Oral History of

TRUDY CHRISTINE WOOD

Interview conducted by Laura Harkewicz

21 February 2007

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ABSTRACT: Trudy Wood was interviewed at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography on February 21, 2007 by Laura Harkewicz, oral historian for the Scripps Archives. Wood was born in 1944 in Long Beach, California. She received her BS degree in biological sciences from the University of California, Davis in 1969. She worked at a variety of jobs after college and came to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1971 when she was hired as a laboratory assistant II at the Deep Sea Drilling Program (DSDP), assigned to work as paleontological preparation technician on D/V *Glomar Challenger* beginning with Leg 17 of its drilling cruises. She made thirteen cruises on the drilling vessel and visited forty-eight countries between 1971 and 1987. She was promoted to staff research associate and spent her entire career at Scripps alternately serving on the drilling ship and working with curators at the shore facility at La Jolla. She worked at various laboratories on D/V *Glomar Challenger*, first in the Paleo Lab, but later as a marine technician with wider responsibilities for scientific work aboard the vessel. Wood discussed her recruitment at Scripps, shipboard routine, her interaction with crew, scientists and technicians on the ship and at the core locker at DSDP. She discussed her position on the ship and her experiences as a woman on a vessel operated largely by men. She describes the challenging events of Leg 36 when the drill string was lost and the ship boarded by Argentine officers. Wood left Scripps in 1987 when the drilling program was transferred to Texas A&M University and she took a position with the Air Pollution Control District monitoring air pollution in San Diego.

INTERVIEW HISTORY: Scripps Archives oral historian Laura Harkewicz interviewed Trudy Wood in the library of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California on February 21, 2007. The interview is two hours and sixteen minutes in length.

Deborah Day
Archivist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
April 2, 2008

Trudy Wood using the seismic profile recorder in the electronics laboratory aboard D/V *Glomar Challenger*, 1971. Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives, UC San Diego Libraries.

Harkewicz: This is February 21, 2007. This is Laura Harkewicz. I'm in my office at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library and I'm talking with Miss Trudy Wood from the Deep Sea Drilling Project. Good afternoon, Miss Wood.

Wood: Good afternoon, Laura.

Harkewicz: And thank you for agreeing to participate in this program, or project, shall I say. Before we get started here, because as I had mentioned to you earlier, we have virtually no information available on you, I would like to ask you for your date of birth and your place of birth so that I can have that for our records.

Wood: I was born in 1944 in Long Beach, California.

Harkewicz: I'm going to jump right in here and if you want to back up or fly forward, that's up to you. We'll go where we go. What I want to ask you, as I ask most people, is how you came into a career in oceanography?

Wood: I came several years after college, in 1971, when I arrived here at Scripps, and getting to that point I had spent my four years of college work at UC Davis getting a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences. And within that degree, I studied just about every kind of natural science there was, and among them were geology, and oceanography, and a little bit of everything. And towards the later years in college I started working for a biochemistry professor and ended up working for him for three years after I graduated.[1] So I was sort of tracking down the road of working in laboratories of one sort or another. And after I left Davis in 1969 I sort of took a break from the academic world, and at a time when my family needed some help up in some businesses in Carson City, Nevada. So I relocated there for a couple of years. I kind of had a fun time up in the mountains working at a ski area and a casino, and really a different . . . *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: That sounds like a change. *[Laugh]*

Wood: A different venue. And after that I thought I was going to be traveling to Alaska, and that didn't work out and I instead headed south until I ran out of US territory and that was San Diego. And I knew of one nice fellow, and his wife, that I had worked with. He was a postdoctoral fellow at UC Davis in our biochemistry lab, and they let me stay with them here for a few days. And I went roaming around San Diego and immediately migrated to Scripps, just because of its reputation in the world as a renowned oceanographic institution. And literally was sort of roaming through the halls looking at bulletin boards of listings, and thinking, "Where might I find a job?" A very nice lady stopped and asked if I needed help and she sent me down to talk to Dave Wirth,[2] who was the head of all the

[1] Dr. Charles Remington Goldman (1930-) taught the oceanography class that Trudy Wood attended at the University of California, Davis.

[2] Austrian born David Wirth came to Scripps in 1963 after service in the US Marine Corps and worked as a marine technician in the Marine Life Research Group and then managed student laboratories until January 1968 when

technical staff at Scripps. And he was very, very nice to speak to me just off the, wandering in off the street. *[Laugh]* And he thought it was kind of interesting I had a biology degree, but the job that came to mind was one that was available in Deep Sea Drilling. So he called a couple of people and said, "Yes, they'd like to talk to you." So I walked up the hill to talk to people in Deep Sea Drilling.

Harkewicz: All in the same day?

Wood: All in the same day. And they interviewed me on the spot. *[Laugh]* So, this was at a time where things like that could happen, it's very unlikely that would happen that way anymore. But in fact there were three of us, I think, hired at that same time, very much *[laugh]* the same sort of story. They needed staff for the upcoming cruise that was coming into Hawaii.

Harkewicz: Now this, you said, was 1969?

Wood: 1971.

Harkewicz: Okay. And the program started in 1968, I believe, or something like that?

Wood: Sixty-eight, or '69. Yes.

Harkewicz: So they were trying to build up personnel, then, for the program?

Wood: Well, I discovered it was going to be for Leg 17, and when I started, and I thought, "This is a very interesting program." And I thought, "Gee, maybe I've missed most of it." Because they were doing the project in chunks of time on their budget cycle. So I didn't know if I was near the end of it or near the beginning of it, *[laugh]* but we did go on for, let's see, ninety-six legs.

Harkewicz: Legs?

Wood: Yeah.

Harkewicz: So wasn't it something like two weeks after you were hired you went out on your first?

Wood: Oh, it was days.

Harkewicz: Days? Okay.

Wood: My recollection is I came here to Scripps looking around, ended up talking to Dave Wirth, who sent me up the hill to talk to the Deep Sea Drilling people, and

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Melvin Peterson asked him to work as a logistics officer on the Deep Sea Drilling Project. He continued to work for Scripps in various capacities until his retirement in 1995.

that was Bob Gilkey[3] and Ted Gustafson,[4] better known as "Gus." Everybody knew Gus. And they were the ones that interviewed me and found that I'd had lab experience. They said, "Have you ever been to sea on a ship?" And I said, "Well, I worked on a sailing boat across the Mediterranean one time, a few years before." So I thought, "Well, there's my ocean experience." And so I grew up on cattle ranches and worked in very male-dominated worlds. So that part of it wasn't new to me, either. And they said, "Well, would you go to sea and work on a drilling ship?" And I said, "Sure." *[Laugh]* And so that was a Wednesday when I went through that interview. They checked my references and I think the next day or a day later they called and said, "We want you to go to work. Can you be ready to fly on Monday?" So it was days. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: And you hadn't even seen the ship or anything beforehand?

Wood: No. I had heard of it, but I had never seen it in person. *[Laugh]* That was . . .

Harkewicz: Oh, my gosh. I can't imagine that. Did you really know what you were getting yourself into?

Wood: No. Not at all, really. That was the other interesting part of it. And I told them, I said, "Well, I was a little concerned that I . . ." They said they needed help working with the paleontologists, assisting them. And I told them I hadn't directly done that type of work. And they said, "Oh, you've worked in labs and the scientists that are onboard, they'll tell you what they need. And the other person coming in on the incoming cruise will show you around." They said, "It won't be any problem." So that thought really crossed my mind, especially in Hawaii when I saw that big, what was looking like a pretty rusty looking drilling ship coming in. I said, "What have I gotten myself into?" *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: So, how long was that first, that first trip that you went on?

Wood: Two months. As . . .

Harkewicz: And you knew that before you signed on, then?

Wood: Oh yes. Yeah. And that was, their routine cruise was about eight weeks. So they'd fly you to a port, make all the changes, get the staff on and off, put new scientists onboard, and then off you went for another two-month cruise. So it was two months on the ship, and then potentially two months back here at La Jolla working here.

Harkewicz: So I want to understand a little bit better about this process. First of all, where is it, you flew to Hawaii. So where was your first trip to, then, or in that area? Where did you go to?

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[3] Robert W. Gilkey, laboratory technician in Deep Sea Drilling.
[4] Ted B. Gustafson, marine technician in Deep Sea Drilling.

Wood: The Leg 17 cruise was south of Hawaii. So when we departed there we pretty much sailed south, I believe. I don't recall exactly how far south, but it was on the neighborhood of probably sailing for a week or so, *[laugh]* at least several days. And for every cruise they had all their sites mapped out as to where they wanted to drill. So we drilled sort of a big circle route down south, southwest of Hawaii, and working on whatever their specific scientific targets were.

Harkewicz: Okay. Did you make port anywhere else other than Hawaii, then?

Wood: No. No. They . . .

Harkewicz: So you started in Hawaii and ended up back in Hawaii?

