It sounds boring but it was interesting because I was working at a desk right behind the visa officers, so I got a good sense of how visa interviews are conducted, better insight than I would have gained from an FSI course.

The marine guard assigned to the consulate also had a desk in the same area. One morning just before the consulate opened, the marine guard was cleaning his weapon, and hadn't checked first to see if it was loaded. The gun went off right behind me. Needless to say everybody was startled. The bullet fortunately passed into the floor. I was impressed by the way the way the young marine put the gun down and picked up the phone and called the gunny sergeant to tell him just what had happened. I thought that he handled the situation well.

Once every so often there would be threats that a senior officer might be kidnapped. As the head of the consular section Larry was more in the local eye than most of our embassy colleagues. I remember Leo Crampsey came in one day while I was working at the consulate with a bullet proof vest that he wanted Larry to wear. Well Larry was a snappy dresser and liked to look trim. Larry thanked Leo for the vest but needless to say he never wore it. It wouldn't fit properly under his suit jackets.

*Q: Did you feel alarmed, after all there had been this assassination shortly before you arrived?*

LANE: We felt we could deal with it. We were young and we thought we were immortal. I think that was basically our feeling. But we were sensible and we took precautions. One Embassy security precautions was to put armor in the doors of embassy private cars. So our Dodge Dart, our nice little red dodge Dart, had armor put into the doors. That was very hard on the car door hinges. Often they would stick shut. It would take the Embassy a few days to get the door fixed. So most people made a practice of not having their doors fixed until two doors wouldn't open. I remember another embassy wife picked me up one morning to go somewhere. She said, "You don't mind crawling over the seat do you?" Both of her front doors were stuck. One thing I remember thinking about was what would I do if Larry were kidnapped. The U.S. policy was not to paying ransom. I knew the policy was wise, but I had only one husband and I didn't want another. Would I go to Ross Perot and get him to pay ransom? But fortunately the need for that never came up.

*Q: Well was this a full scale revolutionary movement or was it sort of....*

LANE: There had been a revolutionary movement in the countryside that was very harshly put down. The president of Guatemala was a general who had put down that revolution. So there were things under the surface that were simmering as will often happen if you have a repressive regime. People were being kidnapped. Sometimes the kidnappers were revolutionaries, but other times they were just criminal thugs. We did know some people who were kidnapped, but they were Guatemalan business people. When Larry called the sister of a kidnap victim to ask if the family would like help from the Embassy because the victim was a dual national, whose mother was American. The sister was a friend of ours and had gone to Smith College. She thanked Larry for his concern and said that the kidnapping was just a rumor. The family definitely did not want the American Embassy involved. We knew that our friend wasn't telling the truth. The family did manage to negotiate her brother's release. He was a doctor, and he had been kidnapped as he was leaving the hospital.

*Q: What sort of work were you doing there actually when you came back?*

LANE: When I came back to the States?

*Q: No, when you came back from to Guatemala after passing the Foreign Service interview.*

LANE: Oh I worked in the consular section as what they called a PIT employee, part time intermittent temporary, which actually counted as time in the government. It counted toward retirement.

*Q: Were you doing interviews for visas?*

LANE: No, I was just a clerk. But it was kind of fun working there. I remember two very upset American men came to the consulate with a complaint, and insisted they wanted to talk to an American. They didn't want to talk to the secretary who spoke excellent English. They wanted to talk to an American. So the secretary had them talk to one of the vice consuls, Leila Belaval who was from Puerto Rico. First they didn't want to talk to a woman and then they were suspicious about whether she really was an American. But Leila was good at talking to people and calmed them down. This was the complain:. The night before they had picked up two prostitutes and it turned out the prostitutes were transvestites. This was the trade complaint. Leila talked to them and advised them that when one is traveling in a foreign country one should expect strange new experiences and that this can be part of the adventure of foreign travel. Satisfied that they had made a complaint to the Embassy, they left the office satisfied.

*Q: Did you find yourself on social occasions pushed into a corner on visa cases and all?*

LANE: Not really. At receptions, wives are supposed to circulate and talk to as many people as you can. I don't remember that being a problem. I think Larry was considered among his peers a good officer. Occasionally they would be swamped at the consulate and Larry would need to call the DCM to find out if another officer embassy officer might be available to help out on the visa line for a few hours. On one occasion when the DCM asked one of the junior officers in the political section to help out on the visa line, he didn't want to go. This junior officer thought that consular work was beneath him. He thought the report he was writing was more important than issuing visas. The DCM John Dreyfus said, "OK I will go." When John started walking out the door the young officer changed his mind and came to the consulate and took his turn.

We had three good years in Guatemala.

*Q: How did you find the Catholic Church there? Was it powerful?*

LANE: Not very. I think the bishops were trying to stay clear of politics. I think that may have been true in many places in Latin America. While we were in Guatemala some American Maryknoll Sisters who had taught at a girls' school in Guatemala City wrote a book about social and political conditions in Central America. The Maryknoll Order is a missionary order that works with the poor. We had known Maryknoll priests in Cochabamba where they have a language school. We had had friends there who were Maryknolls. The Maryknolls later had serious trouble in El Salvador, where some American nuns that were murdered by right wing military elements. Bob White was the ambassador at the time. Have you interviewed Bob White?

*Q: I tried to interview him but unfortunately he kept ducking.*

LANE: Well he would be an interesting person to interview.

*Q: Is he still alive?*

LANE: I don't know where Bob is now. (Note: Ambassador White died shortly after this interview took place.)

The book by the Maryknolls was published while we were in Guatemala. I long have enjoyed book groups and belonged to one in Guatemala. Most of us were Americans but there were some Guatemalans who were educated in the US or were married to Americans. The books that we read were mostly in English, but we read a few books in Spanish too. I remember we read that book by the Maryknolls. One of Larry's local employees had gone to the Maryknoll School in Guatemala and knew the nun who had written this book. That was an interesting discussion. Too bad I can't remember the name of the book. One of the Guatemalan writers we read was Miguel Angel Asturias who wrote back in the early part of the 20th century, doing stream of consciousness writing a little like James Joyce. He wrote a book called El Señor Presidente and won a Nobel prize for literature. That was one of the books I remember reading with the book club group. Of course it was set in a previous period of Guatemalan history but the Guatemalan in the group there had parents and grandparents who knew that period.

*Q: Well then you left there when?*

LANE: We left in December of '73 and drove back to Washington, by way of Mexico, Arizona and Texas. December 1973 was just after the first big oil shock when OPEC cut output and raised prices. Guatemala doesn't produce oil; it was all imported. Gas became scarce. The service stations would only sell a few gallons at a time, so among my tasks, while we were packing out was to keep the gas tank of the car filled. That meant I spent a lot of time waiting in gas lines to make sure I kept our gas tank filled and would have enough gas to reach the Mexican border. Mexico being a major oil producer would have plenty of oil.

In Guatemala, as a security measure, we were not allowed to use diplomatic license plates. We had them, but we also had regular plates. To cross a border it is easier if your vehicle has diplomatic plates. We would stop a few miles from the border and change the license plates. Once in Mexico we headed for the nearest gas station. There we found a long line of cars from Guatemala. Everyone was angry because the gas prices had gone up. They had just been raised that morning and the new price signs were placed on sheets of paper hanging on the gas pumps. We were sure it was just a local thing to take advantage of the Guatemalans, but no, the Mexico really had raised the prices all over the country. We stopped in Tehuantepec and spent the night at a motel. We were back on the road before at dawn. We were up in the mountains when we found a busy, rustic restaurant where we stopped for breakfast. We all had huevos rancheros and freshly squeezed orange juice. It was a memorable breakfast, everything was fresh. We spent a couple of days in Mexico City where we had of good friends at the Embassy: Clint and Marilyn Smith. Clint had been in my class when I came into the Foreign Service, so we spent a few days

in Mexico City sightseeing. The children were interested in Mexico because of a Mexican television serial called "La Tormenta" which was about the Mexican revolution. The program was very popular in Guatemala and we had been watching. The children and I would get together at 5:00 in the afternoon around the TV with our maid and watch "La Tormenta." So the children and I knew something about Mexican history. We all enjoyed Chapultepec Palace, the Archeological Museum and the Ballet Folklorico. Then we drove on to Arizona. By that time we had a nice car. We had acquired a Mercedes 200 while we were in Guatemala at a nice price because we know the Mercedes dealer and we thought entering this car at the U.S. was going to take awhile at the border, so we had all the paper work ready. But when we got to the border there were red lights and green lights, and the green lights were for American citizens. When we got almost the way through before we met a Border Patrol Officer who simply said, "Welcome home. You folks have come a long way." We said, "Yes, and we have this new car. Is there anything we have to do about that?" "No, that is fine," he said. We were in Tucson in no time and had lunch with my brother Louis who was working in Tucson. When we went to Phoenix where my mother lived and spent Christmas there. My mother had done a very good job of Christmas shopping for her grandchildren. The children got just what they wanted for Christmas. Mother lived in an efficiency apartment but there was a nice motel across the street with a swimming pool. That was a happy time. We had to be careful how to plan our travel across the USA so that we would not be on the road on a Sunday. One of the US responses to the gas shortage was to forbid the sale of gasoline on Sundays.

But we timed our travel so for New Years we would be at Larry's sister and brother-in-law's ranch near Weatherford which is west of Fort Worth. We spent New Year's at their place and it was football season. Our kids had never watched a football game. I thought American football might be culture shock for them. But they watched the football game with their uncle and aunt and cousins and they caught on to the game immediately. Growing up in Chile and Guatemala they had played soccer. American football is easier to understand than soccer with its complicated off sides rules.

When we got to Washington the first thing we did was buy a house. I had looked at the Foreign Service Journal which is full of advertisements for realtors. So I wrote to three or four realtors and one of them, Doe Taylor, was quick to respond, and offered to make us reservations for temporary housing while we were house hunting. She made us a reservations in Alexandria at Presidential Gardens. We had decided that we wanted to live in northern Virginia because commuting to the State Department would be quicker than commuting from Maryland. We liked DC, but the public schools there sounded problematical and there was no way we could afford to send the four kids to private schools. When we arrived, it was cold, and we didn't have much in our suitcases in the way of winter clothes. We had air freight coming but Larry had to go and check in with the Department before the air freight could be delivered. I remember he had only a sweater and his suit jacket to wear at the bus stop where it was about 20 degrees and windy. But he didn't get pneumonia. Our air was delivered quickly. We spent a weekend or maybe three days looking at houses with our realtor. She said, "Well, now you have seen what is out there, which one do you want?" The house we liked best was in Arlington and we bought it.

*Q: Ok, well this is a good place to stop. We will pick this up the next time...*

LANE: We are going to start with my career, I have got a folder that I was looking at that had a lot of interesting back and forth about personnel's problems with hiring tandem couples.

*Q: Oh we will do that. I think you were back in Washington.*

LANE: OK, we came back to Washington in 1974. We moved back from Guatemala and bought a house and got the kids started in School. I wrote and phoned the State Department saying OK, now I am here, when can I go to work. But there was a hiring freeze. There was also concern that bringing in tandem couples might make the career path more difficult for the people who were already in the service. But eventually it happened.

*Q: Well let me start here. Today is 14 October 2014 with Helen Lane. You came back to Washington when?*

LANE: We actually arrived back in Washington in late January of 1974. The first thing on our agenda was to buy a house and get our children into school. First we bought the house. We spent one weekend looking at houses. We looked at about 30 houses and decided to buy one in Arlington because it was really the nicest of the houses we looked at. It also was within excellent commuting distance of the State Department so that was something to think about.

*Q: But eventually you were brought back in.*

LANE: Yes, but that did not happen for a year, largely because of a hiring freeze. When the freeze started to let up the Director General of the Foreign Service, who I think at that time was Nathaniel Davis, decided to take action. The women who had resigned in order to marry then were allowed back in. I joined a Foreign Service A-100 class at FSI in early 1975. There were three of us retreads, as we returning wives called ourselves, in the class. I think the class lasted several months, maybe three months. From 1/75 to 4/75. It was nice to be getting a paycheck.

I was also very fortunate to have excellent household and childcare help. Before we left Guatemala we had done most of the paper work to bring our maid, Josefina Barrios, to the US to work for us on a H-2 visa petition. She arrived at Dulles Airport the week-end before I went back to work. Josefina was an excellent cook, got along well with all six of us and was a wonderful person for the children to come home to after school and was a responsible addition to our home. Having Josefina at home made life easy for me as a working mother.

Once in the class I had to bid for my next assignment. There was an opening coming up for the junior officer position on the Mexican desk. I thought I might not get it as desk officer jobs attract many bidders. However, the person I would be replacing was Ellen Shippy, a friend from our Guatemala days. She thought I was a good candidate for the job. I also knew the Country Director John Dreyfuss, but not that well. I knew his wife Jan much better. John had been our DCM and Larry's boss in Guatemala. I got the job.

John Dreyfuss, became my mentor, although mentoring wasn't a concept much spoken of in the 1970's days. John told me later that, when I had bid on the desk job, he had asked Jan what she thought of me She told him he would like my sense of humor. When Jan and I were at Embassy

wives meetings back in Guatemala, if one of the senior wives was getting pompous, I didn't dare catch Jan's eye or we might start giggling.

A job on a busy country desk is an excellent introduction to the State Department. I shared an office John Keane, the political officer. He later made ambassador. For a junior officer it is not bad to share an office with a mid-level officer because you learn just by listening to conversations how your office mate handles matters. And there is somebody right at hand to discuss unusual issues as they come up.

*Q: You were on the Mexico desk from when to when?*

LANE: I was on the Mexico desk for about 2 1/2 years, from about May 1975 until the end of 1978. My first assignment as junior desk officer was to spend two weeks in Special Consular Services to familiarize myself with the problems arising from the 600 plus Americans jailed in Mexico on narcotics charges. I did that for about a week and then South Vietnam collapsed in a shambles. Consular Services had to help staff a task force to deal with the plight of thousands of American and relatives of Americans who were desperately trying to leave Vietnam. I mostly answered phone calls and took down information from Americans in the States who were trying to contact loved ones in Vietnam. It was very chaotic. Ambassador Martin was reluctant to admit defeat and there seemed to be no planning for evacuation as the Vietcong closed in. I recall that a plane load of Vietnamese babies and children, who were in the process of being adopted by Americans, crashed and a number on board perished.

When I had been on the desk for about a year there was a re-organization, my position was eliminated and I was moved into John Keane's job, the political officer position on the desk. We had an economic officer and a political officer, two excellent secretaries and the director. The economic officer, George Falk, who was senior to me, was the deputy. It was a good office and very busy. Henry Kissinger was Secretary of State. When he had a meeting with a foreign principal, he wanted to have the desk officer that had prepared the briefing paper as the note taker, not a secretary. When I was note taker for such a meeting I scribbled as fast as I could and took care to get names, numbers and dates written down correctly. Kissinger is truly quick witted. The only time he paid attention to the note taker was he said something clever. Then he would pause for a few seconds to make sure the note taker got that witticism down. I was the note taker at some interesting meetings.

*Q: How were relations with Mexico during this time?*

LANE: Oh they were pretty intense. Mexico is an important US trading partner. We have many interlocking interests with Mexico, particularly in areas like banking and commerce. Mexico matters. So we had close relations with other Government Departments especially Treasury, the Federal Reserve, Commerce, Energy and Justice, Departments which follow closely what goes on in Mexico. We had a change of administrations in Mexico at the time. We also had a new President and a change of administration in Washington.