Wood: On that particular cruise it was Honolulu to Honolulu. But very often you would leave from one port and go somewhere in the ocean you were in and drill for the two months and end up in another port. That was very common, too.

Harkewicz: And then you would fly back to Scripps? Is that . . .

Wood: Right.

Harkewicz: Okay.

Wood: Or in some cases, if you had time off or could take time off, traveling was another wonderful side benefit.

Harkewicz: Yeah. I wanted to talk to you about that but I didn't want to get quite there yet.

Wood: After the second cruise is a good time for that one. *[Laughter]*

Harkewicz: Yeah. Why do you say that? Did you need a break after that? Or . . .

Wood: No, that was when I was able to get off the ship in Japan and then we got to explore Japan and then go across Russia on the train.

Harkewicz: Oh, my.

Wood: And took the long way around the Earth to get back to La Jolla. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: That sounds interesting. So tell me a little bit about the, you know, that leg or any leg. I understand that the deep sea drilling ship worked twenty-four hours a day shifts and stuff like that. Just how did it work? How was it structured? How was your work structured?

Wood: Well, the sort of typical cruise that we were on would involve—anytime you were traveling from one site to another from the port to the first site to go drilling, say maybe we had six sites within that two-month period that we were going to be drilling. Anytime we were on underway status going from one site to the other all of the technical staff that I was part of had to help run all the underway gear, which was doing seismic profiling, magnetometer readings. We also handled the satellite navigation acquisitions to give to the bridge to do all of our navigating. So the technical team had a lot of that type of work to do. And then when we'd get to a site they would find the exact place that they wanted to be drilling, put down a beacon on the ocean floor and then the ship would position itself over that and we could be there for days or weeks if need be, and do our drilling. And so once we were on a site then the drilling team took over the action and they put all the pipe together to get down and get into the ocean floor and start drilling, and then retrieving cores. And then it was working with bringing the cores up, getting them labeled, cut, documented, and into the labs went the cores. So the technical staff helped with that and then the scientists started working on all the core-related activities.

Harkewicz: So you were a paleontology preparation technician?

Wood: Uhm-hmm.

Harkewicz: So what did that entail? What were you doing when the drillers were drilling? What kind of activities were you doing at that point?

Wood: If we already had cores on board from a site, the scientists would have already been sampling the cores. We would take specific samples for the scientists. The Paleo Lab where I worked was a specific lab for the paleontologists with microscopes, and sinks for washing samples, and ovens for cooking the slides, and various things. The paleontologists in my lab were busy helping to age-date the cores as the cores were coming up. After we'd acquired all the cores they probably took additional samples, and I would help with all of these samples that they were taking, documenting the samples, recording them, and then certain ones we would prepare there onboard ship so they could look at them right then and there. So there was quite a bit of science that was being done onboard ship, and all of us on the technical team were there to support the scientists that were there doing the onboard science. And then a lot of science, of course, was done later, also on either . . .

Harkewicz: How many people were working in that lab, like at one time, normally?

Wood: Normally, the lab that I worked in, the Paleo Lab, was usually a foraminifera person, a radiolarian person, a nannofossil person. All scientists specialized in those particular fossils. Those were the three main fossil groups that were *[laugh]* usually represented by the scientists on board. So we generally had three or maybe four scientists in the lab that I worked in.

Harkewicz: And you would cover all of those fossil areas in your job?

Wood: My job, yeah, would be to assist whoever needed the help at the time. A nannofossil person generally may have done their own sampling because they did little smear slides and it didn't take much effort to get those prepared. But if you worked for the foram people, *[laugh]* you had to take samples and rinse the samples through sieves and acquire all the little fossils off of the sieve. So generally, the foram scientists and the radiolarian scientists needed more assistance in my job.

Harkewicz: So you said the bulk of the work was done back on land but that some of it was done onboard ship. So how did they decide what was more immediate that they would want to do it onboard ship at that time?

Wood: Well, for the paleontologists, they were actually needed to be able to try to get an approximate age as we drilled down through a sequence of sediments. The paleontologists were usually called upon to try to come up with a preliminary age dating. Because their target may have been to get to a certain age level, or they were trying to make sure if they didn't core every single interval that we went through, if they tried to skip down through some intervals and wash away some of the core and get down to lower levels, they had to know what age it was. And so they relied on the microfossil people, the paleontologists, to try to help get that approximate age date so they would know where they were. Like as if you were looking at the Grand Canyon and look at all those layers, you'd want to know, as if you had limited time to drill. That was sometimes part of their reason to be there.

Harkewicz: So these datings were supportive of other scientists onboard, also?

Wood: Right.

Harkewicz: So what kind of supervision did you have as a paleontology technician? Did you, were you self-supervised? All this stuff that you learned, all these activities in the laboratory, you learned that onboard ship, then? I'm sure you had a certain amount of familiarity with some of these techniques, but the specifics you learned while you were doing them? Is that true?

Wood: Yes, in my case, because *[laugh*] I was hired so quickly I didn't have a chance to get trained on shore. So indeed, the scientists did pretty much explain what it was they needed to have done. And some of the other technicians had helped with those types of activities, and so I learned some from the other technicians. We were supervised by a laboratory officer onboard ship. Each cruise had a lab officer, and he . . .

Harkewicz: For all the labs?

Wood: For all the labs. For the core lab up above that had the sedimentologists and the core-receiving area. And our Paleo Lab down below, and a chemistry lab, and then the underway lab. So that lab officer supervised all of our technical activities.

Harkewicz: And this was another technical person, then?

Wood: Yes.

Harkewicz: Okay.

Wood: A number of those people had been marine techs, maybe, at Scripps on different ships, or came in with similar experience.

Harkewicz: Okay. You said that the sites were chosen ahead of time, but when you had this laboratory officer, and how much of this was planned in advance? Like what you were going to do at each site, and did you have some sort of structure as to what you thought you were going to do at each location, or what different type of experiments you might run at each place? Did you know what you were going to do, or how much of it was, you know, on-the-fly type of thing?

Wood: Oh, they, the scientists had quite a good idea of what we would be doing on each cruise, and therefore the technical staff would know that also so that before we left on a cruise we would usually know that, "Okay, we're going, we're planning to maybe drill five or six different sites." If you're in the Mid-Pacific, you're probably going to be drilling through hundreds of meters of this white nannofossil ooze. *[Laugh]* Or if you get up into the high latitudes, you'll get into grayer sediments that'll probably have more of the siliceous type microfossils. And the scientists usually knew from all the prior studies that had been done on just seismic profiling, and so on, they had an idea of how thick the sediments were, so maybe they would know we'd be drilling maybe through 800 meters of sediment before we would hit basement. And so we usually had a pretty good idea of what types of work everybody would be doing.

Harkewicz: So did you often work with the same scientists and repeated legs, or was it usually different people for each leg?

Wood: Oh, it was generally different scientists for every leg. The stable crew would be the shipboard crew, which was about a third of the seventy or so people onboard, handling the ship and the drilling activities. And then our technical staff that came from Scripps. But the scientific staff were invited to participate on each leg and they were generally a whole different group of scientists each cruise, which was one of the great things about that program. You got to work with so many different people. And over time, since the project went on for so many years, then

we had returning scientists. But in general there'd be a whole new group each time.

Harkewicz: What percentage would you say, if you could roughly guess, like how many were from Scripps and from other institutions?

Wood: Oh my. I don't know that I would have a real good handle on that without actually looking at the records. I think in the early years there were probably quite a few of the scientists would be coming from Scripps, but also from the other partners in JOIDES[5] that was the planning agency involved, and that meant we'd probably have almost an equal number of scientists maybe from Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in New York, and Woods Hole, and University of Miami, University of Washington. So it would probably be kind of an equal number of all these planning institutions. But indeed, there was so much talent at Scripps, in all types of the fields involved, in geologists, geophysicists, paleontologists. So there were definitely always Scripps people onboard.

Harkewicz: Did you notice any difference working with people from Scripps versus people from a different institution, or did it not really make much difference?

Wood: No. I think it was probably just, probably like any school anywhere. You just have very different personalities. *[Laugh]* In all the . . .

Harkewicz: Was there a Scripps personality versus a Lamont personality? *[Laugh]*

Wood: Not an institutional personality, but just scientific personalities. A lot of interesting folks.

Harkewicz: What about the laboratory people such as yourself? Were they mostly from one institution or were those from a variety of institutions, the people like yourself?

Wood: We were, especially in the earlier years, all of us came from Scripps. Over the years we occasionally had some of the technical staff come in from like Lamont-Doherty, and a few other people sometimes were pulled in from other places. But in general, the technical team were staff employees of Scripps.

Harkewicz: Of Scripps? Okay.

Wood: Which, at that time, also, was the University of California, San Diego. So we were UC San Diego employees, as well. So it was generally all Scripps people for the technical team.