*Q: That was Jerry Ford.*

LANE: No, President Ford was already in office when I re-entered the Foreign Service. The Carter Administration took office in January 1977. The Carter people were well meaning and had lofty ideals but lacked Washington experience. President Carter wanted to strengthen our relations with Mexico and to have a personal relationship with our neighbor to the south. He decided to send his wife Rosalynn to the inauguration of the new president in Mexico, whose inauguration would come about six weeks before his own. That was not traditional and there was no precedent for it. The Department learned that Mrs. Carter would be going to Mexico only a few days before she left. Kissinger needed briefing papers so he could go to Plains, Georgia, and brief the first lady elect. John Dreyfuss called me at home at nine o'clock one evening, "Please come in right away. We need to update all the briefing papers so the Secretary can brief Mrs. Carter" We worked through the night with our stellar secretary Mary Goyette and got the briefing papers updated. I think my biggest strength as a desk officer may have been in writing briefing papers quickly. We got the briefing packages put together and off Henry went. We had an excellent ambassador in Mexico at the time, John Jova. I don't think Rosalynn Carter was able to appreciate how exceptionally able Jova was. The Carter administration decided they wouldn't keep Jova in Mexico which I thought was unfortunate. He was replaced by Patrick Lucey, the former Governor of Wisconsin. Lucey was an outgoing and conscientious man and saved Larry Eagleburger's career from some Carter human rights folks who were out to purge FSO's. But Governor Lucey had a lot to learn about Mexico.

During the Ford years, Kissinger had a close relationship his Mexican counterpart, Emilio Rabasa, and would sometimes phone him. And Kissinger also enjoyed vacationing in Mexico. At one point Kissinger decided we should punish countries who were not supporting us at the UN. He was particularly concerned about Mexico, which had joined the non-aligned movement and, even worse, had refused to support sanctions by the Organization of American States against Cuba. Our office was among various country desks tasked with producing a paper outlining what we might do to punish our offending country. I drafted a paper saying there wasn't much we could do to punish Mexico that would not come at a significant cost to US interests. John Dreyfuss thought it was a good little essay and signed off on it, knowing it would be sent back. The paper got as far as the ARA front office. I was called upstairs to discuss it with the deputy assistant secretary, who told me "This is a good piece of paper, Helen. But it is not what is wanted. Tear it up and start over." So I went back and said "Well John there is nothing upstairs likes about our paper so we will have to think of something else to say." He said, "I have got it." Henry Kissinger had recently married. He and his wife Nancy enjoyed vacations on the coast of Mexico near Acapulco. He also enjoyed chatting with Foreign Secretary Rabasa. John thought that the suggestion from the desk should be that Secretary Kissinger cool his relationship with Secretary Rabasa. So we drafted a short paper suggesting that. But before long Rabasa was replaced by a new Foreign Secretary. Remember Nixon had a friend in Florida named Rebozo.

*Q: Yes he was a Cuban-American wasn't he?*

LANE: A Cuban-American good friend. There was a saying among those who followed US-Mexican relations that Nixon had his Rebozo and Kissinger had his Rabasa. The Mexican Foreign Secretary who followed Rabasa was different. He was often difficult in international fora, but he had practical ideas about how to work out bilateral issues.

*Q: Who was he?*

LANE: Alfonso Garcia Robles. He was astute. One of the causes Garcia Robles had been pushing was the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The purpose of the treaty was to create a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Western Hemisphere. South America was already nuclear weapons free as was Canada. So the only country that would have to give up nuclear weapons was the U.S. That was definitely a non-starter. However, the US did eventually sign a protocol to the treaty declaring that Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands would remain nuclear free. Garcia Robles eventually won the Nobel Peace Prize for his effort to contain the spread of nuclear weapons.

But the most vexing public relations issue that we had with Mexico during the 1970's involved the 600 plus young American citizens who were jailed in Mexico on narcotics charges. Many of them were young Californians who had travelled to Mexico to bring back narcotics. There were hundreds of these people in Mexican jails, most of whom had parents who wrote letters to Congress appealing for help. There were also hundreds of Mexican citizens languishing in US jails and prisons. Foreign Secretary Garcia Robles thought it might be good for both sides to do a prisoner swap. The US side agreed and a prisoner exchange took place. The exchanged were supposed to serve out their sentences at home. I don't think many of them did. However, the prisoner exchange made work easier for U.S. consular sections all across Mexico and cut down on the Congressional correspondence that the desk needed to answer.

Then Mexico had a major economic crisis in the 1970's, brought on by inflation, the flood of oil money and high government spending, all of which contributed to a seriously overvalued peso. This led to a flight of capital and the Government of Mexico was forced to devalue its currency. The peso lost over half its value. Many Americans had put money in Mexican bank accounts because the interest rates were high and the peso/dollar exchange rate had been fixed for many years. The desk soon received phone calls from frantic Americans who had lost over a half of their Mexican savings and wanted the State Department to do something to help them. We soon also had a pile of Congressional letters that had to be answered within three days on behalf of these people. The thing I found that made these poor folks hush was to tell them we would try to help them if we could have a copy of the page on their tax return indicating they had paid taxes on the interest earned in Mexico. Did I ever get the copy of a tax return? Never. As I spent time on the desk I began to think that I really wanted to know more about economics. It seemed to me that in the case of Mexico trade and investment flows were the links that mattered most between our two countries. So I applied for the six months Advanced Economic Training course at FSI. I was given a six month extension of the desk so I could begin the six month of Economic training which began in January. That course was challenging.

*Q: It had a very good reputation. It was the equivalent of a masters in economics.*

LANE: Yes, the Department considered it the equivalent of a masters in economics. I didn't have much background in economics and I hadn't taken math since high school. The math was for me the easier part of the course. In economic theory and econometrics one has to begin by making the famous ceteris paribus assumption, which assumes nothing changes except the handful of factors we are dealing with in our economic equation. Economics I found has something in

common with theology – interesting but incongruent with tangible reality. It was an excellent course.

*Q: On the desk did you get involved in water matters?*

LANE: The desk had a real expert on water issues, Theodore Roosevelt Martin. He was a member of the US-Mexico Boundary and Water Commission and was known as TR. He followed the intricate series of agreements with Mexico about how the water of the Colorado and the Rio Grande are to be shared by the two countries. There are a series of dams on the Rio Grande that are jointly administered. More water tends to come in from Mexico than from the U.S. because we were using the water on our side more intensively upstream. It didn't become a huge issue as far as the use of the water goes. There was a public relations issue in the San Diego area because Californians thought that pollution on the beaches was mainly coming from the Tijuana side, that the Mexicans weren't treating their water properly, that, it was not up to American standards. The Mexicans thought their treatment plants were good. There was a lot of technical back and forth and stories in the San Diego papers about the pollution on the beaches. My experience with Mexican water treatment plants went back to our days in Nuevo Laredo. Nuevo Laredo had a perfectly good water treatment plant. The water was safe to drink in Nuevo Laredo. It was not safe to drink in Mexico City. There you needed to boil the water or drink Coca Cola or beer. It is wise not to drink the tap water or eat the salads in Mexico City, but in Nuevo Laredo the water was fine.

*Q: How about oil as an issue?*

LANE: Oil is Mexico's most important export. The Mexican oil industry was nationalized back in the 30's. A Mexican government entity, Pemex, runs the oil industry, which is contentious from the U.S. side because U.S. companies would like to invest there. The Mexicans do use some U.S. companies for service, for specialty things. but basically the government of Mexico runs the industry. But they are not members of OPEC. Mexico was nationalistic about its oil and did not want to put OPEC interests above those of Mexico. Later when I was assigned to Mexico City, I did reporting on the oil and gas industry and the energy sector.

*Q: As to Mexican politics, was the PRI was running everything. Was the PRI a predictable entity?*

LANE: In those days, yes. Until the election of Vicente Fox, the PAN candidate in 2000, it was a given that the PRI would win the Presidency and control the national government. Until then, when the PRI candidate for the next term was revealed you knew that was who the next president was going to be. There were opposition parties: the PAN, a more conservative party, and a party further on the left, the PRD. There were basically three parties but the PRI ran the government. Young people who were interested in politics would gravitate primarily toward the PRI. Unless they were in a region like Nuevo Leon (the Monterrey area) where the PAN was strong. PRI was corrupt but it was not totalitarian. It was more like our own machine politics.

*Q: Well what about the problems with the police and Americans. You said prisoner exchange but stories about Americans being stopped driving down to Mexico city or Guadalajara and being arrested, or criminal gangs.*

LANE: Yes, the drug trade caused problems and there were also corrupt police. But the situation in the 1970's was not as serious as it is now. Caravans of American tourist in campers were still travelling in Mexico without serious incidents. The biggest problem for our Embassy was the young Americans who were involved in drugs. They were going down to Mexico to get high and have a good time and they were going to pay for their vacation by bringing stuff back for some dealer to sell. Some even went in rented private planes and brought stuff back to sell. Occasionally planes would crash into a cactus patch and go missing.

*Q: I mean were other than prisoner exchange, what did we do with the prisoners who chose to stay?*

LANE: Well if they chose to stay, they chose to stay. They had to be visited by consular officers. Ambassador Jova was selective as to who was being assigned to Mexico as junior consular officers. He wanted the best and the brightest. It was unusual for an ambassador to take that much interest in who was being assigned to the consular section, particularly in Mexico City, which was where you had the biggest number of jailed Americans.

*Q: How about illegal immigration?*

LANE: There are many suggested schemes about what we should do about illegal immigration, and the problem remains unresolved. Yes, it was an issue. I remember incidents involving groups of self-proclaimed patriots on the U.S. side of the border who would occasionally stage demonstrations. There was one demonstration along the California border involving people wearing white hoods and sheets like the Ku Klux Klan. I thought that a Klan story would attract press interest so I alerted the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the Justice Department. Our contact at INS was Doris Meissner. When I reached her secretary, she said Miss Meissner was busy. But when I told her there was a group that looked like the Ku Klux Klan was massing on the border, she put me through immediately. Borders do not neatly divide ethnic populations. Having lived along the border, having a husband who is a Texan, and having visited the Alamo, I was well aware that the US Southwest has Spanish and Mexican roots. First it was Native American, then it was part of the Spanish empire and then part of Mexico. The Southwest has a deep history.

*Q: Then our ambassador to Mexico was Lucey?*

LANE: Yes, Pat Lucey was named ambassador by President Carter. Pat Lucey was an exceptionally nice man. He didn't know much about Mexico and thought he could pick up Spanish quickly because he had spent some time during WWII as an officer in Puerto Rico. He was an ambassador who needed a lot of guidance, but he wasn't unwilling to accept help. He was ok with that, a very nice man, but his predecessor was John Jova, who was a hard act to follow.

*Q: He was from Wisconsin?*

LANE: He was Governor of Wisconsin. He had an Italian-American wife who was quite colorful and feisty and needed to be managed carefully. I liked her. She gave me lots of good advice about what were the best cheeses were and taught me to always serve cheese at room temperature. Later when I was working at the Embassy in Mexico Governor Lucey would sometimes call to find out how things were going in Mexico.

*Q: By the way were you getting any reports when you were on the desk about how the junior officers who served in our Mexican posts. We had a great number there. Did they like it or did you get any feel for whether there were problems or not?*

LANE: I often met the junior officers either going to or returning from Mexico. I don't think they felt sorry for themselves or that they didn't like their assignment to Mexico. I think that they saw Mexico as a very interesting place. One of the things Ambassador Jova made a point to do was to get to know the young consular officers in the Embassy and make them feel that they were an important element of his embassy.

One of the things I got to do, that turned out to be fun, was plan a party. Since President Carter had sent his wife to Mexico for the Lopez-Portillo inauguration, Sra. Lopez-Portillo decided she would come to Washington for the Carter inauguration. Normally foreign heads of state don't come to American inaugurations. But Sra. Lopez-Portillo came several days before the visit and the Department had a nice luncheon for her. Mrs. Vance hosted the lunch as the wife of our incoming Secretary of State. I was in charge of making the guest list and wrote remarks for Mrs. Vance. It was also decided, I don't remember whom that the State Department should offer a tea for her Sra Lopez Portillo and her daughters. The desk then had to think up a guest list for that. I had read in the Washington Post that a number Hollywood actresses would be coming to Washington for the inauguration. So we invited them and included Elizabeth Taylor too because Elizabeth Taylor lived in Northern Virginia and was married to Senator John Warner. Shirley MacLaine was among the actresses invited. Everyone on the guest list came to the tea. The Secretary, outgoing secretary, Henry Kissinger, crashed the tea party. People said that was because he had something going with Shirley MacLaine at some point in the past. But that was fun. Sra. Lopez-Portillo was the biggest, glitteriest of the tea party glitterati. She wore more gold jewelry and more make up than anybody I have ever seen. When she arrived by plane at Andrews Air Force Base, she had so much green eye makeup on her eyes she looked like a great lizard as she stepped out of the plane into the sunlight. She had nothing in common with Rosalynn Carter. The Carters learned Spanish by reading the New Testament in Spanish. Mrs. Lopez-Portillo was always surrounded by a covey of handsome young men. It was not really a cultural clash between North and South, it was a lifestyle clash.

*Q: How did you handle that?*

LANE: With style and amusement. Ambassador Jova set the tone. He escorted Sra. Lopez Portillo and her daughters to the Kennedy Center for an evening concert where they were seated in the Presidential box. Larry and I happened to have tickets for the same concert. Ambassador Jova found us on the mezzanine and insisted that Larry come meet and view Sra. Lopez-Portillo. So we went into the box and shook hands. Later Ambassador Jova explained who these different

young men were, including one who had dated the Ambassador Jova's daughter. I guess the guys thought playing the game with the Presidential señora might be career enhancing.

*Q: I can see the New Testament Carters and the free living Lopez Portillos.*

LANE: Yes, as luck was have it I was assigned to Mexico at the end of Lopez Portillo's six year term. I was assigned to the Embassy Economic section and Larry headed the Consular Section. The end of the Lopez-Portillo administration was an interesting time..

*Q: One of the things I often hear is that a desk officer job it is a wonderful way to learn the wiring system within the American government vis-à-vis foreign affairs and how the State Department works.*

LANE: In planning for one of the high level visits I got to work with Shirley Temple Black, who was head of protocol. She was full of pizzazz and charm and very competent as was her staff.

As to other agencies, one of the things you inherit from your predecessor on the desk is a phone list of the people in Washington that follow your country. In the case of Mexico you have contacts in the Justice Department, contacts in Treasury and the Federal Reserve and the Commerce Department. So you get to meet people from many other agencies. The Department of Agriculture is important, too.

*Q: How did you find the Mexican embassy in how it worked with the desk?*

LANE: It is a big embassy. They worked OK with the desk. I had some good contacts at the Mexican Embassy. We took turn taking each other to lunch. The State Department not in the neighborhood of Washington's best restaurants. It is in the middle of one of Washington's culinary deserts. Sometimes I took them to eat in the State Department cafeteria. Foreign diplomats like to lunch there to observe the scene.

*Q: How about Congress? I would imagine you would get to know some of the congress people For example when I was with the senior seminar I did a paper on foreign consuls of the United States. I hadn't really paid much attention to the immigration spread but I found probably one of the biggest consulates dealing with Mexico was the Mexican consulate in Chicago. In Chicago it was the second largest in size, next to the Polish consulate.*

LANE: I don't recall that I personally had a lot of contact with the consular section of the Mexican Embassy. I went to the Mexican Embassy for meetings and receptions. Kissinger had a meeting at the Mexican Embassy when President-designate Lopez-Portillo came for an informal visit before becoming president. That was an important meeting, because we wanted to establish a good personal relationship between the President of Mexico and our country. The Mexicans would have reception on their patriotic holidays and we would be invited to those. I would take Larry as my escort and we would try to make sure that John Dreyfuss didn't drink too much. We did worry sometimes about how John would get home, but he always drove himself home and always made it. They were interesting evenings. I remember the Chinese had just re-opened their embassy. Their diplomats wore beautifully tailored grey Mao suits and they spoke English well.