Harkewicz: So if you did a majority of the technical work back on land and you were working with scientists from various institutions, was that work always done back at Scripps at the labs here?

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[5] Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling.

Wood: Well, that's a good question. The work that would be done on shore that could be done by either the scientists that happened to have been on the ship for that cruise, or even scientists that were invited later on to participate, they would be doing their work at their own home institution. So one of the big jobs that the technical team had, in fact, was getting samples to all of these people. At the end of a cruise one of the big jobs was to get all the cores that we had drilled on that cruise back to Scripps or any other repository, like Lamont if you were coming out of the Atlantic, getting all those cores back but also getting all of these selected samples to the individual scientist. Oh, it was an immense job. We had a whole logistics department here at Deep Sea Drilling that had to work hard to get all of these samples shipped to laboratories all over the world, and that's where the scientists generally did their final work.

Harkewicz: At their home laboratory?

Wood: And then all of their reports were all compiled over the years and then put together in one big volume called the *Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project*.[6] So all their reports for that one cruise went together in that one big volume.

Harkewicz: Were there any incidents or anything you want to share with us about where this whole thing fell apart or anything? I mean, that does sound like it would be very complicated, making sure everybody gets what they want, you know, and what happens if they get the wrong thing, or,. . .

Wood: Yeah. Just a little sideline, I guess, it was on one of the later legs that I was on. We had more and more involvement with more of the foreign countries that became more heavily involved over the years. And once we had a lot of these countries sending their scientists out and they wanted to be sure that they could get their piece of the core pie. *[Laugh]* There was one cruise, I remember, where the sampling of the cores got very intense because the importance of the layers that we were going through were getting very interesting. And it, usually the scientist would just say, "Oh, I want one sample per section," or whatever. There were just some kind of samplings that might have been done. But when these certain intervals that we were going through got very interesting, suddenly all of the scientists that were onboard, they all wanted as much as they could get their hands on. But one of our jobs onboard ship was to make sure the cores were only sampled judiciously, *[laugh]* and that they wouldn't deplete the whole core. So, this one cruise I had the scientists, I said, "Okay, we're going to have to put in like toothpicks or something where you're going to have to decide who wants which sample and which interval because we can't, everybody can't have everything." So I thought, "Okay, they'll all come in with their little toothpicks or whatever." Well then, the next thing I know here comes someone that put in a

[6] *Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project* (Washington: National Science Foundation, 1969-1986) are available online at http://www.deepseadrilling.org/i_reports.htm .

very large toothpick with a British flag on it, *[laugh]* and the lady from France came in with a bigger toothpick with a bigger French flag on it, and here was this poor core sitting there with these toothpicks and flags, and all kinds of things, sitting there, because they all wanted their special samples. And it was really quite comical. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: It became a national pride matter?

Wood: It was, it was definitely national pride at work. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: So did that . . .

Wood: But it all worked out. We managed to get samples to everybody that really needed them.

Harkewicz: Did you feel like you had a position of power, then, in that case, or did you have, was it a tense place to be? Or, I mean, how did you feel about that responsibility?

Wood: Well, at times it could be a little difficult because in those later cruises we were sailing as a representative of the curator, who was Bill Riedel[7] here at Scripps, who was the official curator that was charged with maintaining the rules of how the cores were to be handled and sampled, and everything. So onboard ship that was one of our responsibilities. So yes, at times it could be a little difficult. But we always had our other representative from Deep Sea Drilling in the Science Group that was there to back us up, along with the lab officer. And then if we ever really had any problems we could cable back to shore and describe what the problem was. But generally, it got worked out onboard okay.

Harkewicz: Okay. Let's talk a little bit about that position you had in the Curator's Department. That's probably not the way, the correct way to refer to it. You talked about when you were back on land you actually worked for the curator, correct? How did your work on land differ from what you did at sea?

Wood: In the first few years I did do some of the same kind of sample preparations back here at Scripps. They had me stationed in a couple of different places. One was down with Bill Riedel and his laboratory, and some other work that was done in the core locker down by the pier. So for some of the periods of time that I was back here I did some of the very same type of preparations of radiolarian slides, or possibly some foram preparations. But then as time went on it, that type of work kind of changed into more of the just curatorial aspect of all. We had so many

[7] William Rex Riedel was born in Tanunda, South Australia in 1927. He received his PhD from the University of Adelaide in geology in 1976 and studied paleontology with Sir Douglas Mawson (1882-1958). He arrived at Scripps in 1951 after extensive research in Australia and work in paleontology related to several expeditions including the Swedish Deep Sea Expedition. Riedel served as scientific leader for the Mohole test drilling in 1961 and he was a co-author for the National Science Foundation proposal for the Deep Sea Drilling Program. Riedel worked on the JOIDES Planning Committee that oversaw DSDP and became curator of the DSDP cores in 1990. He retired to Australia in 2000.

miles of cores to deal with and so many sample requests coming in that that then took over most of our time back here on shore.

Harkewicz: And these samples, again, were going wherever they were needed by whatever scientist wanted them? You said it became more of a curatorial job later on. Was that just because there was so many or was that your choice to have it expand?

Wood: I think that was the direction that we were given. Paula Worstell,[8] who was the assistant curator under Bill Riedel. She was stationed up here at the Deep Sea Drilling Project facility. She was pretty much directing what activities were going on for any of us that came back from sea. And, by the way, there was an alter ego of mine, too. When they hired me they eventually hired another person, Pat Paluso,[9] who went out and did the same job on the ship. So that we kind of took turns. If I was on the ship she would be here performing these duties, and then we'd switch places every two months. That was kind of a routine that we went through.

Harkewicz: Did you prefer ship work to land work, or vice versa?

Wood: Oh, I, in general, yes. You were always going to some new place to start with, and every cruise was different and you had different scientists and different scientific missions. And one of the things that I really noticed after I left Scripps, after our time was finished here with part of the program that I was involved with in 1987, and went onto other work in the county. I discovered that one of the best things about the work that we did on the ship was that it had a beginning, a middle, and an end. It was really special to be able to start off with the beginning of a cruise, do all the drilling, all the work onboard ship, get all the samples back, the cores back, samples out to everybody and then they're all doing their work, and then they produce this big book. The scientists would be coming back here for meetings. We would help with that as well. And they would compile all their findings and produce that big volume. So within the space of just a few years you'd see the very beginning of that whole cruise right to the very end of this big, beautiful published volume of everything that was done on that cruise. So there are not too many jobs that people have where you really get to experience that full *[laugh]* beginning, middle, and end, over and over. We did, *[laugh]* for every cruise.

Harkewicz: That must, must have been interesting in that respect, too?

Wood: Yeah.

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[8] Paula J. Worstell came to Scripps in 1969 as a postgraduate researcher in geology in the Deep Sea Drilling Project. She advanced to research geologist in 1973 and senior museum scientist in 1974, assisting William R. Riedel in the core collection.

[9] Patricia Ruth Greeley Paluso was a research associate II in the Deep Sea Drilling Program. After the program ended she taught science at the Chabad Hebrew Academy in San Diego and the St. James Academy in Solana Beach.

Harkewicz: When you mentioned the scientific missions, the different scientific missions, as a technical person, how involved were you? Was your job the same for every cruise? Did you know where each individual cruise where you were contributing, where your contribution was going? Or was it just doing like the same kind of activity for each?

Wood: Well, I guess it might be a little bit of both. Generally, your basic job onboard ship was pretty much standard from cruise to cruise. If I sailed as a paleo preparation technician then I knew I was stationed down in the Paleo Lab. I did, at one time, sail as a marine technician, so I had other jobs to handle up in the core lab. And the person who sailed as a chemist knew what they were going to do. So, in general, in fact one of our main jobs was to keep a lot of the work standardized.

Harkewicz: Okay. All right. Makes sense.

Wood: Since this was such a huge program and funded by both international and our National Science Foundation they really wanted a lot of standardized things done for the amount of money that was going into the program. So standardization, I guess, was one of our jobs.

Harkewicz: Right. That makes sense. Did you feel like you knew what that individual leg was going to, what they were trying to get from each leg?

Wood: Oh yes, generally speaking. And the scientists were always very forthcoming with sharing what they were there to do and they would have science meetings onboard ship, and you could go if you wanted. Or we weren't always required to go. But very much of a team effort between the drillers and the scientists, the technicians. It really, really was a wonderful team, teamwork thing. So you had to have a good idea, you know, kind of what was going on. And our lab officer was probably the main person that would make sure he would know where the heavy load was going to be. And sometimes you had to be willing to jump in and help in some other area if need be.

Harkewicz: So, you might have to go to another lab then if they needed—okay.

Wood: That was one of the main parts of being at sea. You had to make do with what you had out there. And if we suddenly were crushed with receiving so many cores up in the core lab everybody would be up there trying to help get those handled and get them on their way through the system.

Harkewicz: Okay. So each, it wasn't a matter of each lab being isolated, somehow or other, where you interacted with people within that lab, mostly?

Wood: A lot of the times it would be, but they were all interrelated. So even though we were downstairs in the Paleo Lab from where the cores came into the first lab, I do remember we even had like a squawk box radio system that we could talk to the lab up above. And if we stayed down in our lab and the scientists were doing their paleo work and they would call down and say, "Well, do you have an age date yet? Do you have an age date?" And one of the scientists would get on that squawk box and say, "Yes, we finally do," you know. *[Laugh]* So we might be in touch by that squawk box radio or running up and down to get some extra samples, or whatever.

Harkewicz: So I want to get back to that question I asked before about the whole twenty-four hour type thing. Was it like, it wasn't a nine-to-five type job then, I guess?

Wood: Not at all. And on most of the cruises I found out as I got involved from one cruise to another, in the technical jobs the marine techs generally worked on a twelve-hour shift schedule, and we would usually have maybe two marine techs on each twelve-hour schedule, or staggered starting every six hours, one starting every six hours. Something. Because you had to cover all twenty-four hours. Because once they were drilling, or even if we were underway, I mean activity on the ship never stopped. So for the marine techs, they would often have twelve-hour shifts and that just kept the cores coming through and getting work done. They handled the standard tests that were done on them, labeling, all that part of it. And for my job I discovered I'd kind of mesh with the paleontologists and they, since they didn't have anyone to take their place, like if the nannofossil person went to bed, we didn't have a nannofossil person there to look at the cores. And likewise, I would generally work twelve to maybe fourteen hours in my job, but when I ended my shift there was no one doing my job so my samples might pile up during the other part of the day. And we'd come in and then try to catch up again. *[Laugh]* So. So on the technical side, the marine tech jobs, they had somebody to take over so their cores didn't necessarily pile up. Someone always kept the thing going. But for those of us in the Paleo Lab *[laugh]* . . . .

Harkewicz: There wasn't anybody to cover it?

Wood: Those samples and cores waiting for us to look at them might pile up and we didn't have—I always thought that was quite a different job. The chemists also didn't have anyone to take over for his or her place, either. But some of the jobs did have somebody to follow on and keep them, keep it rolling through.

Harkewicz: I just want to make sure I understand because this is, you know, sort of new territory for me. But you said a little bit about what a marine tech does verses what you did in the laboratories. Could you just say a little bit more like what was the basic classifier somehow for, or basic people to make sure the cores got to the other parts of the ship?

Wood: The people who sailed as what was called a marine technician job generally had the duties of receiving the cores from the drillers, getting them split up because they came up in huge nine meter sections, getting them all cut into sections that we could handle in the labs, cutting them in half lengthwise, getting all the labels done. Well, even before that they had certain tests that were done, porosity type evaluations that were done on the sediments. A variety of other tests that were standard that the scientists probably didn't have to do but the technical staff could do. And the marine techs handled all of that original, the beginning handling of the cores. Then once they got split open into halves, and we had one we'd call an archive half and one was a working half, then that might be when the scientists would start describing, and sampling, and then some of those cores, after the scientists and the techs in the upper lab doing their work for sediment, sedimentology generally, they might send the cores then down to us in the Paleo Lab and do further sampling down there. So there was quite a split. And then the marine techs also handled most of the jobs of keeping all the underway equipment running, the air guns, all of the equipment needed to do the profiling.

Harkewicz: And all of these people were separate from the people that actually kept the ship functioning?

Wood: Right. Because within that group you had captain's mates, bedroom stewards, we had cooks, all the people and seamen that were there to steer the ship and handle all the maintenance of the ship, engineers, all of that type—so. Yeah, everybody generally had a specific job.

Harkewicz: Okay. Now, this archive part of the core that you mentioned, did that go back then to be curated, or that was actually archived? I mean, was it ever worked on?

Wood: In general, that archive half was meant to be kept as pristine as possible. It was photographed and kept completely separate, and it was generally not meant to be sampled. They wanted to only take small samples out of the working half. Because they would learn so much over time about the thing, so they didn't, they didn't want to lose entire little sequences. So generally, those archive halves were kept as pristine as possible, and I think there were some very unusual cases where they had to petition *[laugh]* to get some samples taken from those archive halves.

Harkewicz: So that was sort of like a museum piece, sort of? Or like a skeleton, that would be for an analogy. *[Laugh]*

Wood: View but don't touch. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Right. Okay. I understand.

Wood: Yeah.

Harkewicz: Okay. All right. So, I guess we have a general idea of how work was done but what I wanted to talk a little bit about was when you weren't working, if there actually was time—if you weren't working and you weren't sleeping or maybe I should ask you that. Were there times where you had free time, so to speak, when you were still on the ship? And then what did you do with those?

Wood: For my job, where I was working with paleontologists, in fact one of what I thought became one of the good things about it is I could kind of set my time. I could start when the paleontologist wanted to start and stop. We could also take a break. Sometimes if we were caught up with our samples we might take a break in the afternoon and go out *[laugh]* on the good weather cruises we had what we called "steel beach" up on the bow of the ship. And a lot of people would take their time off and go out and either sit in the sun or somebody mapped out I think it was thirty-two or thirty-three trips around the bow was a mile for people that wanted to walk and get exercise, or watch the birds flying, or whatever. So we had steel beach for a break area. *[Laugh]* We had a place with ping pong tables down below in the bow of the ship. There were some weight room equipment for the guys or anybody that wanted that. We had two different lounges. One that they called the Science Lounge, that was up on the deck where all the science rooms were. And, we had a library in there. We had, back in the early days we actually had film movies onboard that were available.

Harkewicz: Were there screenings or were they, could you see them anytime you wanted?

Wood: It was, yeah, anytime wanted to put one on. They would get different movies sent out every cruise. And, of course, like I say in the early legs it was literally canisters, big canisters, of films, which over time changed to a number of different more modern features. The ship's crew had their own lounge. Sometimes there were red hot card games. A lot of the fellows liked to play cards. And in the mess hall area, when it wasn't being used for meals, people would use that for card games, checkers, whatever. A lot of just . . .

Harkewicz: Were they serving meals all the time? I mean . . .

Wood: Yes, bless their hearts. They sure did. *[Laugh]* They generally had about four meals a day. They had mealtimes where they had regular breakfast, lunch, dinner, and then usually a midnight meal also. As people were working twenty-four hours they had to keep a lot of meals going and it was our experience that—for those of us that weren't working on the drill floor—because they were doing some of the heaviest physical labor and it seemed like the cooks had to cook specifically for them, which was a lot of big heavy food, and all the rest of us had to be careful because there was so much food available.

Harkewicz: And unless you're doing the thirty-three laps around the . . . *[Laugh]*

Wood: Then *[laugh]*—yeah. If you don't go around Steel Beach enough on your breaks. Yeah.

Harkewicz: But the way you describe it, it sounds like it was really compartmentalized. Now, I don't know if that's true or not, but you know, the scientists had their lounge. The ship people had their lounge. And did people interact with the different groups or was it basically you were interacting with the other lab techs, or whatever? I mean, did people socialize together?

Wood: They did because, basically they kind of used their areas pretty much split based on the science group verses the ship's group, as far as using the lounges. Sort of geographically if nothing else. But given that we were all onboard that ship for eight weeks, usually with no port calls in between, and very little communication with the outside world, that was your whole world. So people generally got to kind of know each other, but the socializing might be more of, of kind of communications throughout the day, at meals, or up on the rig, you know, the catwalk area where the cores came up. So, you know, some of the ship's crew kind of kept to themselves and then some of the scientists kept to themselves. Just kind of personal choice.

Harkewicz: So, I know that some of the other scientists that I have spoken to about the other type of scientific cruises, they, it sounds like maybe they had more activities on ship as far as socialization goes because they weren't working constantly. But it sounds like you were, there was always work going on. I mean, there wasn't really time to do things, except more like what you said on a one-on-one basis. Is that, is that true?

Wood: Yeah. Probably so, because it was kind of like a big heavy industrial job going on, this big drilling operation. But it could be a very educational thing, too, because every time you have new scientists onboard they generally were very interested to find out how all this drilling worked. So there was probably a lot of this type of interaction going on that I know our scientists liked to, especially the co-chiefs, and so on, liked to really stay real involved with the driller on the rig floor. And, because they had to stay in communication that way, too, I haven't spent time on what I consider a "normal" oceanographic ship, which would have involved lots of other types of sampling and biological work and all of that.

Harkewicz: But, you didn't get together for like a party on a Saturday evening or something like that?