*Q: What about Congress? I would think you would have quite a bit of inquiries from Congressmen on the border.*

LANE: Yes, and just from Congress in general. We got numerous calls from Congressional offices. Usually they would be from congressional staffers calling about a particular problem. I recall a strange one from a congressional staffer who said she had an outraged man in her office who claimed that on the front of the embassy telephone directory for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico there was a picture of the Mormon Temple. This man was indignant about what he saw as a violation of separation between church and state. I said, "I have the directory right here. Let me look." Low and behold, on the cover was a ring of little pictures depicting American scenes. Among them was the Mormon Temple on the Beltway. I told the staffer I thought the cover was probably done by somebody who worked at the embassy in Mexico, perhaps a Mexican employee who probably thought it was a pretty picture and didn't realize it was a religious building. I promised that we would ask the Embassy not to use that picture on its next edition of the phone book. Congressional offices get all kinds of odd calls and visits from constituents to their congressperson's office. Congressional offices must be staffed to deal with these folks.

*Q: Well after 2 ½ years you must have been sort of keeping an eye on jobs that were coming up. Where did you next?*

LANE: I went into the six month economic course. Larry was also looking for a job at the same time. Larry had been gone a year, the first year we were back from Guatemala he was in what he considered a boring job. He was the Director of the Office of Deaths and Estates. He sometimes called it the dead letter office although some estates turned out to be more curious and interesting than others. But after a year there he was selected for the National War College and was there for a year. I really wished that he had been at the National War college the year before I re-entered the service, because then I would have had time to attend sessions at the War College which spouses were invited to attend. He had an interesting year at the War College. The students work and study in groups which change monthly. The students entertain each other with buffet dinners at their homes and thus I meet many of the people in Larry's class and their families. The War College Students also go on a study trip abroad and write a long paper. I remember Larry decided to do a paper about US policy toward Angola. His next assignment was in the inspection corps and he traveled quite a bit. Then we got a good tandem assignment – Larry had a challenging assignment as Consul General in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Because personnel considered Larry a strong candidate they were eager to get him assigned and I got a job which was a step ahead of my grade. I went to Santo Domingo as the Commercial Attaché. We were there for three years, from '78 to '81. During that time, the Commerce Department took over the commercial function and staffed the commercial officer jobs with people from the Commerce Department. So for about half of that time, I was actually working for the Commerce Department rather than the Foreign Service. I was offered the chance to move over to the Commerce Department from Foreign Service. I really liked doing commercial work. It was a good job to have in the Dominican Republic since the Dominican Republic and the U.S. were close; particularly in business relationships. But Larry and I felt that our chances for getting assignments together would be much better if we both worked for the same agency. So I did not change. Moreover, the bureaucracy back in the Commerce Department often doesn't understand

the reality of commercial work overseas. But doing commercial work in the Dominican Republic was fun.

*Q: OK, let's take Santo Domingo. When you arrived there how would you put the political and economic situation vis-a- vis the United States?*

LANE: The Dominican Republic had gone through a remarkable transition from a harsh and horrible totalitarian dictatorship under Trujillo into a two party system. A crucial figure in that transition was Joaquín Balaguer, who had been close to Trujillo and was the outgoing president of the Dominican Republic. Not long before we arrived there had been an election and Balaguer's party had lost. The Dominican Republic was able to transition from a right of center government to a left of center government, which is remarkable for a country has been under a totalitarian strong man system for generations.

Larry arrived in Santo Domingo a month or so before I did. He found us a house and hired an excellent maid, who had worked for our old friend Sue Dress Keith. Meanwhile I dealt with the packers and found a realtor to manage our house in Arlington. When I came, I arrived with three of our children. It was just before school started. Our older boy was starting college and did not arrive in Santo Domingo until his Christmas vacation. I remember the scene when we get off the plane in the Santo Domingo and Larry met us. As we emerged from the terminal there was a great gaggle of people that we had to force our way through. They just wanted to carry our bags and finds us a taxi. We followed Larry and pushed our way through the crowd to an embassy van. As we drove into the city there were big piles of garbage lining the streets, because the garbage collectors were on strike. I remember one of the kids saying, "Dad, what have you got us into this time?"

*Q: How old were your kids?*

LANE: They were young teens. Amy was going into the seventh grade. Joel was going into the tenth grade and Julia would be returning to boarding school in Maine in a few weeks. Amy and Joel adjusted well to the Dominican Republic. It turned out to be a happy place for them. They were both good swimmers and had been on one of the Northern Virginia neighborhood swimming teams. There were swimming teams in the Dominican Republic and they soon joined a swimming team, Los Caimanes del Caribe. Larry and I also made friends among the swim team parents. They were a friendly group of upper middle class Dominicans, Canadians and Americans who were family centered. The local American school, the Carol Morgan School was not academically challenging, but there was no social or racial separation between the Dominican students and American students or the other international students. The students there was probably  $\frac{3}{4}$  Dominican and  $\frac{1}{4}$  international. The professional baseball players' children went to that school. It was considered it was a pretty good school.

*Q: Well. then you were the Commercial Officer.*

LANE: I was the American Embassy Commercial Officer. The children learned that when they arrived at the airport with their American diplomatic passports, the immigration inspectors might ask for help in getting visas to the United States. Our children learned not say their father was the

consul but to say their mother was the commercial attaché. Because if they said their father was the consul, they would get cards from these inspectors who were trying to get visas for their girl friends or their cousins. Dominicans are among the world's friendliest people. When you catch the eye of a Dominican you get a smile.

When we arrived Balaguer had been defeated and the new president Antonio Guzman had just taken office and the new government was taking hold. During the Balaguer years, international sugar prices were high and the country enjoyed something of an economic boom. Sugar prices fell in the late 1970's and the incoming administration of Antonio Guzman faced a less certain economic situation. But order prevailed. The DR is a poor country by US standards. However, since the DR shares the island with Haiti, Dominicans don't think of their country as poor. Haiti is very poor, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The Dominican Republic is something else.

*Q: Well was there concern in the Dominican Republic about immigration spill over from Haiti?*

LANE: Oh yes. The Dominicans have border controls. The sugar growers use Haitians as temporary workers during the sugar cane harvest. Those cane cutters came to Haiti under tight control. Cane cutting jobs are avidly sought by Haitians because there are very few jobs in Haiti. The cutters lived in encampments out in the cane fields while they were in the DR. They were paid at the end of the season would buy goods like sewing machines and cooking utensils to take home to Haiti. It was a very hard life. Each year a few Haitians would manage to stay behind. Over the years small Haitian communities developed in the cane fields. Children were born but they were not eligible for Dominican citizenship or schooling.

At the time of the earthquake in January 2010, which killed nearly a quarter of a million Haitians, the Dominicans were quick to help with supplies and the organization of rescue efforts. But they did what they could to prevent Haitians from fleeing to the DR.

Back in the 19th century after Haiti became independent from France, the Haitian army conquered much of what is now the DR, which was then a colony of Spain. Spain was weak at the time and did little to stop the Haitian incursion. The Dominican attitude towards that episode is: The Haitian army came and we became a shade darker and then they went back. The DR is a racially mixed society. We thought the race situation in the DR was better than the situation in the U.S. If you were a Dominican race was not a huge issue. The neighborhoods were mixed. There weren't any lily white neighborhoods. Dominicans will sometimes talk about good hair and bad hair, kinky hair being bad hair, but apart from that there were not many racial slurs.

*Q: Were there any problems with feelings toward the United States?*

LANE: No, not really. The Dominicans know quite a bit about to the United States. They tend to go to New York rather than to Miami. There is a big Dominican community in the New York area. There can be animosity toward some particular aspect of the U.S. foreign policy, but their basic attitude toward the United States was really pretty positive. The business community ties are close too.

*Q: Did you note any residue or feelings towards the Trujillo times?*

LANE: Oh, people were very glad they were over.

*Q: There is no nostalgia?*

LANE: One of my business community contacts was the son of a former Dominican ambassador to the U.S. under Trujillo. When Trujillo was assassinated in 1961, the government rounded up anybody who might have known the assassins. He knew the assassins and was brutally tortured. He was a gay, an obvious gay. But he was highly respected in the Dominican Republic because he had kept his mouth shut and toughed it out under torture. I remember talking to our maid once about Trujillo. She was from a village over toward the Haitian border. Villagers in that part of Haiti are darker skinned. She said when Trujillo was killed, everybody in the country had to wear black. She said families took the clothes they had and dyed everything black. She said the people in her village looked like a big flock of crows.

*Q: What about on the cultural side, the music and other things. How did you find that there?*

LANE: Dominicans wear stylish clothes and love to dance. The national music is the meringue, not my favorite kind of music. We had Dominican friends who were collectors of Haitian painting and folk art. There were Dominican painters, too, whose work was worth collecting. That was an area where there were plenty of activity. Oscar de la Renta, a Dominican, is a world famous designer. Best known for his designer clothes, he also designed lovely furniture.

The old city in down town Santo Domingo was also being rehabilitated. Santo Domingo is the oldest European city in the New World. Pope John Paul's first official foreign visit was to Santo Domingo in 1979.

The sport that Dominicans follow most avidly is baseball. There are an astonishing number of Dominicans who play professional baseball in the U.S. and Americans play in a winter league in the DR.

We were lucky in that we had a beach house to use on weekends. It belonged to our friend Sue Dress Keith and her husband Ian Keith. Sue had been a Foreign Service Officer. She and I were in the same entering class and became good friends. After an assignment in Madrid she went to Santo Domingo where she met and married Ian Keith, a South African mining engineer who worked for the Canadian company Falconbridge. He was in charge of the Falconbridge project to develop a major nickel mine in the Dominican Republic. Just as the mine was about to come on stream, the OPEC cartel raised energy prices. This made it uneconomical to convert Dominican the ore into nickel. Ian was transferred back to the offices in Canada. The Keith's had a nice beach house near the village of Juan Dolio, about an hour east of Santo Domingo. They initially planned to use it themselves as a vacation place in the DR. But as Canada began to absorb family holiday time, the beach house seemed far away. We had said to them at some point, "Well if you ever need somebody to look after the place, keep us in mind." And when they asked us if we were serious we jumped at the chance. We soon were going there almost every weekend. At that time there were less than a dozen modest beach houses at Juan Dolio, including a very modest

beach house that belonged to the President. Our next door neighbor at the beach was Marge Luther. She was older than I was and had been president of the American Women's Club in Santo Domingo. Her husband had been in business in the DR and after he died, she retired to the DR. She seemed to know everybody and liked to keep up with what was going on. When I would arrive on a Saturday morning we would go to the beach and stand out in the water up to our necks and gossip. One nice morning President Guzman was strolling down the beach. Marge said, "Oh, here comes the President. We better get out of the water and shake hands." So we got out of the water and shook hands with the President and exchanged a few neighborly words. How can you not love a country that full of such friendly people!

*Q: Let's talk about your job. What were the issues and problems?*

LANE: What a commercial attaché does is promote U.S. trade in goods and services and try to help resolve trade problems. You write reports on trade opportunities and organize catalogue shows. For example, a catalogue show we did while I was there promoted goods for the tourist and hotel and entertainment industry sector of the economy. A spokesperson for the relevant U.S. trade association came to Santo Domingo with catalogues and samples. We invited local owners, managers and buyers to come to see the latest innovations from the U.S. industry. We also had trade missions from U.S. cities or states. The Americans on the mission were usually looking for sales representatives in the D.R. We would set up appointments for them with local business people. We also did market research. I had a secretary and three local employees, one of whom that was able to do good market research pretty much on his own. His work so well organized that I could edit it over a cup of coffee and then it was ready to go. I had another employee who was super personable and had a nice way of sending American visitors away with useful bits of information. She had relatives in the business community and often picked up good political gossip. I had a good section and I was in charge. My supervisor was the Economic Counselor. When Commerce separated from the State Department, I became head of an agency and was part of the country team which was interesting. I learned a lot from Embassy staff meetings in the bubble.

*Q: Did we have much in the way of ship visits and the like?*

LANE: If it was a ship visit by a U.S. vessel, it would likely be to Puerto Plata on the north coast, an area of new resort developments. We didn't get many tourist ships in the south. Many US and Canadian tourists came to Santo Domingo but they arrived by air.

One of the most memorable things that happened while we were in Santo Domingo was a major hurricane, Hurricane David. The US Weather Service, which covers the Caribbean, was on top of things and everyone knew the hurricane was coming. Businesses and schools closed. The Embassy closed and people stayed home. We listened to the radio and sat around the dining room table playing board games. We also had a two way radio with the Embassy which we rarely used. The center of the huge storm was off the coast just south of Santo Domingo and sat there for half a day. My mother-in-law called from Texas to find out how we were doing. Larry said, "Well nothing is happening yet." We still had phone connections and thought the storm might miss Santo Domingo. Then, within the hour the winds rose. President Guzman spoke on

the radio and warned the nation to take every precaution and to pray to the Virgen de la Altagracia, the patroness of the DR.

Our house was very sturdy but soon we had water spurting in around the air conditioning units in the bedrooms. The wind was coming from the south and blew all the packing out around the air conditioning units so the wind-driven water can streaming in. We shoved heavy dressers in front of doors so they wouldn't blow open. We hoped that the wind wouldn't shift and come through the area of the house on the west side, where we had a Florida room that was open to the outdoors. It was full of plants and was the nicest place in the house. I was also concerned that we not slip and break our necks on the watery terrazzo floors. We were there with three of our kids as Julia was home from boarding school at the time. Finally the wind stopped and we heard the radio squawking. It was the political officer who lived a little further out from the center of town, closer to the eye of the storm. "We have been wiped out," he said. Larry said, "Well, are you OK?" He said, "Yes, we are fine." Larry said, "I will pass that on to the Embassy." Nobody had electricity. All of the screens had blown off the windows. Trees were broken off or blown over. We had a lot of palm trees in our yard. Palm trees have evolved to survive hurricanes. The fronds bend with the wind and the palm tree usually survives. We had been told to take the precaution of taking all the coconuts down when the storm was on its way. The morning before the storm hit, two boys had come to the gate from the squatter area down the road and offered to take our coconuts down. So we let them take them down and gave them as many as they could carry off. Our younger daughter also liked to climb coconut trees. She was nimble and athletic and helped get the coconuts down. You don't want coconuts blowing around in a hurricane.

Then we were a month without electricity. The Embassy was busy reporting on infrastructure problems and the effort to restore electricity and water. Relief workers and the U.S. military did good work helping the Dominicans recover. Another problem was that the buoy that was used to offload petroleum had been destroyed, so there was a gasoline shortage. The economic and commercial sections reported on how things were going at the electric company, the gasoline distribution, the power company and the water works. A second hurricane came along a week later which caused a lot more flooding. It washed out the water works. For the economic and commercial section of the embassy it was a very busy time. We had generators because sometimes electric power would be cut. We had a generator at our house but there was not enough fuel to run the generator more than an hour or two a day. The generators were so noisy that you wouldn't run them at night. People sleep with the windows open because it is hot. We would run the generator in the evening for a couple of hours which meant that we could wash clothes and pump water. But we could not keep the refrigerator going. I went to the supermarket every other day and got a couple of frozen chickens, and put those in the freezer to keep the milk and butter cold. We invited junior officers who had babies to come for supper in the evening and wash their clothes. Eventually the power started coming back on in the city and after a month we had electricity. The hurricane struck in early September. The World Series happens in early October. The great goal of the Dominican Republic, as a nation, was to get the power back on so people could watch the World Series. They made it and saw the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Orioles.