Wood: Well, once in a blue moon we would put something together because we'd discovered that as cruise after cruise, my personal observation was that a lot of people did okay for eight weeks, but after about the fifth or sixth week people started getting a bit restless *[laugh]* because you were trapped on that ship, four hundred feet long, that was your world, with seventy people, like them or not like them. *[Laugh]* And I found that after about five or six weeks we usually had to

come up with kind of like the equivalent of a get-together on land. And sometimes we dreamt up some really strange get-togethers, like decorating the core locker area down in the very bilge of the ship with old parachute things that we saw, and it made it into like an Arabian Nights looking thing *[laugh]* with these parachutes draped around, and brought some music machines down. And if we were lucky we maybe had four women on board, or two, and get everybody together and invite them to dance, and have a break from whatever we were doing. Sometimes that's what it took. Or one time we had a costume party, *[laugh]* where everybody, ship's crew, scientists, everybody, decided we just needed a break.

Harkewicz: So you brought that up and I was going to ask you about being a woman working on a ship with mostly men. You said you'd be lucky if there were two or four women on with seventy other people, then?

Wood: Uhm-hmm.

Harkewicz: So what was that like? I mean, you said you were used to being around male activities or whatever, what was that? I mean, pretty confined? *[Laugh]*

Wood: Well, for me personally, I guess it seemed somewhat normal because I grew up on cattle ranches. My first paid job on a payroll was cowboy as a high school student. That's where I started my career as a working person, helping on the ranches. And that was a very male-dominated world there. And even the labs that I worked in at Davis, at that time, were still probably more heavily oriented to the male world. When I started with Deep Sea Drilling there had been some women out onboard the ship, generally. A couple of scientists I think, were the first two women that went out. I don't think any of us were *the* very first women on anyone's oceanographic ship, but it was early in those days. And when they made our positions permanent on the *Glomar Challenger* then we generally had probably two women onboard, at least, maybe four, and it was usually an even number because of berthing arrangements because of our two-room staterooms. In order to make use of every berth we had to have an even number, generally speaking. It was an interesting time because the first cruise I was on I realized some of the ship's crew in particular, were a little bit hesitant to appreciate having women out there, because there were, there are a lot of old superstitions still floating around that women shouldn't be at sea, and so on. But from what we gathered and the work that we did, it seemed like everybody was out there to do a job. If you did your job people were respected for that. It didn't matter whether you were male or female. And so even after the second cruise that I went on they left Kodiak, Alaska with no women onboard for a few weeks, just the way it worked with the scientists. They had to do certain things. They had no women onboard for a few weeks and the two of us that were getting on that cruise, we went out to Adak Island and got onboard with the other scientists they were trading out. And when we got onboard they were so happy to see us. All the ship's crew and everybody said, "Oh, we're so happy that you're here, to see you

girls come back." They said, "We missed you, because," they said "the environment with just an all-male environment," they said, "was not that pleasant." *[Laugh]* So they were happy to see us get back onboard. And from then on we thought, "Okay. This is going to work."

Harkewicz: Hmm. So, what, what do you think that really meant, though, the environment? I mean, did you notice that you and your other female workers had some impact on the ship? I mean, made it different when you were there than . . .

Wood: Their comments were just that, they said it gave them a little more sense of normalcy, that it was a little bit more like home, or whatever, just to have some females in the world rather than just the males. So apparently it meant that to them. And I'd say probably most of the men onboard, the ship's crew and the technical crew, the people that worked together all the time, really we all got to know each other and you got to know about the people and their families, and people liked to just have normal interactions with people, male or female. And as long as you were doing your job, people respected that. The things that didn't work on a cruise were times where somebody maybe had some difficulty and couldn't perform their job and then you'd see tensions develop. The only ones I remember seeing that happen to just happened to be men that had some difficulties and the crews didn't appreciate that. More than anything else, I think it was a matter of, "We're out here to do a job, boy, and you better be doing your job or else." *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Okay. Was it your experience that there was ever any women in the ship's crews, the time that you were out there? I mean, was it always men that were in the crew?

Wood: Oh, let's see. I don't recall any women in our ship's crew. I don't believe we had any that I can remember.

Harkewicz: Okay. Then the other question I had, too, about women. I know that there were some positions in the past, like the BT girls, you know, that were directed, specifically [to] women.[10] In your kind of job did you find that women were specifically hired for, I mean—I'm not sure that I'm phrasing this correctly—did you find that women were encouraged to do the kind of work that you did or was it just, you also mentioned that you normally would be in like pairs.

Wood: Well, I guess one of the things that happened on the division of labor scale, the one position that was out there is yeoman, which is the person that handled all of the typing of all the reports and everything, started out generally being a female. So the people that were available to do that job generally were female. And if they needed to have the yeoman position onboard, which as time went on it became more and more important to have somebody typing up all their

[10] Naomi Oreskes, "*Laissez-tomber*: Military Patronage and Women's Work in Mid-20th Century Oceanography," *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences (HSPS*) 30 (2): 373–392 (2000).

preliminary reports, and if that person generally was a female they had to have another female to make use of the room. And it was likely that they could get a lab person or a tech, marine tech, or paleo tech or someone like that to be female to match the yeoman position. And I think that's kind of how that came about. As far as I can remember, we didn't have any shipboard personnel working for Global Marine that were female on that ship. And if there weren't any female scientists then it might have been just the two of us, generally a yeoman and maybe the paleo preparation technician as two female positions. *[Laugh]* So it was kind of a logistical thing.

Harkewicz: Would you ever room with a female scientist?

Wood: We did occasionally. There was at least one, I would say a couple of times I believe I ended up rooming with a scientist, female scientist, or one time, I think, we took one of the larger staterooms. There was a stateroom that could house four people and I think we had all four women in that one room on one of the cruises.

Harkewicz: Did you notice any difference working with women scientists than with male scientists?

Wood: No. Again, just individual personalities.

Harkewicz: What I was trying to figure out here is, you said that you would go on a two-month leg and then be on shore for two months. What about the rest of the crew, or the marine techs? Did they normally switch over, too? Were you normally switching everybody over in this two-month period, even the crew, the ship's crew? Or was that some people would be on there for longer than that frame of time?

Wood: In general, we had almost like an A team and a B team. In fact, there was a joke at one time, *[laugh]* one of the lab officers claimed to be the leader of the A team. *[Laugh]* And by definition the other team had to be the B team. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: And of course, B is not as good as A, somehow.

Wood: But in general, there was sort of an A and B division so that for each port call basically everyone was traded out. The ship's crew had an A and a B team. They had two captains, so that one group sailed with one captain and one group sailed with the other captain, including all the drillers and everyone else. And on the technical team we had different lab officers with their teams, and then the scientists were the only ones that were, came from all different countries, and labs, and institutions. So, but there would be basically a whole complete trade-out each port call.

Harkewicz: So you'd have to be very, like you said, standardized or very organized in order to get things rolling as soon as you got going so that you wouldn't have this, like, learning process—it must have been very, rather intense, I would guess?

Wood: Well, I think that was probably some of the most important jobs that were done in the early days of the project. Once they knew they were going to be doing multiple cruises, you had to invest time and effort into planning how you would run each cruise, and what documents would be kept, what reports. And so there was a lot of standardization, even of forms, *[laugh]* reports, tests that would be done. Just everything was pretty much delineated as to what was supposed to be done. And then anything that could be done beyond that would be extra. But there's certain basic things that the National Science Foundation sort of insisted on. And indeed, since you are trading out all of your crews, you had to, just like running a normal ship of any sort, too, they would have to be able to pass along their operations and their directions to the next crew. So they had to have things fairly standardized, too. So that was the case for our operation.

Harkewicz: So you, if you're spending two months out at sea, was it different spending two months out at sea in the Pacific and two months out at sea at the Atlantic? Would you even know the difference or was it just that you were . . .

Wood: Oh yes. *[Laugh]* At least, I remember one scientist said that, he claimed he was a gentleman scientist that would only work between 17° north latitude and 17° south latitude, because that's where the weather was the nicest. *[Laughter]* And he pretty much meant it, I think. So that if you were in like the equatorial Pacific or even Atlantic, or Indian Ocean, you generally had kind of one set of weather parameters and ocean parameters and so on. And then as they explored up into the higher latitudes, for example, I went from Leg 17, Mid-Pacific, up to Leg 19 which was the Bering Sea off of Alaska. *[Laugh]* So there was often quite a bit of difference just in, say, the general weather. We tried to stay in pretty decent weather because of the drilling restrictions and trying to be in as calm a seas as you could hope for. But you get up in the Bering Sea and I remember, it was nothing but gray from the color of the ocean up to the air up to above, straight over your head. Just one solid color gray. There was nothing like what you'd see in the tropical Pacific with puffy clouds and what we used to call the Cecil B. DeMille sunsets every night *[laugh]* off the stern of the ship.

Harkewicz: Were you ever afraid for your safety or anything? Were you ever in such conditions where it got that bad?

Wood: There was one cruise in particular where we were off of the tip of Argentina, and we had gone, left from Ushuaia, Argentina, very, very bottom of Argentina and went out into, I believe, it was the Drake Passage between Argentina and Antarctica.[11] And they wanted to drill down in that area but this is where all the

[11] This incident occurred on Leg 36, April-May 1974. The *Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project* , volume 36, page 19 includes a terse description of the loss of the pipe on April 6, 1974, but no account of the boarding party.

weather just travels around and around Antarctica and roars right through that passage area. And the weather was not that great when we got out to drill. We had weathermen onboard, normally, to help us. We'd watch these weather systems coming at us. We tried to drill and, actually lost a drill string down in that one area because the currents became so strong that when the pipe was down the current got a hold of the pipe and busted the pipe off. So that was the beginning of one whole saga of having to go back behind the islands off of Argentina and put drill pipe back on. That was an interesting time, where we actually got held up by armed guards off of an Argentinean Navy ship. They captured us down there. That was another whole side story. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Well, you'll have to tell me that.

Wood: Yeah. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Can you or can you not tell me that? *[Laugh]*

Wood: Yeah. After we had lost our drill pipe that meant you had to bring the pipe up out of the hold of the ship to replace what we had up on the pipe rack up above. So we went back for calm waters behind the islands back near Ushuaia where we'd just come from. And apparently, one of their Coast Guard Navy vessels found us there and we were anchored behind, well we were sitting behind one of their islands in calm water pulling pipe up to replace the pipe that we'd lost out in the Drake Passage. And they decided that, "Ah, they caught us drilling behind their island." Because it looked like they're moving a lot of pipe, a lot of noise, and hauling pipe up and down. They thought, "They must be drilling." So they accused us of drilling behind one of their islands, you know, in their territorial waters. And they put onboard a lieutenant and two guards, two, and they were armed with weapons, and we were very much an unarmed vessel. *[Laugh]* And they said they had to go get their commandant. And so we ended up keeping these three men onboard until their ship went off to get their commandant and bring him back. And I can't remember how long they were onboard, but long enough. The lieutenant spoke good English, because he had been trained in the States *[laugh]* and we could speak to him, and our captain said, "Well, we've got to entertain these guys. We've got to convince them that, you know, we're not doing anything bad." So we toured them all around the ship and, and spent time talking with them. And I told people, I said, "I actually managed to talk them out of their guns." I said, "It made me so nervous to see them walking around with weapons," that we got them to put their guns down in our ship's hospital and the doctor locked their guns away while their ship was gone. We toured the guys around the ship and we sat them down in our science lounge, even got to playing guitars with them because the guy knew our music. And they were just doing their job. They were told, "Hold that drilling ship, at all costs." What are they

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Kenneth J. Hsu in *Challenger at Sea: A Ship that Revolutionized Earth Science (*Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992), pages 231-236, writes that Captain Loyd Dill was master during this cruise and the drill string was lost on April 6 and the drilling ship was boarded on April 7, 1974 which detained the ship for thirty-five hours.

going to do with a big drilling ship? But meanwhile, their ship went and got their commandant. So when the ship did come back we ran down, got their weapons back to the guys, put them back. They were all back in charge of holding us captive. And then it became a saga of our captain dealing with this commandant that they brought out. And I don't know what the captain did but he managed to talk his way out or do whatever he had to do to get that commandant satisfied that we weren't drilling behind their islands.

Harkewicz: So, when you say, "we talked" or "you talked them out," I mean, as a woman were you one of the designated entertainers, so to speak? *[Laugh]*

Wood: Several of us in the technical group were there just kind of escorting this lieutenant and his two men around when we could. It's like our captain of our ship just said, you know, "We've got to get this situation taken care of because we want to get out of here once we get our pipe up on the pipe rack."

Harkewicz: Oh, they were still doing that?

Wood: Yeah. We were still busy restocking our supply of pipe. So I don't know that we lost time on that whole effort but it was a group effort of technical people, scientists, everybody just trying to do whatever we could to get that taken care of. *[Laugh]* And we finally got released and the captain said that they tried to get him to sign papers that we had violated their territorial waters and he refused to do that. He found some way to deal with it, got us out of there. I think it may have happened on a weekend, too, so that if we sent messages back to our headquarters it might have been a difficult time to get help from our State Department. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Hmm. But, I interrupted you—you were talking about the storm or whatever.

Wood: The storm. Yeah. That was the cruise when we, after we left that area, after we took care of our being held captive, got out of that situation, got back out. By that time the storm started coming through so we just got hit by these big storms coming through the Drake Passage, and we tried to hold our position, which they would do normally by heading into the swells. And they tried very hard to do that but the swells got so big that finally they had to turn the ship and just run with it. We ended up surfing, essentially, over these huge swells with this four hundred foot long drilling ship, surfing down through this passage and on out towards the Falkland Island area, and it was in iceberg country. So it was very dicey because we weren't an ice strengthened ship. And you don't want to be that out of control going through iceberg country in a non-ice strengthened ship. So the captain had watches set up on the bow. They were doing as best they could to deal with this, but it was, my recollection, two or three days of being stuck in these storms and dodging icebergs day and night. The captain was up most of the time because he was so concerned because it was just a very dangerous situation to be in. So that was the one time that I remember being concerned about where we were.

Harkewicz: So, when you talked about how it was a twenty-four hour a day type job and everything, was that somehow factored in this traveling? Did you get behind schedule? You talked about how you didn't think you were behind schedule with being captured. I mean, what happens in those circumstances where it seems like everything would have been so factored down to the minute? What happens when something like that occurs?

Wood: Yeah. I think on that cruise we may have gained time because when they discovered we couldn't drill that first site that we tried to drill and the currents were so strong, that we couldn't accomplish that drilling. And my recollection is that we had to—and then we didn't have any choice because the weather got a hold of us and essentially spit us out, *[laugh]* I think somewhere south of the Falkland Islands. I remember getting up one morning and we came out and we were in this huge iceberg field, just all these little chunks of icebergs scattered everywhere. They'd gotten in, I guess, behind one of the islands, gotten out of the bad, bad weather, and we were just kind of floating with the icebergs. And they stopped, the ship was pretty much stopped because we just got into an area where we could sit. *[Laugh]* And they did that for a while until we could regroup and decide how they were going to navigate out of this iceberg field. My recollection is we went on to our next targeted site area and did other drilling. So, that was an example of you had to change your drilling plans based on weather, and happenings. So. Things always didn't go exactly as scheduled. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Right. Right. Well, I guess that's part of working on ship as opposed to working in the laboratory on land? I wondered about this whole two months there, two months here kind of. What did you do, like, for an apartment or a place to live? Did you share a place with somebody who wasn't there the other—I mean, the other woman you were talking about or something? How did that affect your personal life, being away at sea like that?

Wood: That was interesting because in the very early years, I think I had an apartment in Del Mar that, for a while, I did share with some other of the technicians that were seagoing on a different schedule. And if I wasn't there the other technician had the site, or had the apartment. And when I moved into a more established place I found a really beautiful house in La Jolla, and that was like a self-contained, you know, full house, garage, kitchen, everything. So it was a nice setup. I used to leave my keys at our chief scientist's office with the lady that took care of his business, and they had my place available for any visiting scientists that came in. So if I was at sea they often used it for just visitors that came through. And I would come home from a trip at sea and I would find souvenirs from Switzerland, *[laugh]* or France, or who knows what. You know, I never had an idea who might have been staying there. But my alter ego person, Pat Paluso, was married, so she and her husband had their place.[12] So we didn't, obviously, share anything.

[12] Patricia Paluso's husband was George Vincent Paluso (1948-2006), a graduate of Revelle College at UC San Diego and a San Diego attorney.

But it worked out beautifully because for those of us that had a nice place that was nearby, and if they knew what our schedule was, they knew exactly when we were coming and going. So there was a lot of people sharing houses and apartments, and things like that.

Harkewicz: But what did you do about like the rent, then? Were you always paying it and somebody would reimburse you or something, or how did that work?

Wood: Oh, I think I always paid the rent on those places because I ended up getting a very good deal. Back in those, in the seventies, I was paying $165 a month *[laugh]* or so to rent a really nice little place in La Jolla.

Harkewicz: Now you said that Scripps was looked upon with such high esteem with the community, would you tell that story that you wrote down?

Wood: Yeah. That was when I moved down from the Del Mar area and found this, a sign on a place in middle of La Jolla, and it just said, "Little House for Rent." And I went in and talked to the people and saw that it was a very nice little studio house type thing. And the lady who took care of it, she said, "Well, you must interview with the owner of the property." And it was this wonderful lady that was originally from Virginia that now lived in La Jolla and I had to go in and have tea, proper tea, *[laugh]* sit down with this lady and talk to her, and she had to interview anyone that came in to rent one of her four properties. And we sat and chatted and she was fascinated to hear what I had been doing, and that I was working with all these international scientists, and she was just so in love with everything that Scripps Institution of Oceanography was doing. And she said, "Oh, I would love to have you rent my place, but if you do I insist on lowering the rent." *[Laugh]* So she lowered the rent from what she had advertised, *[laugh]* and only charged me $165 a month, and never changed the rent, never raised it in the years I was there. So I benefited from *[laugh]* that connection.