Another thing the hurricane made evident is that everybody in the Dominican Republic knows how to handle a machete. Be he a banker or a gardener or a garbage collector, a Dominican

knows how to use a machete. So they were able to clear the debris from the streets, cut up the fallen trees and organize the people in their neighborhood. There were no traffic lights in the whole city. All the street signs blew down, which made it a little hard to find places if you hadn't been there before.

Before the storm struck the Dominican army had moved people out of the low lying squatter areas. In any city of any size in Latin America people move in from the country because the jobs are in the cities. They tend to live in hovels especially in the warmer climates where you don't need much in the way of a house. You need something to keep the rain off and that is about all. There were a number of these squatter areas along the river. The Dominicans knew how to prepare when a big storm is coming. Haitians have trouble doing that. When a serious storm hits Hispaniola, the usual pattern is ten or so deaths in the Dominican Republic and 10,000 in Haiti. There was loss of life in the mountains of the DR. Most of it was in a mountain village where people had sought protection in the church and then a flood came down and washed away the church and people there perished. It impressed me the way people worked afterward to get things back in order. People did mourn the loss of favorite mango trees that shaded their front door or their patio.

One thing I had to do as a commercial officer was fend off little fly by night American companies who arrive after hurricanes to sell tents or flimsy little houses to the victims of storms. These companies prey on storm victims in the U.S., too. They are not people you want to do business with.

*Q: In normal times, were the Dominicans involved in manufacturing of any goods for export to the United States?*

LANE: Yes, they do assembly. There were assembly plants in the Dominican Republic. A number were in the Cibao, the area near the city of Santiago. They primarily employ women doing different types of assembly operation. Another type of manufacturing was cigars, these were often owned by Cuban expatriates who had experience making good cigars. There were also some American cigarette companies. I remember visiting those plants. It was interesting. I remember the smell of the tobacco was so luscious that when I came outside after visiting a factory, that I craved a cigarette although I had given up smoking ten years before.

My ambassador, Robert Yost, was very supportive. When business people would call him about a problem, he would say let me send my commercial attaché over to discuss it. The businessman might be surprised when a woman walked in. But if you know how to listen sympathetically, you can often point someone in a positive direction. Soon you become known as a useful contact. Being female was not much of a problem.

*Q: I know I talked to two ladies who had worked for me as consular officers in their junior tours, later they were both commercial officers in Tehran. This is slightly before the roof fell in. They said these firms would come to Iran to do business and be surprised to see women and ask where is your man. But they really knew their business and pretty soon it was we want to see the commercial ladies.*

LANE: No, being female was not a problem, but having an ambassador that wanted to help me move forward undoubtedly made a big difference.

*Q: How did you find Larry's job fit with yours; Larry ran a large consular section and was good friends with Mike Mahoney who worked with you there. He extolled Larry's supervision. How did you find the consular section fitted in?*

LANE: The consular section was in a different building a block away from the Embassy. After a year in the consular section, junior officers would usually do a year in another section. The economic section included a junior economic officer who had first done a year in the consular section. These junior officers were seasoned in they had been using Spanish for a year on the visa line, knew their way around Santo Domingo and had adjusted to being in the DR. So I think the political section and the economic section and the admin section all benefited by the fact that they were getting junior officers who had their feet on the ground by the time they moved into a job. As a group, the young consular officers seemed to have pretty good esprit de corps. It was nice that we had the beach house, where we often had junior officers out on the weekend to spend some time at the beach. Larry was pleased with the way the section ran.

Larry did have a run in with Vernon McAninch who had previously been the Consul General in the Dominican Republic.

*Q: Oh yeah. I know Vern McAninch. He had a fine reputation as a consular officer but he got tripped up on visas in Manila.*

LANE: He came close to getting tripped up on visas in the Dominican Republic. He was in Mexico by the time Larry was in the Dominican Republic. McAninch was issuing visas to Dominican women who had never been to Mexico. Some of these women were stopped by Dominican immigration officials when they were about to leave the DR because their US visa was issued in Mexico and they had never been to Mexico. Some of these women then went to the Consulate in Santo Domingo to be re-interviewed. The women usually said they going to the US to work for a family. But they didn't know the family's name and had never worked as maids. They were bad cases. McAninch then told Larry to issue these women visas, telling him that he (McAninch) was about to be appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for visa affairs, heading the visa office in Washington and that he would settle it then. So Larry pushed back. After discussing the case with the DCM, he wrote to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs. McAninch never not get that assignment in Washington. Later when we were assigned to Mexico City, Larry met various people who liked McAninch.

*Q: Oh yeah, he was a real take charge consular manager.*

LANE: I am afraid he was on the take. He was later assigned to Manila and I think he committed suicide in Manila. I don't know the circumstances and Larry didn't know the circumstances, but we certainly did wonder. It was irresponsible of the Department to assign McAninch to Manila.

*Q: Well this is a good place to stop I think. You left the Dominican Republic when?*

LANE: We left in the summer of '81. We were trying to get tandem onward assignments. It looked like getting placed in Europe might be good, and there were some number two jobs in big embassies there for Larry. Then Ruth McClendon who was the Counselor for Consular Affairs in Mexico got in touch with Larry and asked him to bid on the consular deputy job in Mexico. She told Larry that she was planning to retire in a year and then he would have a good shot at being number one. So that is what happened. We went to Mexico City. Larry worked for Ruth McClendon for a year and then he became the head of the whole consular operation in Mexico, which is probably the biggest consular job outside of Washington. And Mexico City found a job for me as well, a good job in the economic section.

*Q: Ok, back to Mexico. When did you go there?*

LANE: We went in the summer of 1981.

*Q: Ok, so we will pick it up Mexico City, 1981.*

*Today is 23 October 2014, with Helen Lane and Helen, you are off to Mexico. What was the situation and what would you say the situation was on Mexico?*

LANE: We were happy to go off to Mexico. But first we had to leave the DR which we had enjoyed. Ambassador Yost gave us a grand farewell party. Part of my job in the DR was to speak up for U.S. companies who were at the time having a difficult time repatriating their U.S. dollar earnings to the U.S. These included U.S. airlines like Eastern and American. The airline reps appeal to me for help. I went to the Central Bank telling my interlocutor, "These are important companies and they need to be able to continue service here. They need to be able to repatriate their profits." He seemed to be agreeable to thinking about that. After all the DR did not want to lose the service of two major airlines. I don't think the airlines would pulled out, but my friends, the airline reps might have lost their jobs. But in about a week the money was freed up. So among the people contributing to our send-off were the airlines. When Larry and I left the DR for New York we were upgraded to first class. It was a crazy, complicated departure: one of our children was already in the States in boarding school; another was in college. The middle two had just graduated from high school in the DR. Julia was staying on because she had been in a very successful high school production of "Hello, Dolly" and a number of the cast were hired to make a TV commercials advertising soda pop. She stayed behind with a girl friend to do that. Joel was selected for the Dominican national swimming team, so he was staying with his coach and then going to a swimming meet in Mexico. So Larry and I actually left by ourselves first class. Julia came to the airport with us and Larry gave her a list of last minute things to follow up on for us after we had gone.

*Q: Where were your kids going to prep school and to college?*

LANE: Andrew was at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and Amy was at the Ethel Walker school in Connecticut. Julia was going to go to George Washington and Joel to the University of Texas at Austin. Larry and I flew to New York and reunited with my family in Brooklyn, picked up Amy at Walkers and went to Washington for our consultations. Andrew joined us in Washington for a few days and then left for Germany where he spent a summer and

a semester in Marburg. Julia caught up with us in Washington and traveled with us to Mexico and then returned to Washington for her freshman year at GW. Joel caught up with us in at Larry's parents' place in Texas. We left him in Austin to begin his freshman year at the University of Texas. We arrived in Mexico in the fall of 1981.

*Q: You were there from when to when?*

LANE: We were there from '81 to '85. We were there for four years.

*Q: What was the situation in Mexico when you arrived? I mean how would you describe it?*

LANE: You mean politically?

*Q: Politically and economically.*

LANE: It was toward the end of the Lopez Portillo Administration, which I found interesting since I had been an officer on the Mexican desk at the beginning of Lopez Portillo's six year term. So I knew something of the political background of the PRI and what to expect at the end of a six year term. At the end of a six year term in those days the Mexican economy would often crash. Our Treasury Department would be alarmed because of the implications for the US economy and it would be an exciting time at the Embassy in Mexico City, especially for the economic section.

*Q: What was happening?*

LANE: When a government spends far more than it receiving from taxes and other revenue and not allowing its currency to float you get a mess. When there is substantial corruption and officials are on the take and skimming off income that makes the mess even worse. That was what was happening at the time. When we arrived the Mexican Peso was overvalued. It was very expensive for foreigners to live in Mexico City. I remember giving the girls something like ten dollars each to go and get lunch while we were staying in temporary quarters. That evening they laughed and said "Mom all we could afford was soup, but the waiter was very nice and kept bring us more crackers." It was very expensive until I think about late February when the peso crashed. We hadn't been eating out very much, given the high prices, but Larry and I decided that we would eat out on Valentine's Day. There was a very nice hotel that was close by that had a special deal for Valentine's Day, so we availed ourselves of that. But a few days later the peso crashed and everything was really cheap for dollar earners.

*Q: Did you get into the big debt crises?*

LANE: Yes. It was definitely a big crisis. The peso was in trouble, but for American dollar earners life was fine. Our girls, who were being taken out to dinner by their boyfriends, high school and college aged Embassy kids, were dining at the best places in Mexico City. That summer things got really busy for the economic section. I remember President Lopez Portillo, making an important annual speech in early September, in which he nationalized the banks and changed all dollar accounts into pesos at a low rate which made it rather hard for people like our

friends in the American business community who were sending their kids to school in the States. Suddenly they didn't have any dollars to pay the tuition checks and were calling old friends and relatives in the states for loans so their kids' tuition could be paid.

I was in the economic section and doing was doing reporting on the energy sector. The Government of Mexico had a detailed energy plan which called for the diversification of their energy sources and investment in atomic power. A big part of the Embassy Science Counselor's job was to promote the sale U.S. atomic energy plants. But if you studied the Mexican economy you saw that diversification to atomic energy was not likely to happen. The Mexicans had done a very good report on the electricity sector showing what their sources of energy were, what the cost were, etc. My reporting followed up on that, particularly how that would relate to electricity and power generation in Mexico and pointed out that it was unreasonable to think that Mexico was going to invest in nuclear power plants. The Science Counselor was furious at me. My report was detailed and well written. I don't know if people in Washington ever read it.

*Q: Who was our ambassador at the time?*

LANE: John Gavin. Patrick Lucey had been ambassador for awhile under Carter. Gavin was named Ambassador by Reagan and arrived in Mexico about the same time that we did. Gavin's appointment was well received by the Mexicans because he was considered close to Reagan since Gavin and Reagan were both actors. Gavin also spoke Spanish well and was a good speaker.

*Q: His mother was Spanish.*

LANE: His mother was Mexican, from a well off family. Gavin was not an easy ambassador to work for though. He did not work through the DCM and made the DCM's job a mockery. Gavin had his own staff assistant, a Foreign Service Officer named Don Lyman. Lyman was rather like a Iago sowing suspicions in the mind of an Othello who in this case was John Gavin. Lyman was constantly undercutting the country team, especially the economic and political counselors. So that made for a dicey working situation for many. It that didn't really affect me or Larry personally. We didn't have a strong economic counselor but we had a very strong financial attaché, Llewellyn "Pat" Pascoe. He was from the Treasury Department and had been in Mexico for a long time and new the country very well.

I remember when President Lopez Portillo was making this State of the Nation speech in 1982, at a time of great economic turbulence in Mexico, Pascoe had a group of political and economic officers primed to cover the speech. Usually Pascoe would go personally to the Congress and get an advance copies of the speech; these were usually available the morning of the speech. But this time there were no advance copies available. So when he came back he said, "There must be something up because advance copies aren't available. They won't be available until the speech begins. He delegated someone to wait at the Congress until the copies were available and the speech began. We were sitting in a circle in an Embassy Office watching to the speech on television when the copies arrived. Each of us was assigned a section of the speech to cover. One of the officers, Dick Thurman, suddenly jumped up and went over to Pascoe and said, "Look at

this.” That was the announcement that they were going to nationalize the banks and freeze foreign exchange. Pascoe went dashing out to phone Treasury.

But then we had a period after that when the exchange rates were crazy. As I said before, it was nice for us in that everything was very cheap. I remember my brother and sister-in-law came down from New York as they heard that it was suddenly very inexpensive to go to Mexico. They had been planning to come see us anyway. When they arrived I met them at the airport but couldn't shepherd them around to see the sights of Mexico City because I was working overtime at the Embassy helping to translate foreign exchange regulations. Pascoe wanted them translated by Americans. He didn't want them translated by Mexicans who might not translate the regulations into everyday American English. He wanted the regulations to be understandable by business people as well as by financial experts. So we were very busy doing that. He was most concerned that our translations made sense. We got our translations done in a few days. My brother and sister-in-law, being New Yorkers, were used to big cities. We were living downtown in the Zona Rosa so they walked over to a tourist office and signed up for tourist trips to Taxco, the Pyramids and various places. My sister-in-law had a broken foot so she was limping around in a walking cast, but she considered that something of a plus as it was a good conversation starter. They had a good time on their day trips and then we would all go out to a good restaurant in the evening. So it was a fun and exciting time.

*Q: What was happening to Americans who were living there? Was there a sizable retirement community?*

LANE: Yes, there was a large business community in and around Mexico City and the American Chamber of Commerce is an important business association. It includes not only American citizen business people but Mexican business people who represent or work for major American companies in Mexico. It was commonly known as Am Cham. It was well run and well staffed.

*Q: Were these various American groups considered fair game by the Mexicans for gaining money from them?*

LANE: Not too much. The business people in the American community were not tourists who had arrived the day before yesterday. They were well informed. I don't think they were unduly taken advantage of Mexican employees. Mexican housekeepers, cooks and drivers generally liked working for Americans because they paid a little better than average, although not extravagantly, and they were considered good employers. I would say that the working relationships between working Mexicans and Americans were pretty good. Now political relations are something else. Mexico defines itself as not being part of the United States. The oil companies had been nationalized in the 1930's.

*Q: The oil sector was a very big. I have heard it referred to as one of the dinosaurs. It had been around there a long time. There hadn't been much in the way of modernization.*

LANE: American companies were in most ways more efficient than PEMEX. There was a great deal of corruption in PEMEX, both by management and by the workers unions. But PEMEX had access to great oil reserves and was doing well. US companies wanted action as suppliers to

PEMEX, which was doing a lot of interesting offshore oil explorations. The PEMEX record in the Gulf was well known. Its long term record is better than British Petroleum which caused a huge environmental disaster off the coast of Louisiana several years ago. I would say Pemex was technically reasonably competent. Today Mexico is encouraging foreign firms to bid for drilling rights in certain areas of the Gulf.

*Q: Did you find that the statistical records which economic officers must rely on were the pretty good?*

LANE: Yes, they were pretty good. One of the phenomena we had to deal with was in the year say before the big crash was that American banks and American companies were wanting to come to Mexico to join the party. They would come to the Embassy for briefing and for the names of contacts. We often had to tell them the Mexican economy was shakier than they thought. American business and American investors tend to go where they think everyone is making money. They are rather like lemmings. Even if the party is going to end soon, that is not something that they are aware of.

*Q: Were you seeing was it through our Embassy Economic Section that the party was going to be over soon?*

LANE: Yes, but the Treasury attaché was the person Washington listened to. I don't recall how apprehensive the State Department was. What the Department focuses on depends on what is going on elsewhere in the world. There are people in Washington that follow Mexico intently because it is one of our leading trading partners. I don't know that the Reagan administration was really focused that intently on Mexico at the time.

*Q: Talking about the free trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, what was it called?*

LANE: NAFTA, people were starting to talk about some kind of North American partnership. NAFTA was not part of the picture yet. Major trade agreements don't happen from one day to the next. But trade issues were important. I covered a lot of trade issues. One of the tools that we used against Mexican companies that were exporting cheaper products to the U.S. was something Countervailing Duties. An American trade association or company would bring a countervailing duty case against Mexico alleging that the government was subsidizing the export. In some cases there were unfair export subsidies, and in some cases there weren't. I remember one curious case involving sewer gratings and manhole covers from Mexico were being sold at way below U.S. production costs. In this case the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute (IMCE) had no idea the trade existed or who the producers were. They were being produced by small companies along the U.S. Mexican border, small iron foundries, who had low production costs. They were selling to municipalities and counties in the U.S. market. Today if one looks at the manhole covers on our streets, you will see that the manhole covers are not made in either the U.S. or Mexico. Most of them are made in India because the labor costs in India are much lower than in Mexico.

*Q: Did you find there was a significant amount of work being diverted to Mexico from the States?*

LANE: Yes, but that did not happen in Mexico City. There were a number of factories in northern Mexico, assembly plants along the border in places like Ciudad Juarez and El Paso and the Tijuana area where they were assembling products and then shipping them back to the U.S. to take advantage of the inexpensive labor. That was a big operation. I don't know that it is as big now because a lot of things are done in China. But there was a period where you could say jobs were being shipped into Mexico. Most of this were assembly operations. Most of the people that worked in the plants were women, because women are good at doing fine work with their hands, and they will work for less than men. So there was a lot of employment of women in cities along the border. There were also a few auto assembly plants in Mexico. They were plants quite similar to auto plants in the U.S. There were some in the area of Saltillo where there was a very large investment by one of our US auto makers. I remember visiting that plant. It was brand new. It was producing automobiles more efficiently than factories in the U.S. because it had state of the art equipment which requires less human labor.

*Q: Were you enjoined by the State Department or Congress or the Senate or any place to look closely at what Mexican labor costs were doing to American labor costs and that sort of thing?*

LANE: No. We weren't. There was a time when commercial officers or the economic section of an embassy were focused on protecting jobs in the U.S.; then we would be reporting on situations that were relevant to U.S. jobs. That changed during the Reagan administration when our reporting began to focus on situations that were of interest to U.S. investors.

*Q: Quite a different game.*

LANE: A very different game.

*Q: Were there any areas that you were dealing with one way or another that you find it difficult or that maybe corruption was playing a pretty big hand or not?*

LANE: One always has to be alert. In some of the countervailing duty cases, the Mexicans offered to supply the translators when the Commerce Department investigators came to Mexico to review Mexican data and export support policy. I had friendly relations with the Commerce people on the Mexican side. But I advised our US DOC investigators not to rely on the Mexican side for translating during an investigation. We needed our people translating. I did catch the Mexicans mistranslating more than once. That is not major big time corruption, but one should always be alert when negotiating.

*Q: Did the Mexican migration to the United States impact on your work?*

LANE: No, it didn't. It probably would have impacted on Larry's but he was dealing with legal migration and the people that across the border illegally were not something that was of concern to the Embassy, it was a matter for US Immigration and the Border Patrol.

*Q: I have heard many stories about Gavin and his watchdog. Was it a problem?*

LANE: Yes, he had his watchdog, Donald Lyman. At one point Lyman decided that he didn't want the State Department section chiefs reporting directly to the ambassador. They were supposed to report through the ambassador's designate. I remember that included Larry. At one point Larry was supposed to report through the agricultural attaché, John Montel. Lyman was trying to humiliate people. Montel was a friend of ours, had his own job to do and did not want to read the cables coming out of the consular section. So Larry just put Montel's name on the clearance line and let it go at that.

*Q: Did you view Lyman as somebody who was sort of self aggrandized his position?*

LANE: Lyman wanted to move to a private sector career that would be more financially rewarding than the Department of State. We do not become wealthy working for the Department of State. We can live quite decently but we do not become big time wealthy. I think Lyman had bigger aspirations. After Mexico he went to a job at IBM in upstate New York. I don't know what has become of him since.

*Q: Was either Congress or the White House paying a lot of attention to what was happening in Mexico as far as economics were concerned?*

LANE: Yes, I think they did. The USG entities with the most informed interest are Treasury and the Federal Reserve. Here there are the mid-level and working level experts who follow Mexico closely. Within the Reagan administration there were some odd adventures in the Middle East and there was concern about Iran. These were probably at the top of their concerns. But Mexico was important and it was easy to get attention in Washington to what was happening in Mexico. I was only a mid-level Embassy officer, but when I needed to call somebody in Washington after 5:00 to report something, I would get key people at Treasury or USTR immediately on the phone because they were interested in Mexico. Within the White House per se, I don't know how concerned they were.

*Q: Did you have any particularly difficult cases or problems?*

LANE: As an economic officer? No, not really. I don't recall anything being impossible. I got on well with my supervisors, although the poor supervisors didn't always have a good relationship with Lyman. Steve Rogers headed the section during the first year I was at the Embassy. He was replaced by Alton Jenkins who had a difficult time with Lyman. The situation was not really of Alton's making. Alton was replaced by Bob Pastorino. When Alton left Mexico, the Department got him a good assignment. He became Economic Counselor in Madrid. Larry and I had known Alton back in the late 1950's when we were all junior officers. Alton and his wife had found a very nice house in Lomas, one of the nicest neighborhoods in Mexico City. At the time Alton was being transferred, Larry had just become Counselor of Embassy for Consular Affairs. We had a nice apartment in Zona Rosa, within easy walking distance of the Embassy. But Jenkins had a really great house. They were very interested that we get that house rather than Lyman who also would also have liked that house. Somehow it happened that we got this great house, which was as nice a house as we ever lived in.

*Q: Did you get any stories or anything about Larry's work?*

LANE: Oh yes, Larry had lots of war stories to tell. One case was a very strange case, a tragic case really of an American professor named Schrock who drove down from Colorado to teach some summer courses at the University of Guadalajara. He had done this several times before, but this time he disappeared on the way down. Then there was a hunt for Professor Schrock. Professor Schrock's wife made the case known to her Colorado congressional delegation. It was a big story in US papers and on television. Our consulate in Mazatlan was closest to the place where Schrock had last been seen. The consul was on leave and the vice consul, a junior officer was running the consulate. He got a tip that Schrock's car was up in a village in the mountains. So he went up there with one of the FSN's. They found the car in the village. Interesting. It was being used by the local police. They came back down and reported this. Larry was both impressed and somewhat alarmed at what this young officer had done. It was great that he found the car, but Jerry didn't want to lose a vice consul and an FSN in the mountains of Mexico. That broke the case a little bit and then the Mexicans found a body which was shipped back to Colorado. But it was not the body of Professor Schrock. It was somebody else's body. That was easily determined by dental records. I remember that one evening I was ready to go home. It must have been about 6:00pm. I went down to see if Larry was ready to go. He had a parking place in the Embassy basement, so I usually went home with him. When I walked into his office he was dictating something over the phone to Washington. I heard him say, "...and the body delivered in Boulder, Colorado, was not the body of Professor Schrock". When he got off the phone I said, "Sounds like you are going to be around here for awhile. Maybe I ought to just go on home now." He laughed and said, "Yes." There was also the case of one of our DEA agents who was tortured and murdered by drug cartel lords who that were in cahoots with the police. There were different agencies of Mexican police. As an economic officer I did not have to deal with the police unless they stopped me for making an illegal turn or some traffic violation, in which case one could give them a little money and they would not give you a ticket. It was a sensible way to save oneself hassle. I remember doing that once when my daughter, who was a student at Georgetown, was riding with me. I knew I was setting a bad example for her, but I didn't really want to go through the rigmarole of paying a traffic fine.

*Q: Well, was there concern on anyone's part that the corruption particularly in the police was having an effect on tourism?*

LANE: There was concern. The consular section and the desk in Washington had to prepare travel advisories. I don't recall any particularly strong travel advisories in those years. There must have been an advisory about driving down at night on some of the highways in northern and western Mexico. But we didn't feel fear driving on the highway. We would drive places on the highway in Mexico. We would go to Cuernavaca or Acapulco. We drove to and from the States. When we lived in Mexico we did a lot of driving in Mexico. I don't remember being fearful. But I didn't like to drive at night and would urge Larry to stop at sundown.

*Q: Did you have any major disasters while you were there, earthquakes or plane crashes?*

LANE: I don't believe so. There were some murders. I remember a murder that required Larry's attention that took place in Acapulco. It appeared to be was a case in which an American

murdered his bride. He had had a previous bride who disappeared on a honeymoon. I wouldn't call that particularly Mexican. It was just a grisly crime that could have happened anywhere.

*Q: How did you get along with the economic staff?*

LANE: It was a good staff with one exception -- a woman who came in at mid level under a special program for women. She was incompetent. She had a doctorate from Berkeley, but couldn't learn how to open a safe. There is a joke in academia, that in the 60's even a dog could get a doctorate at Berkeley. I don't know what her problem was, perhaps she was in some stage of early dementia but she was no good as an economic officer. She was my age and had college-aged kids. Her husband was a lawyer. In any section there are people who are less productive than others, but you don't usually have people that are so incompetent that they are get in the way. That was the case with this woman. She later had a grievance case that went on for years I understand. Her lawyer husband helped push her grievance case. I am unaware how the case finally came out.

*Q: But would you say the State Department has both the will and the mechanism to deal with difficult cases like that?*

LANE: Well my impression is, that whatever the mechanism was, it wasn't very good. I never worked in personnel, so I have no sense of what the constraints were there.

*Q: Well then after, well how did you find life in Mexico City? I would think Larry being the Consul General and all would create more trouble than it was worth.*

LANE: No, we liked living in Mexico City. Larry was active in the American Society. There was a big American Society in Mexico. We had a big house and inherited a good staff so it was not hard to give receptions or dinner parties. Mexico City was full of interesting people. We had parties with artists and artisans. We liked Mexico. Our daughter Julia joined us. She worked at the Embassy for awhile, then taught school, and got involved with the American Theater Workshop. She had an interesting crowd of young artists and theatre friends. The exchange rate was in our favor and we all liked Mexico.

*Q: Did you find there was a pronounced anti American bias within the Mexican Government or among Mexican?*

LANE: There was some of that, but on a personal level we could have good social relations with our contacts. In a negotiation or meeting, we had our side and the Mexicans had theirs, they would spout off because they were speaking to their side rather than to us. Things worked out better on a one to one basis rather than in group against group situations. Mexicans take long lunches and it is easy to socialize over lunch. Another nice way to meet contacts was at breakfast. Mexico City restaurants and hotels do nice breakfasts and over coffee you can get a lot done. If the Ambassador was having a meeting with the Mexican Secretary of Commerce, I could meet with one of his aides and we could discuss what would be good issues for the American Ambassador and the Mexican Secretary of Commerce to discuss and we would prepare briefing papers accordingly. We had good relations I think at the working level with

counterparts in Mexico. Miguel de la Madrid was elected President of Mexico in 1982 and instituted sensible economic policies that returned the Mexican Economy to a more even keel.

*Q: Was it '85 you left?*

LANE: Yes.

*Q: Where did you go?*

LANE: Madrid.

*Q: Is this sort of the heaven of any Spanish speaking officer or not?*

LANE: Madrid is a wonderful, livable city, but the climate is not as perfect as that of Mexico city and Spain does not matter quite as much as Mexico in terms of US interests. Personnel was interested in sending Larry to the Philippines, which is a more demanding consular assignment than Madrid, but we wanted to go to Madrid, and we got assignments to Madrid.

About a year after we arrived in Madrid we learned that the State Department's selection board system cannot always be trusted. Stu, as a consular officer, you will be interested in this. We were in Madrid when promotions based on the previous year, when we were in Mexico, were announced. Larry at that point was an FEOC which was senior foreign service. There was another step above that called FEMC. When the promotion list came out there weren't any consular officers that were promoted to FEMC. Larry said, "It looks like my last chance to make FEMC has gone by the boards." He didn't seem terribly cut up about it, but several months later a telegram came announcing that Larry was being promoted to FEMC. Apparently the promotion panel that reviewed senior consular officers had identified Larry for promotion to FEMC and place him at the top of the list. But on the final list the senior consular promotion disappeared. That promotion went to one more political officer. The consular promotion panel complained, quietly but effectively, and the department found another slot. Some months later Larry got that promotion.

One of the things that Larry had done, I think this was while we were assigned to Washington back in the 70's was, along with a group of consular officers in Washington, organize a kind of professional group apart from the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA). AFSA got very upset that the consular officers wanted to do something on their own. Curious.

*Q: Yes. I have always had the impression that AFSA, the head people there were political officers who were on the move and were looking for their next assignment.*

LANE: Yes, and I think some of them were not our most talented political officers. When I was in Spain on my second assignment there (1992-1996) -- we are jumping ahead here -- I was the Embassy AFSA rep. We had several instances where scuttlebutt appeared in the Washington Post about the Embassy in Madrid and about how Ambassador Gardner was expending foolish amounts of money on a basement conference room. The stuff was on The Fed Page in Al Kamen's In the Loop, gossip column. I managed to find out that Kamen's information came from

Tex Harris, an FSO who was a perennial member of the AFSA board. Harris could be counted on to stoke the fires of AFSA ire about political appointees. His source was a female USIS officer in Madrid who was unhappy that the Embassy had not found an appropriate job for her dependent husband who was a whiney fellow.

*Q: You were an economic officer again. What was your position? What were you dealing with?*

LANE: I was dealing with trade issues, both access issues and also sensitive strategic trade control issues. It was an interesting time because Spain was preparing to enter the European Common Market, so there were interesting trade issues. The US was also pressuring Spain to join COCOM, a multi-national strategic trade control group. The CIA station got interested in that and tried to turn one of my contacts.

Working in an EC country can be frustrating. Demarches are less likely to be bilateral. Issues were often multilateral. It was hard to get the Spanish to reveal their position on issues because they had to consult with the rest of the community. That was a change from Mexico.

*Q: Did you get involved in Spanish farming issues? I know with Germany and France and to some extent England, farming is a major Common Market issue.*

LANE: Yes, it certainly is. One of the issues with Spain was bananas. They grow bananas in the Canary Islands which are part of Spain. We wanted access for American bananas. We don't grow bananas here in the lower 48 states. But American companies grow bananas in Central and South America. These companies who were very adamant about trying to get into the Spanish market.

*Q: Central America, United Fruit and all that.*

LANE: Yes, Dole and other US companies. United Fruit has since become Chiquita. These banana producers wanted access to the Spanish Market, and the Spanish were trying to protect their growers in the Canary Islands. American bananas are better, that was one issue.

*Q: Did you get anywhere?*

LANE: Oh eventually Spain let American bananas in. Another crop was citrus. The Spanish produce excellent citrus and peaches, but they did not know about grapefruit. The U.S. companies working with the Department of Agriculture did a very skilful job of introducing grapefruit in Spain, where they became popular. When it comes to pushing agricultural products, the Department of Agriculture have their people at the embassies. My experience in working with the US Ag officers and their local staffs was that they were very competent.

*Q: They are interesting on a country team basis. They know their business.*

LANE: Yes, they really do.

*Q: Well what sort of things did you particularly end up dealing with?*

LANE: I think it was primarily trade issues, a variety of trade issues and trying to get the market opened. One of the weird things that I remember was, I think it was on my second tour in Spain was making a list of all the different variety of demarches that I made. This would be my second tour in Spain. I had come back and worked in Washington for four years.

*Q: Well you were in Spain from when to when?*

LANE: Two tours, from 1985-1988 and from 1992-1996.