Harkewicz: That's good. Did you notice any other, any other incidents like that where you felt that people in La Jolla or around here felt that Scripps was a special place?

Wood: Oh, I think even to this day. It's been twenty years since I've worked at Scripps, and still living in this area every time I talk to anybody there's always a very positive feeling about the work that is done at Scripps, and the facilities that are here, and the Aquarium and everything, and people. Or even at places when I've been out camping in the Sierras, *[laugh]* bump into people to talk to, and almost everybody would have heard of Scripps. So it's been probably one of the most positive things that could ever happen to anybody I think that 's ever been connected with Scripps. You'll probably find the same, the same reaction.

Harkewicz: Hmm. Okay. In the notes that you sent me, you mentioned that you had a strong family feeling with other Deep Sea Drilling Personnel.[13] Can you describe this at all or can you tell me any stories about other people from Deep Sea Drilling?

Wood: Well, I would say that we're still a very strong connected family from our time that we worked together, to the extent that a number of us that are here still in this area have tried to maintain kind of an alumni office, of sorts, and have tried to stay in contact with a lot of people that worked with Deep Sea Drilling, but many have moved away. And we've kept in touch with quite a few people so that when Scripps had their big centennial celebration in 2003 a small group of us in town kind of organized a Deep Sea Drilling reunion at the same time. And we worked very hard to try to get the word spread far and wide to all the people that we could manage to talk to, and let them know that Scripps was having their big celebration, and along with that we had our own separate little Deep Sea Drilling reunion. And we had, oh gosh, a hundred and some, almost two hundred people come, I believe, that were Deep Sea Drilling alumni. Some—one lady came all the way from Australia on her way to and from a meeting. And we managed to get quite a few people in touch. I just heard the other day from a scientist. I don't even know how he got a hold of my email, but he just sent an email of saying, "Are you still in La Jolla?" you know, and here he's working down in Australia somewhere down there. And so out of the blue sometimes we *[laugh]* get a hold of people that we haven't heard from in quite a while and kind of still keep a, somewhat of a connection going.

Harkewicz: So it isn't just technical people, then, it was actually the scientists and everybody that were . . .

Wood: Right. And of course, I worked with a lot of the scientists from even the other legs, the other cruises, through our curatorial work and all of that, so we did a lot of communicating and work with them coming here to do sampling and a variety of things like that. People have stayed in touch with some of the ship's crew as well. Because one of my good friends, Jeannie Smith, who worked here with Bill Riedel for many, many years, ended up marrying a fellow that had been our chief mate on the *Glomar Challenger*. *[Laugh]* That was a story that they met via the ship and struck up a relationship and became man and wife and are still living in the area. And he's currently a ship captain for a big drilling company working in the Gulf of Mexico. And she and her husband and I went last fall to visit our last living *Glomar Challenger* ship captain, Captain Loyd Dill, who lives in Jackson, Mississippi. He was always just a very warm, wonderful person, on top of being a very competent captain. And we've all been so enthralled with knowing him that we've kept very close tabs on him. And we three all managed to get our schedules organized and met in New Orleans and drove up to Jackson, Mississippi just to see our captain, and that was a very special trip. While we

[13] Trudy Wood's notes include a narrative, a list of cruises she participated in, and a list of the countries she visited. These notes are in the Biographical Information File under her name at Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives, UC San Diego.

were there he managed to get a couple of people from that area to come for a gathering that were Global Marine workers that live in that area. Got to see them.

Harkewicz: Okay, let me ask you this, though. When you were on ship with Captain Dill, would you say that you were friendly at the time? I mean, was he someone special? I guess what I'm trying to ask is it sounds sort of like there wasn't maybe necessarily so much interaction on ship because everybody was so busy, or you would only be with certain people, but is there something just about being involved in the project that, like being in the service or something that brought you all together after the fact?

Wood: I think so, because even onboard ship I think Captain Dill, every one of us in the science community, in the scientific group or the technical group, we all interacted with him for business reasons. *[Laugh]* We all had things that we had to do. The captain very much was in control of the whole ship. He was responsible for the whole ship and our safety. Captain Dill was just a very interesting, you know, southern boy that became a ship's captain and he had very southern, southern roots, and was just a very outgoing, warm person and very interested in what we were doing. And he liked getting to know the people on the ship. So if things were going okay and no big disasters happening, then he got to spend more time just getting to know people and I think he really enjoyed that part of it.

Harkewicz: So that, again, is based, different personalities. .. .

Wood: Different personalities. The other captain, Captain Clarke[14] was known to be not quite as warm and he had just a very different way of running the ship and his crew. So they were pretty much like night and day in their personalities.

Harkewicz: So you said, you were talking about the A team and the B team before, did you normally, would you normally be with that one group from leg to leg? I mean, you said that you would just, the whole ship would change between legs. Would you find yourself with the same people most of the time?

Wood: Well, just from my schedule that I had I was with the same crew for the first three trips that I did, because I did Leg 17, 19, and 21, which kept me on the same rotation as the A team or B team, whatever, of the ship's crew and the technical team. But then I skipped. The next series I did was Leg 24, 26, 28. So that threw me onto the other team. So if you ever happened to skip a leg, if you stayed on every other leg, then you were always sailing with the same crew.

Harkewicz: Okay. I'm sorry. I cut you off there. So, what would you say would be the longest period that you didn't go out on a leg? And why was that? Was it just your own choice? They didn't need you? Somebody else was out there?

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[14] Captain Joseph A. Clarke alternated with Captain Loyd Dill as master of D/V *Glomar Challenger*.

Wood: Well, let's see. I think it was a matter of as time went on I was sailing kind of regularly up through, let's see, oh, for the first two or three years, and then we started having more people involved with the curatorial group and everybody wanted a chance to go out on the ship.

Harkewicz: I see. Okay.

Wood: So as those of us that had been sailing every other leg, or nearly every other leg, you got to a point where at some point you probably were just as happy to let some other people have some opportunities *[laugh]* to do that. And so as we increased our staff on the curatorial side of it as well, we had more people available that wanted to go and needed the experience and everything, too. So they were willing and able, and both Patty and I, I think, were happy to have other people share the jobs, too. So instead of going every other leg then I think my timing was scattered out especially after, let's see, it looks like on the schedule that I had after about Leg 43, in 1975, then I had a gap that I didn't go again until Leg 50. So there were several cruises that were covered by other people. And so as time went on just other people filled those positions.

Harkewicz: What about the whole berthing situation? Would you have to be out with another woman, then, at that point, because they would want to have two, you know, the two or four women or something, so you wouldn't go out on a leg if there wasn't another woman who was going to go out on it?

Wood: I believe, my recollection is that from the time that I started, I think on almost every cruise we almost always had a female yeoman so that my position almost always roomed with the yeoman.

Harkewicz: I see. Okay.

Wood: And then there may or may not have been other women onboard.

Harkewicz: I'm just curious here. You gave me these notes and you put down, "Women onboard, Legs 1 through 16." *[Laugh]* And you noted the people's names here. I guess I just wondered, is there any reason why you decided to do that? Or . . . *[Laugh]*

Wood: Well, when I had mentioned to you that the staffing of generally only two women onboard a ship of that size, I was just curious myself as to what the history had been before I started on Leg 17. And I knew, roughly, what the history was but I hadn't really stopped to figure out exactly who came before me when I started, when the positions became more routinely staffed. So I just took the legs that occurred before mine Legs 1 to 16 and I have a copy of all the shipboard rosters at home. And so I was trying to remember who it was that sailed on which cruises and how many of them were there?

Harkewicz: Okay. So I guess on Leg 1 there wasn't a woman, is what it seems?

Wood: No. Apparently not.

Harkewicz: But apparently . . .

Wood: Only, Leg 2 is the first time. [15]

Harkewicz: So, I wonder if they had a yeoman on Leg 1?

Wood: And they may not have, or one of the male techs took care of it, or whatever, possibly.

Harkewicz: What about after you, did more and more women get involved, from what you could tell, or was it just usually . . .

Wood: I think there might have been—in fact, when I looked at the list that I pulled up the most interesting sidelights, I guess, of the scientists, of the women scientists that were sailing on the earlier legs tended to be mainly paleontologists.

Harkewicz: Huh. Interesting.

Wood: There weren't very many female scientists that weren't in the paleontological field. And, as time went on I think we did start seeing more and more of the women coming in as other specialties, and sedimentologists, and I remember on my Leg 24 we had Betty Bunce was our co-chief scientist with Bob Fisher here at Scripps, and she was one of the co-chief scientists on that cruise.[16] She was from back east at Woods Hole, I believe it was. So over time, I think, more of the women started coming in as some of the other scientific positions. And- I would I guess even we had some women start sailing more regularly as marine techs, too, more than they had right in the very, very beginning. So I think over time women came in from more and more of the diverse areas.