LANE: The first tour was '85-'88. Then I was back in Washington for four years. I was the Bolivia desk officer for two years. Then I had a job in the Office of Advanced Science and Technology which was a pretty interesting office. While I was in that office I thought, (Larry had retired by then), that I would extend in that job for another year or two. I was in an elevator with the Assistant Secretary and the DAS from my bureau. One of them said, "Bob Morris didn't get his promotion and will have to retire. Now we have to find somebody to send as Science Counselor to Madrid. The assignment cycle is about finished and who in the world are we going to find for Madrid?" I said, "Oh, I would love to go back to Madrid." The next morning I came to work and I wasn't there five minutes before they were in my office asking, "Were you really interested, Helen? Would you really be interested in going back to Madrid?" So I went back. It fell in my lap because of something that happened at the end of an assignment cycle.

The Position I had in Madrid was called Science Counselor, which was in the economic section. I was back really in the same section with a different title. But I was handling different issues. I was doing climate change issues with Ambassador Gardner. I was doing lots of fishing issues because Spain is a major fishing partner. The fishing industry matters in Spain. They are very competitive, very good. And a number of agreements limit the amount of fish that can be harvested as part of international conservation. So there was plenty of negotiations on that score. The headquarters of a major international body for the conservation of tuna, ICCAT, was located in Madrid. The U.S. consumes a lot of tuna. So those were interesting negotiations. The curious thing was we, the U.S. and Spain, in these international meetings would usually be on one side and Canada and France would be on the other side. When it comes to fishing, France competes with Spain. U.S. fisherman competes with Canada for fishing. We don't always agree with Canada on issues. Our interests sometimes aren't the same.

*Q: Canada and fishing this goes back to earliest times. This has been a perpetual war in a 200 year war.*

LANE: Well, between France and Spain it is a 400 year war.

*Q: Well, let's stick to the first period there.*

LANE: During my first tour our ambassadors were Tom Enders and then Reginald Bartholomew.

*Q: Enders was ambassador to Canada at one point.*

LANE: Maybe, before Madrid. I don't remember where he went immediately after Madrid, he may have retired. He may be best known as the person who orchestrated the secret bombing of Cambodia in the 1970's He was highly intelligent, liked to go on long hikes alone (no body guards) and seemed rather distant. His wife Gabriella was Italian and friendly. She told me where to buy fashionable, but comfortable shoes with Italian lasts. Enders was replaced by Reginald Bartholomew.

The big issue then between the U.S. and Spain was the Torrejón Air Force Base which is a large air base about 20 miles from Madrid where the U.S. had a large presence going back to Franco days. The Spanish wanted us out. Another big issue was whether Spain would stay in NATO. The Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, during the election campaign of 1984 had advocated for Spain leaving NATO. However, he changed his mind about NATO and submitted the issue to a national referendum. The country voted to stay in NATO. Torrejón became a Spanish air force base after we left as it was no longer essential once the Soviet Union fell apart. So that issue went away. During our second tour in Spain we rarely went to Torrejón. When we were on our first tour we used doctors at the air force base and also the base commissary. People used that quite a bit especially when the exchange rate was against us. When you could buy only 85 pesetas with a dollar it was expensive to shop in Spain. But when that drifted up to 120, the local economy had better buys.

*Q: Were there any involvement during your first tour in Spain regarding the Middle East?*

LANE: Not a lot as I recall. Spain did have diplomatic relations with Iran and the CIA station was very interested in that.

Spain has a special and historic relationship with Morocco, a Muslim country which is in North Africa, not the Middle East. Moreover Moroccans working in France transit Spain in the summer in heavy numbers when they are going home for vacation, especially at the beginning of August; and again at the end of the month when they are coming back to their jobs in France. Their vehicles would be jam packed and they would try to drive straight through to France. The result was wrecks and fatalities on the highway. The Spanish tried to accommodate that by having special rest areas along the highway where people could camp, cook out or simply rest. These migrants were simply going through Spain and on to France where they had jobs and a common language. The second language in Morocco is French. But dating back to the earliest centuries of the Middle Ages, most of Spain and particularly Andalusia was part of al-Andalus. Spain and Spanish have a strong Moorish influence. The Spanish value that. It shows up in interesting little ways. When you go to a church in Spain you rarely enter through a big front portal as you do in France or England. Usually you go in through a little side entrance. Often a cathedral will have one spire rather than two as in the case of a mosque and minaret. The Spanish like to have carved decorative ceilings and nice rugs on the floor. Things like that are reminiscent of the Moorish tradition. I found that shared aesthetic culturally very interesting. Larry and I took a wonderful two week vacation in Morocco. Our favorite city was Fez.

*Q: How was Spain handling the departure of Franco. Was he still a presence there?*

LANE: Most Spaniards seemed glad he was gone. There was still a right wing party, and there was a far right party, where members were harking back to Franco days, but the far right was not a significant part of the right of center party. Spain also had a strong left of center party, the PSOE, and a communist party. But the Spanish had undergone a terrible civil war and then they were isolated from Europe for a generation. One thing that they give Franco credit for is that he kept Hitler out of Spain.

*Q: Hitler used to say he would rather have a long dental session rather than having to deal with Franco.*

LANE: Franco's widow was still alive when we were there. I knew people who were related to key people in the Franco government but these people weren't ostracized. They weren't apart. I also knew people whose parents had been on the Republican side during the war. They maybe lived on the same block as people who were on the Franco side. There was nothing like the Sunni and Shiite separations of people. The Civil War was a disastrous thing and the Spaniards that I knew had put it behind them and were getting on with their lives.

*Q: How did you find social life with the Spanish?*

LANE: The Spanish are not as eager to make friends with Americans as Dominicans or Mexicans are. But then our interests are not as close. Madrid is a big sophisticated city and people are not going to seek you out just because you are American. But if you are interested in ornithology and you want to go out with some Spanish bird watchers and learn about Spanish bird life, you could join and make friends in a birding group, which is something I did. There was a secretary at the embassy who was a good cellist, and she made a lot of friends among chamber music groups. It was a good assignment for people that had outside interests because you could develop those and make good contacts at an interesting level. I think for people who don't have very many outside interests, large European posts are sometimes not much fun, because the movers and shakers within the American community are probably going out and doing their separate things in the local community rather than organizing things among the American group. The Spanish are easy to get along with. They like to chat and go out for a drink in the evening.

*Q: Was there much of an American university alumni group among the Spanish or not?*

LANE: It wasn't something I had much contact with. I know there were prominent Spaniards who had been educated in the U.S. in the early days of the Fulbright program. The Foreign Minister, Javier Solana had gotten a doctorate at the University of Virginia in Atomic physics. I think the Spanish attitude towards the U.S. is a little bit like the English attitude. America is the big dog now. But world powers rise and fall. Spain and England were once world powers. They don't look down on Americans, but they don't consider our culture superior. They have self confidence in their own ways of doing things.

*Q: Did you have any major elections while you were there in this first time?*

LANE: Well let's see. Do you mean in Spain or the US?

*Q: Spain.*

LANE: There were elections when we were there. In 1986 and it was won by Felipe Gonzalez and the socialists. There was an election when I was there the second time and that was also won by the socialists. In the next election, after I had gone back to Washington, the right of center party was victorious. When we went into the Iraq war in 2002, and also in the first Iraq war, the Spanish were helpful and we were able to use Torrejón Air Force Base. Secretary of State Jim Baker had good relations with the Spanish. I wasn't in Spain at the time, but there was a major mid east conference in Spain which was an effort to resolve issues related to Israel and Palestine.

*Q: You left from your first tour when?*

LANE: 1988.

*Q: This is probably a good place to stop I think.*

LANE: OK, I can go back and talk about my assignments in Washington. Back to Washington where I was the Bolivia desk officer.

*Q: That will be interesting. We will talk about that in the next time. Great.*

*Today is 29 October 2014 with Helen Lane. You are on your way to be the desk officer for Bolivia. What year was that?*

LANE: That was 1988.

*Q: And how long did you do that?*

LANE: Let's be precise. I did that from April of '88 until June of '90, so I did it for a little over two years.

*Q: What was the situation in Bolivia when you took over as desk officer?*

LANE: It was interesting. The U.S. ambassador was Robert Gelbard who was an activist ambassador, so he kept me busy on the desk. He was the kind of ambassador, who when he came to Washington, would meet with people on the Hill, Senators and Congressmen. There was a Bureau at the Department, I think it's acronym was H, that handled Congressional Relations. But we didn't go through H, we made our appointments directly.

Gelbard wanted me to call him Bob rather than Mr. Ambassador. He would regularly visit his elderly parents in Brooklyn and send me a list of the people he wanted to see in Washington, in the Department, in other Agencies and on the hill. My secretary would call and set up the appointments. Bob was active and well known, so she didn't have to explain who he was. Then going with him on his Washington rounds was fun. He kept the pot stirring. It was a curious experience for me because I had gone to Bolivia as a bride in 1959 not long after a real

revolution had taken place there and there had been a substantial land reform. The President was Victor Paz Estenssoro and then Hernán Siles Zuazo was elected to replace him. It was a center-left government. It was not a Communist government although I remember the mayor of Cochabamba was a young Trotskyite who was a nice fellow who was interested in American literature. Anyway when I come back to be Bolivia desk officer in '88, political figures who were in the government in 1959 as young revolutionaries were still active. Victor Paz Estenssoro was President again, but had moderated his economic views. Bolivia was still the poorest country in Latin America but it was not a country that was shooting itself in the foot. Ambassador Gelbard and his PAO, I just remember his name was Jim, had both been young Peace Corps officers back in the early 60's when the Peace Corps was getting started. So you had a lot of old Bolivia hands. The morale at the Embassy was good. Although it is a hardship post, a high altitude post, and in a poor country, many foreign service people requested extensions because it was an interesting place to be. I think the only medical evacuation that took place while I was desk officer was the State Department doctor. Our office was called Andean Affairs. The country director that I was working for was Mike Skol, who was the country director when I came on board. We had five desk officers and two junior officers who would backstop when a particular country got really busy. The office included the Andean countries plus Venezuela. (Nobody quite knows where to put Venezuela when dividing groupings.) So we had Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. It was a good office. There was a lot of interesting politics in each country. There was also the War on Drugs. We have had this curious policy of trying to fight the War on Drugs overseas rather than here at home. It has not been successful because we are asking other people to carry our water. I personally think we should be doing a lot more here at home.

*Q: Was there much of a battle in the State Department over this policy?*

LANE: Not really. We could push a bit at the edges, but there was no real battle. What can the State Department do to affect drug policy at home? Our role in the drug wars was goofy. We were trying through USAID to convince the Bolivians to grow alternative crops instead of coca. USAID would have studies done, pay to have studies done, to find alternative crops that could be grown in Bolivia and would be more profitable than coca. One of the more amusing studies concerned macadamia nuts. I am no farmer but I know that macadamia nuts grow on trees. You have to plant the trees and get them started. It is a few years before you have any crop. Cocoa is a weed or a plant shall we say. You plant it and harvest it. It makes much more sense of you are a Bolivian subsistence farmer to grow coca. USAID had also had a road building project which opened up an area called the Chapare, a lowland area north of Cochabamba over mountains and east of the Altiplano. The Altiplano is a very high potato growing area, where the indigenous people are Aymara Indians who have an ancient culture. The plan was to settle Aymara Indians in the Chapare lowlands and give them land near the new road where they could farm in what had been a sparsely settled area. In Bolivia farmers usually organize in marketing collectives. The Aymara had traditionally grown coca on the Altiplano for their own use. They knew how to grow coca and now with the growing international drug traffic they could get good prices for it. There was no way the USA was going to be able to turn that around with crops like macadamia nuts.

The young leader of the Coca Growers Association was Evo Morales. Evo Morales is now the president of Bolivia, the first truly indigenous president of Bolivia. He is nationalistic and left wing, very critical of the U.S. but as regards economic policy he seems to be smart. He is far more sensible than the leftwing generals who have made such a mess in Venezuela. As places go Bolivia today is trending up. One of the things that Bolivians have done that has attracted a lot of attention is set up a system of cable cars from the center of La Paz up to the El Alto on the Altiplano where the airport is. El Alto used to be a shanty town, historically cities often start out that way. I was stunned to see a recent article in The Financial Times about the stunning new, cutting-edge modern architecture being built at El Alto. I would love to go back to La Paz/El Alto and take a ride on the cable car.

*Q: Did you get a long hard look as desk officer in your time at Evo Morales and what his thoughts were?*

LANE: A long hard look? No. But a short look? Yes

*Q: He was one of these who were sort of demonized?*

LANE: We were not trying to make friends with him. If somebody doesn't want to be friends with you it is hard to make friends. We were not making friends with Evo Morales but we definitely knew he was and we knew who the coca growers were. We were looking at his doings. DEA people were working in the Andean countries often under the guise of State Department advisors. The State Department actually owned some airplanes that were used by the DEA to fly around and map the coca crops so that Bolivian government teams could go in and spray the crops to eradicate them. That was not very popular with the coca farmers. I spent a lot of effort s working on drug policies and was awarded a certificate and even got a meritorious step-increase.

Our Secretary of State, George Shultz, made a quick visit to Bolivia in the summer of 1988 to meet with President Paz Estenssoro. Drug control cooperation was in the agenda. What I do remember is that on the way down to La Paz from the airport dynamite was set off along the Shultz route. This created a kerfuffle in the Department, but Secretary Shultz, who had been a Marine in the South Pacific, was undeterred and calmly went ahead with his meetings. Back in Washington t-shirts were made for the Secretary and his entourage proclaiming "Bolivia is a Dynamite Place."

There was a very close election in Bolivia while I was desk officer. Bolivians have open, hotly contested elections. The result of this election was a three way split. The three were: on the right General Hugo Banzer, a former president from the Santa Cruz area, the lowland area, who had become president in a coup d'état back in the 1970's; Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, a center candidate who was a U.S. educated economist (The Bolivians thought he spoke Spanish with an American accent. Perhaps he did. But I couldn't tell because I speak Spanish with an American accent myself); and Jaime Paz Zamora, the candidate on the left. Nobody had a majority so it was going to be up to the Congress and the party leaderships to sort it out.

I remember coming back from a desk officer visit to Bolivia, I think on Eastern Airlines, when there was a mechanical problem with the plane and we had to land in Panama. At that time

Noriega was President of Panama and we had very tense relations with Panama. We passengers wondered how the Panamanians would handle our plane. There were a number of Bolivian politicians also on the flight. I had met a few of them on my visit. The Station Chief was on the flight and he looked concerned. The plane landed safely at the Panama City airport and we were bussed to a hotel on the outskirts of the city and given snacks and drinks and eventually put up for the night. The airline took good care of us and the Panamanian authorities did not bother us. While I was waiting around, I chatted with some of the Bolivians. It was interesting to watch the Bolivians, and see which politicians were talking to each other. There were Bolivian passengers from all three different political groups. I thought it curious that the Banzer supporters and the Paz Zamora supporters were talking to each other like good friends. Several weeks later when the Congress voted, the right and the left combined and Jaime Paz Zamora became the president-elect. Although we had quietly supported Sánchez de Lozada, the Bush administration (that was George H.W. Bush) decided we would do our best to have good relations with Paz. Shortly after he was elected, Paz was invited to Washington for an official visit. The Paz party stayed at Blair house. While they were there we negotiated some drug control agreements with the Bolivians. This was really an interesting time to be the desk officer. It was a good job.

What other high points? We sent a high level delegation to Paz inauguration. The delegation was chosen before we knew which candidate would be assuming the presidency. One of the Bush brothers was on the delegation. As to Paz and his selection by the Congress, one of the things that made possible this relationship between the right and the left was the fact that when Paz Zamora's father had been killed in a plane crash, Banzer had sent a personal condolence letter and came to Paz home to express condolences. Social niceties are important and the families knew each other.

As to the visit to Bolivia by the Secretary George Shultz and the dynamite incident, State Department security and the Bolivian police did a proper investigation of that.. It turned out that the bomb had been set by a bizarre right wing group of about half a dozen young university students. The investigation revealed that this small group had also been responsible for the assassination of two young US Mormon missionaries. The Bolivians had been truly perplexed by that. The Bolivians had nothing against Mormon missionaries. They thought they were nice young men with an odd ball and harmless religion. The Bolivian police are like the police in many countries. When a crime is committed they quickly catch a suspect and close the case. I don't remember all the ins and outs of this case, but I was impressed by the leaders of the Mormon Church and the way they quietly pushed the Department to get the Bolivian Government to carry out a proper investigation. They knew a lot about investigations. I later met Mormons who worked for the FBI overseas. Eventually after the Shultz incident perpetrators were apprehended.

*Q: How did it happen?*

LANE: The young Mormon Missionaries, had been walking down a street of in a residential neighborhood in La Paz and were shot and killed. The dynamite on the Shultz motorcade route, that was just a statement. Of course in Bolivia when dynamite goes off people start blaming miners. Investigation eventually linked the two incidents together. They were the work of a tiny group of student crazies that no one had ever paid attention to.

*Q: I have had stories earlier on men invading government places with sticks of dynamite stuck in their belts.*

LANE: Perhaps the stories had some basis in fact. Bolivia is a small country, but an interesting country politically and, as desk officer, I gained some insight into drugs and thugs. I remember trying to put together a schedule for the Paz Zamora visit. I tried to find some drug control programs in our country that he could visit. I asked my DEA contacts for a successful US domestic program that Paz could maybe visit. But no one could point me in the direction of a successful program. Our drug control people budgeted a lot of money for domestic programs but they didn't evaluate their programs. Nobody at DEA was willing to say such and such is a good program because it has accomplished these things. It was disheartening to get that insight into how money was being spent here. The programs were often well publicized when they were initiated, but nobody was evaluating the results.

The CIA also got involved in the War on Drugs. It produced a study on the Bolivian economy that showed how much the drug trade was contributing to Bolivia's GDP. The study purported to show that something like 88% of the Bolivian economy could be accounted for by the drug trade. That seemed off the wall to me. The drug trade was significant and growing but it could hardly be that much. I hadn't had time to read the study the day it reached my desk so I just read the executive summary and set it aside. Meanwhile, the Department had contracted a retired FSO, Sid Weintraub, to do a study of the Bolivian economy. Sid had been Larry's boss in Chile and after he retired went to the University of Texas and became head of the LBJ school there. When the State Department contracts a big name to work in Washington on a special project, the Department often doesn't have an empty office to assign the fellow to. The contractor often has to look around and find an empty desk. Sid was doing that and recognized me. There was an empty chair in my office and I was happy to offer it to an illustrious former colleague. I showed him the hot-off-the-press study from the CIA. He picked it up and looked at it for five minutes. He said, "Helen you know what they have done here? They have taken the value of the cocoa leaf and then added to that the sales price of the paste and so on with each of the several steps in producing cocaine. In each case they had added the full price. To compute the contribution of the industry to the economy, you just add the value added by each step, not whole price. That's how they came up with this goofy number. Nobody at the CIA who vetted the report had been smart enough to spot this ludicrous error. Yet it was beautifully published in a nice little booklet with an executive summary and distributed to people with clearances throughout the U.S. government. This incident served to increase my skepticism about intelligence reports.

*Q: Well, I hope the report had only a minor effect on policy.. Or maybe not. That is the awful thing.*

LANE: It was not the first time I had spotted something goofy in an important looking document. Back when I was the junior officer on the Mexico desk, I was given a lengthy Inter American Development Bank document for a project in Mexico to read. The economic officer should have read it, but for some reason handed it down to me to do. As I started through it I thought it was bizarre. It proposed to improve the distribution of milk in Mexico City by getting rid of tubercular cows and replacing them with new cows. But the convoluted way this would be

done did not make sense to me. I wrote a short note to my boss, John Dreyfus, pointing out some of the oddities and suggested that he might not want to give the desk's clearance to the project. It was unheard of for the desk not to endorse an IDB project in their country, a proposal by a renowned international financial institution. John looked at it and agreed that it was pretty bizarre. So we told the Economic Bureau (EB) that the desk did not recommend that the US approve the project. EB then took a look at the project and agreed and the U.S. opposed this project at the Inter-American Development Bank. That should have been the end of it. However, the President of Mexico was Luis Echeverria, and the project had been developed by his son. The motivation behind the project was to give the Echeverria family control of the distribution of milk in Mexico City. Ambassador Jova was soon called in by President Echeverria and received a scolding. The project served to make me wary of development bank projects.

But being a desk officer was fun. I got to meet and work with people from many different U.S. agencies. I would highly recommend desk officer jobs. Although don't take one unless you are able and willing to often work more than 40 hours a week. If your country is place where things are happening you are going to work long hours. But it is interesting work. One of the problems with the State Department is that office staffing often doesn't reflect workloads. But in our ever changing world, workloads shift. and I am not sure that State's ponderous personnel system could be changed to reflect that. If one could run the State Department like a department store, there would be a flying squad. When there is a big sale in one department you assign people there from your flying squad. The Department could try something like that. If the concept of being kinder to families is to have meaning, steps should be taken so staff does not have to work crazy hours. I was fortunate personally in that I had a good housekeeper, so if I was late the meals would be on the table. Somebody would be running the house and keeping an eye on the kids. So I was fortunate.

*Q: Well then did we see Bolivia moving towards the right direction or what we considered the right direction?*

LANE: That is a very good question. When Paz Zamora came to Washington Jim Baker was Secretary of State. We had to put together briefing papers on our issues with Bolivia, which gets a desk officer involved with other offices in the Department. You get to prepare the briefing Half a dozen people up the line are going to vet the paper, but you get the first crack at it. The paper I put together was on the balance positive. Ambassador Gelbard arrived in Washington the day before the meeting. He read the paper and said it was much too positive. He did not like it, but I told him I thought the paper reflected Embassy reporting. Ambassador Gelbard then arranged to ride in the car with Secretary Baker when they went to the White House for the meeting of President Bush and President Paz Zamora. I think Baker got the idea that things were going generally positively in Bolivia although there was plenty that we should keep our eye on. But that is the way it was with Bolivia.

*Q: Then what for you?*

LANE: Then after that assignment I went on an out of cone assignment to the Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science. The job was in the Office of Science and Advanced Technology. That office is responsible for getting inter-agency and Department clearance on international science

projects. The biggest project going on at the time which was the International Space Station. It was interesting working with NASA and seeing how NASA operates. The other big project was the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) to investigate atomic particle physics. This was going to be built in Texas. A clever thing that NASA does to enhance its budget requests with Congress is to have pieces of different projects taking place in different states. For example, Barbara Mikulski from Maryland strongly defends NASA because NASA has a center in Maryland. NASA has projects in Texas and Virginia and Florida. So NASA has a base of support on the Hill for big expensive multi-state projects. When a project that is based in only one state, it is harder to get support on the hill. For the Superconducting Super Collider, the lead agency was the Department of Energy and the project would have been built in Texas. The SSC was far more interesting than anything that had ever been done on the Space Station. When the SSC project was abandoned in 1993, cutting edge particle physics research moved to Europe. Such research now centers around CERN's Large Hadron Collider located near Geneva, Switzerland. The Space Station was an important project and I suppose it enhanced U.S. Soviet cooperation and cooperation with other countries that contributed bits and pieces to the project, but it hasn't done great cutting edge science. Today the satellite exploration of outer space is pushing the frontiers of human knowledge at much less expense than putting humans in low earth orbit. People belong on Earth. We can do science in outer space but it is best done by instruments. Now that we are so good at miniaturizing, we can do really interesting deep space science. I was disappointed to see we didn't get the SSC built in Texas. I would like to see the USA play a bigger role in international science activities.

*Q: Any particular area you were concentrated on in OES/SAT?*

LANE: In addition to the big projects, there were some smaller ones. One came about because Vice President Quayle was going to make a visit to South America and he wanted something significant to do in Argentina. Our office director thought maybe NASA could come up with some space science projects to do with Argentina and maybe we could put together an agreement for Vice President Quayle to sign with an Argentine counterpart. NASA came up with some nice sounding projects and I was asked draft of an agreement. I looked at some other bi-lateral science agreements and recast one of them for space cooperation with Argentina. Then I had to take it to L, the legal office, for approval. My contact in L laughed and asked why we needed to get Argentina involved in this kind of science. I said, "That is not the point. Vice President Quayle needs something to sign in Argentina." So the agreement was put together and the Argentines liked it, and so did the Vice President's office. Cooperative projects went forward under that agreement. In a future assignment (my last assignment in Washington was also in OES) I went to Buenos Aires to attend a conference where NASA and Argentine counterparts were discussing the results of the agreement and exploring further cooperation.

*Q: How did you find your office? Was it really a different group think?*

LANE: It was different. Before I had worked in a regional bureaus and had the impression that the functional bureaus were less interesting. But issues we dealt with in OES were interesting and often of major importance. I was in the job for two years. When I was up for reassignment after two years I thought I would try for an overseas job, perhaps in Europe. Larry had retired by then so I didn't need to look for a tandem assignment. I thought that would be wonderful to go to

Athens where the Economic Counselor job would be open. When I asked desk officer for Greece whether I had a chance of getting that job, he told me I was number two on a long list of bidders. I asked him, "Who is number one?" Number one was a Greek-speaking economic cone officer, a Greek-American. I don't speak Greek so I decided not think any more about Athens. I decided to extend for another year in OES/SAT.

I was in an elevator one afternoon, just by happenstance with our Deputy Assistant Secretary and heard him say to somebody else, "Bob Morris did not get his promotion. He is going to have to retire, and now we are going to have to fill the job in Madrid. We don't have a candidate, there is nobody good left to send to Madrid and there are science agreements that needed to be completed with the Spanish." I said, "I would love to go back to Madrid." I was just remembering how much I enjoyed Madrid and thought nothing more of it. But the next day my superiors came into my office in the morning and asked me if I really wanted to go back to Madrid. I said, "Yes." So I went back to Madrid as Science Counselor.

*Q: This is how things have changed. This was done in an elevator. In my early interviews with people like Laurie Henderson and some of the big wheels people would say I was there and I was standing at the urinal next to so and so. They would say where are you off to? I would say such and such a place. They would say you don't want to go there. I have got a better job for you. But now it has moved to the unisex elevator.*

LANE: Be that as it may, wasn't I was lucky to get another assignment to Madrid. I went back to Madrid in '92.

*Q: You were there how long?*

LANE: I was there four years.

*Q: What was your job?*

LANE: I was Science Counselor. The Science Counselor's office worked through the Economic Section of the Embassy. An FSO friend told me before I went back to Madrid that I would have to work for Emil Castro who was a difficult person. It did turn out to be an odd section. I had never been in a section where the senior officer tried to undercut everyone in his section. In the Foreign Service it is usually the reverse; the boss tries to help his staff succeed. But I must say that we bonded together as a section because we all disliked our boss.

*Q: This was Emil Castro.*

LANE: Emil Castro.

*Q: What was his background?*

LANE: He was an economic officer. He had a nice wife who was Spanish from Barcelona. Emil grew up in Brooklyn. His people were of Spanish descent from Galicia in northwestern Spain. But in any case, the DCM was sympathetic and savvy. I got along well with the DCM.

*Q: Who was that?*

LANE: Dave Greenlee was the DCM during the first part of my tour there. David had been the DCM in Bolivia when I was the desk officer. Near the end of my tour Dave was replaced by Larry Rossin.

*Q: David was Mr. Bolivia. He was in Peace Corps in Bolivia, married a Bolivian, was a political officer in Bolivia, DCM there, and eventually ambassador.*

LANE: He was ambassador, also to Paraguay?

*Q: I have done a long interview with David.*

LANE: Eventually Emil Castro retired. Once he asked to extend for a year and his extension was granted. My colleagues and I had expected that the DCM and the ambassador aren't going to allow this, but they did. Then eventually he retired and we were all very happy. So who replaced him? The Ambassador combined the Economic and Political Sections and the head of section became Harry Jones. Harry had been the head of the Consular Section. The Ambassador recognized that he was a much better officer than either Castro or Richard Ogden the former head of the Political Section, so he gave him the job. At that time Personnel in the Department was trying to cut some of the "fat in Europe" and the Ambassador obliged by cutting a section chief.

*Q: Who was Ambassador?*

LANE: At that time it was Richard Gardner, an excellent ambassador. When I started my second tour in Madrid, it was near the end of the George H. W. Bush Administration. Bush had named a new ambassador, Richard Capen, who was the publisher of the Miami Herald. Capen was personable, but didn't know a lot about Spain or the needs and ways of the State Department. One of the things he tried to do was visit all of the provincial capitals of Spain, which is not where things happened that are of interest to the State Department. Capen was a born-again Christian and opened his first staff meeting with a prayer. After the meeting, Dave Greenlee advised him gently that prayer was not the appropriate way to begin a staff meeting and there were no more prayers at staff meetings.

When Clinton took office in 1993, he named Richard Gardner as Ambassador to Spain. I think Gardner probably was hoping for something bigger. He had been Ambassador to Italy and a Deputy Assistant Secretary for IO (the bureau for international affairs including the United Nations) back in the Kennedy administration. He had done a lot of big donation bundling for the Clintons during the 1992 campaign. He was close to Vice President Al Gore and very interested in environmental issues and trying to sense how countries could work together to mitigate global warming. The Spanish were interested in that too. Gardner often spoke at universities and science gatherings about climate change. He had me draft his speeches, which was fun. He was an easy person to write speeches for because he would outline the points he wished to make. He might also suggest a quote to use to close the speech. So I had an outline to for my draft. I would

draft a speech, he would make some changes and off it would go to the translator. My colleagues in the Embassy USIS section were not too happy that they didn't get to write the speech because they see speech writing as their role.

A lawyer and a professor of International Law at Columbia, Gardner also had a doctorate in economics. Every year he attended the international economic and business gathering in Davos, Switzerland which draws movers and shakers from both government and the private sector worldwide. When he returned to Madrid he would give a talk about the meeting to the Embassy staff, including the FSNs, to those who were interested. Nobody was required to go, but his talks were insightful and went well beyond press coverage. He would sometimes invite people he saw as up and coming political leaders of Spain to give talks. He would ask questions, a little like the way Charlie Rose does an interview. He called it a tertulia -- the Spanish word for get-togethers among friends over wine or tapas where the conversation is what matters. One evening he invited a group of us to the Embassy to meet the eminent English historian Hugh Thomas, who has written a number of books about Spain. Gardner had an easy relationship with the embassy staff. He came to Spain not speaking Spanish but he learned to speak Spanish well. It is not easy to learn to speak a foreign language when you are adult, for a senior adult it is amazing. He had Italian, but he was also had the intellectual ability to focus and learn to speak a new foreign language.

*Q: That is amazing. On the social, was Daniele a problem or not?*

LANE: Oh no, Daniela was not a problem. I have heard that her behavior was, shall we say flamboyant, when she was younger in Italy. But most of us kind of mellow out as the years pass. One of Daniela's best friends is Madeleine Albright. So here is Richard Gardner working for Daniela's friend Madeleine who became our Secretary of State. (Albright replaced Warren Christopher who was not a strong public presence as Secretary. I am sure he is a great lawyer, but James Baker is a better one, as we later found out in 2000 when we had a disputed Presidential election. Madeleine Albright could go on the evening news and explain US foreign policy without putting people to sleep. Anyway Daniela and Madeleine Albright were close friends.) So Gardner was well plugged in to the key people at State. He would try to get people like Richard Holbrooke or Tom Pickering to come to Madrid on one pretense or another. He was a very good ambassador to work for and with.

What else was I doing as a science counselor? All sorts of things. First of all there was climate change. Next was probably fisheries issues. Spain is a fisheries power. We are also a fisheries power and a big consumer of canned tuna. Agreements have to be reached between countries to place limits on catch levels in order to conserve certain kind of fisheries. That is one of the lesser known areas of the State Department that would be an interesting area to work in. Roz Ridgeway was sort of Miss Fisheries for a long time. I was still doing things for NASA because whenever there was a space shuttle launch, emergency landing sites had to be alerted, in case an emergency landing was required. There were two emergency landing sites in Spain, so whenever there was a shuttle launch I had go to the Embassy to be on the phone just in case. When the Space shuttle comes down, it just comes down. It can't maneuver much. It is a big heavy glider, not an aircraft.

*Q: As when one blew up in space or something like that.*

LANE: One blew up over East Texas as it was descending. We lost one earlier, too, in the late 1980's that the one that blew up shortly after launch.

*Q: During the Reagan administration.*

LANE: One of the things I got to do before I went to Madrid was attend the launch of the Challenger, the last of our space shuttles. The launch at Cape Canaveral was impressive. I understand though that when we were doing the launches to the moon and the space craft had to get beyond the earth's gravitational pull, the rockets were much larger. The Saturn rockets were tremendous. I wish I had seen one of those launches.

*Q: How does Spain do in the scientific world?*

LANE: Interesting things were happening in biotechnology and medicine. One of the areas where I felt I should do more reporting was biotechnology which is cutting edge stuff. But I had no background in biology. But one summer we got a list of college students who were seeking internships. There was an applicant from Harvard who had majored in bioscience, but had also been the head of the Harvard undergraduate international affairs magazine. I thought that was an interesting combination. So we asked for him and got him and he was excellent. He also had some Spanish. He had taken Spanish in high school but had grown up in Florida and had a good ear. I took him to one meeting with a Spanish interlocutor and then together we discussed the conversation and together wrote the cable about the meeting. After that he was able to work on his own and do reporting on what the Spaniards were doing in the biotechnology field. That fall he went to Harvard Med School. The summer before he had been an intern at NIH.

*Q: The National Institutes of Health.*

LANE: As Embassy Science Counselor I received Science magazine. It is a great magazine but at \$200 per year I don't subscribe on my own. One of the significant projects Science magazine reviewed dealt with what a certain protein does inside a cell, my intern had been not just one of the scientists contributing to the project, his name was first on the list of contributing scientists. I have lost track of him now. He wrote to me for a year or two. He said the first year of medical school was an absolute waste of time. One of the things we could do to make our medical education less expensive is eliminate the first year of medical school because it is just going over stuff the students should already know. U.S. medical school is very expensive. My intern's father was an immigration attorney from Miami could afford to send his son to medical school. In no other country is medical school as expensive as it is here.

Spain also has a number of atomic energy plants. The US Atomic Energy Commission made an inspection visit while I was there. I advanced the visit for the inspectors and went with them to visiting a Spanish plant. I think Spain's use of atomic energy is about the same level as ours as a percentage of contribution to the national energy grid. Atomic energy was an interesting area to learn about. France is, I think, the country that makes the greatest use of atomic energy.

In advancing U.S. ideas on climate change in an EU country an Embassy Science Counselor doesn't have as much impact as in a non-EU country because many decisions are ultimately made in Brussels. However, today the EU is more advanced than we are in efforts to mitigate climate change.

We had a science agreement with Spain that for various reasons we had not been able to conclude. It dated back to an agreement made with for various kinds of cooperation that was part of the agreement for the use of Torrejón Air Force Base. We had for years held off finalizing this agreement and we had been trying to use it for leverage rather than conclude it. I was rather pleased I was able to conclude it. My interlocutor in the Foreign Ministry was very able and I really enjoyed working with him. He died not long before I left Spain, a victim of AIDS. I was sad that he wouldn't be around to see the agreement bear fruit.

There were various bits and pieces about which I made demarches. One was the International Whaling Agreement. I had fun with that. We wanted to get an exception made. As a signatory to the agreement we were not allowed to harvest whales. However, one of our Indian tribes in northwest Washington state wanted to harvest one whale a year for cultural reasons. I had never heard of the tribe. My friend Sue Tanequoot, a native American who was a secretary at the Embassy hadn't heard of them either but she had a book about US tribes and looked them up. They were the Makah Tribe a small tribe. Sue was a Kiowa, a much bigger and more important tribe. I remember going to make my demarche to the head of the Spanish office of fisheries. He listened politely. He had been educated in England and spoke English more eloquently than you or I. I made my demarche and he said, "Helen, we have native people in Spain who used to harvest whales, the Basques. When we joined the EU we had to give up our whalers, and that was not easy." I laughed and reported this, but the Spanish did support our request to the International Whaling Commission for an exception to allow us to harvest just one whale. Norwegians and Icelanders and Japanese are still harvesting whales. After I retired Larry and I visited Northwest Washington State and included the nice little Makah Museum in our itinerary.

*Q: One thing that people really forget is that Spain is a real fishing power. I mean it goes way back.*

LANE: It does go way back. The largest fisheries wholesale market in Europe is in Madrid. The Spanish fisheries people were very admiring of the wholesale fish market in Tokyo. I remember them telling me it was incredible. It doesn't even smell fishy. The one in Madrid did smell fishy. It didn't smell bad, but it did smell fishy. But the Spanish eat a lot of fish and prepare fish well. If you go to a good fish restaurant in Madrid you first look at the fresh fish on display and choose your fish before they prepare it for you. I enjoy good fish. I was glad my mother taught me how to bone a fish. That was something my mother thought children should learn to do. My younger brother and I caught fish when we were kids.

*Q: Did you find that being, you had obviously a pretty full agenda. I mean Clinton's Vice President Gore....*

LANE: Vice President Gore's daughters spent summers in Spain when I was there. The Gardners kept their presence very quiet. One of them was interning at El Pais, Spain's most important newspaper.

*Q: But I would think you would have more pressure than in most regimes on scientific matters in Spain than you might expect. It must have gotten crosswise with the political section from time to time.*

LANE: Not really. The political section was interested in party politics and I don't remember getting crosswise with them. They were traditional in their outlook. Before I left Ambassador Gardner shook things up and moved the Consul, Harry Jones, to be head of a joint political/economic section. Harry wrote well and had written mystery stories, set in the different countries where he worked. The ambassador liked that and Harry wrote quickly and well. What else did I do? One of the things that was interesting was being the Embassy AFSA rep. The Medical Office at State was being downsized during this time. Un-named Washington experts decided that most medical issues could be handled posts. I decided we should raise the red flag about that, not because they didn't have good medical services in Spain. We had an Embassy nurse and an excellent Spanish doctor who had hours at the Embassy several times a week. But thinking about posts in Africa and the real medical hardships faced there, I send a query off to Washington raising questions. Med in Washington took alarm at Embassy Madrid's questions and sent a team of people to Madrid to talk to us. I thought afterwards, I should have sent that cable to all posts instead of just to Washington.

*Q: How did you find social life?*

LANE: In Spain? It was different because I was back in Spain as kind of a single officer. I am the officer, and my dependent husband came half of the time, so I was learning a new game. When Larry was there, we would usually do something special on weekends. There were always plenty of opportunities to get out and see interesting places in Spain. Like most European countries Spain has a really deep history and a lot of interesting stuff to just go and look at. So I had to learn and plan what I was going to do on the weekends when I was by myself. I even took up bridge playing. We had an officer who had taught at the Goren school at one point in his life, and he was giving bridge lessons so I refreshed my bridge playing. I have always been interested in bird watching. So I found fellow birdwatchers, Spanish birdwatchers so I learned something about European birds. I went to concerts, I started going to National Symphony Orchestra of Madrid concerts. I think I got my travel voucher paid just as they started selling the season tickets for the symphony orchestra so I got two nice seats to the concerts. I had a ticket for Larry when Larry was there half the time. When he was away I would invite a single friend to go with me, and that was a nice way to get to know the Embassy singles better. So I became interested in the Spanish musical scene. What else did we do in Spain? One of the things that you do more in Spain that works better for socializing is you don't do cocktail parties. That seems to always be the classic old Foreign Service way. It was better to take your contacts to lunch. Dinner is so late in Spain you are not going to sit down with your contacts for dinner at eleven pm. You might meet contacts for a drink after work occasionally, but really the best thing to do was to take people to lunch, and there were many great places to have lunch in Madrid.

*Q: Is there anything else you can think of about Spain?*

LANE: Oh I can always...

*Q: You can fill it in later. Then what happened?*

LANE: Well my tour was up and Larry was retired by then so I asked for a Washington assignment. I was assigned as the deputy director of an office in OES. It was getting late in the Clinton Administration. Our Assistant Secretary thought it would be a good idea to downsize the hard science side of OES and build up the environmental side as though that would somehow make some difference in how we did internationally in negotiating agreements, which is not where the problem was. The problem was in selling the agreements back here in the US. So although we had all these science agreements that were negotiated we couldn't sell them to the Senate. It was not really the State Department's business to do that. That was too bad. Our grandchildren may pay the price for that if they choose to live near the sea. Environmental changes continue to occur.

But I was in an office that was doing more hard science. We followed the workings of the International Energy Agency, which you would have thought that EB would have done, but for some reason OES had always done that, so I attended meetings of the International Energy Agency in Paris. They had a big meeting about twice a year. It is always nice to go to Paris and the meetings were very interesting meetings. The IEA is a branch of the OECD and the countries going to those meetings were the developed countries that were energy producers. Mexico was considered a developed country in that sense. IEA follows the production and pricing of energy and also encourages alternate energy. Getting together to find out what other countries were doing was interesting.

I also attended some meetings in Brussels of a EU-U.S. science committee. Those meetings were also interesting. We were trying to get the EU and the American counterparts to do more science cooperation with the new members of the EU. That initiative was not popular in the U.S. science community. U.S. scientists would rather look for government funding for projects they are currently working on rather than finding something to do with Poles or Czechs for example. We were trying to push the National Science Foundation and other science entities here and also push the other NATO members.

What else did I do in OES? We have science agreements with various countries. I remember my Office Director at the time was Ellen Shippy, a friend I had made back when she was a junior officer and I was a wife in Guatemala. We were trying to decide who was going to go to different meetings. We had to decide who was going to go to Kazakhstan and who was going to go to Israel. Kazakhstan would have been very interesting but I opted for Israel and I went to a meeting in Jerusalem. The Israelis like to have their meetings in Jerusalem rather than Tel Aviv. It was quite an interesting meeting with the Israelis. We were pushing the Israelis to change what was being done under an agreement that had been in effect for years probably going back to the Truman or Eisenhower days to foster cooperation between American scientists and Israeli scientists. But by 1997, a lot of science cooperation was taking place outside the agreement and the agreement no longer seemed that necessary. The Department thought that perhaps we could

use this agreement to encourage U.S.-Israeli cooperation with third countries such as Jordan. That was not going to be popular with U.S. companies that were doing science or with the Israelis, but if the U.S. government side can get its act together and agree, State, Treasury, and the National Institute of Science and Technology we can get things done. The first step though is to be in basic inter-agency agreement. So we met with the Israelis and they were quite unhappy but it was our money and they had to take it or leave it. We got the agreement changed and then they started doing some projects with Jordan which somebody told me later it seemed to be bearing fruit. So that was a nice thing to be involved in. It was for me a chance to visit Jerusalem. I had never been to Israel. We had three people on the delegation: treasury, a fellow from the National Institute of Science and technology who really knew the program well and knew the history of it, and somebody from treasury. He also knew Jerusalem well. He was Jewish and his daughter lived in West Jerusalem. So he was great showing us around. This was before they started building these ugly walls all over the place. I am glad I had the opportunity to be there in that important corner of the world. That was probably the last official trips that I made. Then I, in the beginning of '98, Larry was already retired. We had twin grandsons in Florida, and I sat down at the computer and figured out, by that time I had 25 years plus of service, to see how much is it going to cost me if I retire now. What are my expenses going to be as a retired person compared with my expenses of having to work? It turned out there wasn't much difference. So I retired and Larry and I were able to spend a month or two each year down in Florida watching our grandsons grow up and doing some traveling we wanted to do. I am proud that I was a Foreign Service Officer but am glad I retired when I did. Especially since as the years past Larry started developing signs of dementia and if I had waited I would have just missed out on many high quality pieces of married life.

*Q: This is beyond the Foreign Service but I am trying to get a full picture. How did you find Larry's dementia?*

LANE: I guess you don't notice the first signs, but there was a period of when we would be planning vacations and I would be taking the initiative rather than Larry, but I didn't associate that with dementia. He had always been full of ideas about where we should go and what we should see. I think the time that I really became worried was maybe ten years ago. He said to me, "I wonder how Don Womack is doing?" Don Womack was his brother-in-law. The week before he had sent the flowers to Don Womack's funeral. He had forgotten that Don had died. Don was not a casual acquaintance; he was somebody that he knew well for many years, not just as a brother-in-law but as a friend. That told me his mind was seriously failing. Once he had gone out to buy flowers for me for Valentine's Day or for my birthday and he didn't come back for several hours. I called my son and said, "Joel, Dad has been out for several hours and he isn't back yet." "Well he is probably just blundering around in North Arlington," he said. "The streets aren't easy to find. Let's wait an hour and then notify the police." Well in a few minutes I heard the car come down the drive way. He had just lost his way and was trying to find his way home. I think about that time we started talking about his having trouble remembering things. "Really the next time we go to see Dr. Rubin, I think you should mention that" and he did. The doctor thought he had definite signs of dementia. Larry's father had dementia and died in his late 70's, so Larry has outlived his father. But the thing that I think was helpful for me, as a spouse, is that Larry didn't deny that he had a problem. Many people with dementia deny they had a problem. But Larry didn't do that, which made the situation easier to manage. He was still driving. He was

a good driver but at intersections he couldn't remember which way to go. I had to tell him whether to make a right here or make a left here. Finally I said, "Larry it would be easier if I just drove instead of telling you where to go. He said, "You are right." That supposedly difficult issue was thus resolved. If we were traveling I had to be sure that he got back on the boat on time and things like that. It got to the point that with traveling just to New York for a long weekend he didn't really pack a suitcase very well. This is somebody who had been in the Foreign Service and traveled over the world. He would forget to put his socks and underwear in his suitcase. Of course in New York you can go out and buy socks and underwear. That was not a major issue. But it was just a gradual thing. I was fortunate that our younger son came to live in the basement apartment in our house. As Larry became less able to do things like yard work and chores around the house, our son stepped in and took over a lot of those chores. In more recent years and in talking to friends who had similar problems with their parents they said, "It is a good thing if you are going to move into a retirement community, to move before the last minute, to make the choice yourself. You are making the choice. Your spouse knows where the place is and what is going on. So that is what we decided to do. We looked at a few places. I wanted to downsize anyway. We had a house with a big attic full of stuff and a basement store room. Our four children, when they didn't have space for items in their apartments, would stash whatever in mom and dad's basement. I wanted to clear the clutter. So we decided to move to Goodwin House, and I think it was a good choice.

*Q: As we are speaking both my wife and Larry are on the dementia floor of Goodwin House and here we are doing this. This is a very difficult time. Thank God we moved here. We have been here 3 ½ years. We had already made our move before I noticed the problem, so we were well suited here.*

*I want to point out the way we will work this; you will get in a couple of months a copy of this. We urge you not only to do the normal editing, you can edit anyway you want. But also if there is anything you would like to put in to add.*

LANE: Okay.

*Q: Thank you very much.*

*End of interview*