Harkewicz: Did that have any effect on you at all in any way, at work or your experience onboard ship?

Wood: Hmm. I don't believe so. Not really.

Harkewicz: I know it's kind of a, kind of a stretch but I thought I'd ask that anyways.

Wood: Yeah.

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[15] Micropaleontologists Maria Bianca Cita of Milan and Catherine Nigrini (1939-2005) of Toronto sailed on Leg 2.
[16] Geologist Elizabeth Thompson Bunce (1915-2003) of Woods Hole Oceanographic institution and Robert Lloyd Fisher (1925-) of Scripps Institution of Oceanography were co-chief scientists on Leg 24.

Harkewicz: So we talked a little bit about DSDP personnel, but you also mentioned in your notes that at these TGIF gatherings, which I think they still have today, that you got, you called it a melting pot of getting to know other Scripps people. What I'm trying to imagine then is it wasn't just the clique, the DSDP people. You went outside and met other Scripps people at those kind of affairs? Or how much interaction did you have with people that weren't working with you in the project?

Wood: At times there might have been sort of cliquish things because Deep Sea Drilling, we had so much activity going on even up in our area with all the logistical things going on and all the meetings and people coming and going. And I do remember some people on lower campus would talk about us as being "up the hill." *[Laugh]* Because we were physically located up and away from the main part of campus, before it expanded up in this direction. So I think there was a little bit of that division, just geographical division and that we did have a lot of our own sort of activities that went on just in our own location. But I think those of us, especially that had even worked on lower campus in other labs or with other groups, the cartography group and other groups like that, I think those of us that did that tended to go down and mingle more with the other groups at Scripps, too. And TGIF, traditionally, has always been that place where people just got together, all the scientific, technical, whoever, anyone that worked there would tend to get together in an informal way, but yet have a chance to meet and talk to all these other people. So I did, I think, get to know a lot of people from other parts of Scripps that way, and I think quite a few of our other folks at Deep Sea Drilling did, too.

Harkewicz: Did you find yourself maybe having interests and things that you didn't think that you would have because of the work that you did? Like in some of the science that was done that you helped on, did you find yourself maybe reading journal articles or something that you might not have if you hadn't worked on?

Wood: Oh, well, personally I got quite interested in the fossil record. And since I spent so much time helping prepare samples for these scientists that just by absorbing what was going on around me I developed a pretty healthy interest in the different fossil groups. And at one point, when I had sailed with enough of the specialists onboard that I did get fairly familiar with the radiolarians, in particular to where occasionally we would sail without a radiolarian specialist onboard, and one time, I remember, sailing without one. They would get me to prepare the slides and I was getting to where I could almost make some age calls myself in a very, very preliminary fashion. *[Laugh]* But I had picked up enough of that that I was starting to learn a fair bit of what they were doing. But I would never, at this point, be able to call myself *[laugh]* a trained specialist. It was always very interesting. Because in my world, of the biological science world, that's where I ended up, was in the paleo. They're the fossils left over of what was living in the ocean, in the micro fossil world. So they were my dead fossils that I got to look at. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Okay. We talked briefly about your travels through Japan and Russia, and you had mentioned in your notes that you had visited forty-eight countries while you were working for Deep Sea Drilling. Now I'm not sure what you meant by the forty-eight countries. Did you actually get to visit through those countries or are those points of stopping, or *[laugh]* what did you, what did you mean when you said that?

Wood: Well, that count actually came about because I ended up in a contest with one of my high school buddies. *[Laugh]* I went to a wonderful little high school, Fillmore High School up above the Los Angeles area and one of my best friends that I graduated with from that school, he went on to be a member of the Merchant Marines, or the Maritime Academy up in Vallejo. And he went off and started sailing with the Maritime Academy, and then the Merchant Marines and about the time I got my job. I started traveling a lot before and after cruises, if I could. And so over time the two of us started counting up our countries that we had visited. And in most cases it had to mean that we actually set foot in those countries. We might not have had a full visit. The first time that we did this at our high school reunions, I tallied up the countries that I visited and he tallied up those that he'd been to with his Merchant Marines, and I won *[laugh]* the first time. I went to more countries than he did as a merchant mariner. And then ten years later, I think, when we did another country tally he had gone off and become a very well-trained accountant, of all things, and was headhunted and got a job with a very, very wealthy family with the last name of Getty, *[laugh]* and became a chief operations officer for that trust fund, and he started traveling the world with that, so that last time we got together at our high school reunion and we tallied up our countries I had only visited forty-eight and he had visited fifty-two. But it took his involvement with a very big family *[laugh]* to win out. So that was how I ended up counting those countries. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: It's funny that he got to more countries being an accountant than he did in the Merchant Marines?

Wood: Yes. Exactly. Exactly. Yeah.

Harkewicz: But then how much traveling, touristing did you get to do as part of your Deep Sea Drilling experience?

Wood: Well it all depended kind of on what was going on during the time that I was working with the curatorial group here. And it just happened after that second cruise was when I did the biggest trip, which was when we got off the ship at the end of Leg 19. I got off the ship in Yokohama, Japan and I had discovered on our trip that one of the marine techs onboard was planning to do this trip across Russia after the end of that cruise. And at that time it was fairly typical. A lot of the marine techs would go traveling. And I was originally scheduled just to come back to work here. But it was such an opportunity to possibly do that that when I

cabled back for permission to just take the time off without pay and have that opportunity to go across Russia my boss, Paula Worstell, said, "That is a golden opportunity." So they gave me the time off. So that was one of the times where I just specifically took off that time between my trip obligations and got to do that trip with one of the fellows that was one of the marine techs onboard. And we traveled, I think there were only three of us Americans on that whole train that went all the way across Russia. It was incredible, you know, during the Cold War years, 1971 was a very interesting time to go across Russia. So that was one of the major trips that I was able to do.

Harkewicz: Do you think since that was so early in your career, in the program, or in the project, that you would have maybe thought you were going to be, have the opportunity to do that more than you actually did? Or can you not recall that kind of thinking?

Wood: Oh, no, I think it just was kind of different opportunities that came up. I got to take some extra time, I was anxious to try to take some time and get to see some of these other countries. When you have to meet the ship in Ushuaia, Argentina the very tip, you cover a lot of countries below you. But if you tried to travel before a cruise you had to be very careful because the timing might be off a little if the ship came in a little early, or whatever. So I would say we probably, those of us that did want to travel a bit probably traveled more after a cruise rather than just before. But there were several of us that liked to see some of the rest of the world. Or even some of the scientists, I remember one time when we got off in Christchurch, New Zealand, the scientists wanted to show us their country. One of them took us down for a tour in the South Island, out to where they had studied their mountains and things. So sometimes it was a matter of some of the local scientists wanted to be able to show their country when we got off in their world. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: So that was another opportunity for Deep Sea personnel socializing?

Wood: Yeah. Or one of the paleontologists had been on one of my earlier cruises was an Argentinean scientist from Buenos Aires. So when we flew through Buenos Aires to get to Ushuaia two or three of us stopped and spent a couple of days in Buenos Aires and went to see this scientist that I had worked with on a previous cruise, just at his lab. So it was a wonderful opportunity for something like that.

Harkewicz: It sounds like it would be.

Wood: And his son, now that I think about it, his son, the scientist was Esteban Boltovskoy,[17] his son came and worked here as a graduate student years later, too. So a lot of ties back and forth from all these different groups.

[17] Esteban Boltovskoy (1912-1997) was born in Russia and graduated in geology at the University of Rostov in 1937. After the war, he worked as a paleontologist at the Institut für Bodenforschung in Vienna. He emigrated to Argentina in 1948 and joined the staff of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia,"

Harkewicz: Okay. Another thing that you mentioned in your notes that I wanted to ask you about, you said you went to schools to share stories about nontraditional work for women. Can you tell me about that, how did that come about?

Wood: Oh—my partner, Pat Paluso, that worked the same job with me, her husband was a lawyer and he had introduced us to one of his acquaintances, who is Melinda Lassiter, I believe, who's become a judge here in San Diego County. And at the time, she was working her way up through being a lawyer, and then eventually became a judge. And she became friends with Pat Paluso and was interested to hear of our job working on this drilling ship. So she had a program where she organized people, women to go and speak to different schools about women in nontraditional roles.

Harkewicz: Elementary schools or high schools?

Wood: They were all different levels and we went to a number of different schools. I think it was probably more the middle grades, maybe. And so Pat and I both kind of, we did that a few times through Miss Lassiter's work, and it was just an interesting little sidelight that we just did in our spare time, or whatever. We'd go out and tell the classes what we did and what our life was like out on the ship, because both Pat and I had the same experiences essentially doing that. So that's how we came upon that little project. *[Laugh]* And then a lot of schools would come to visit our core lab and whoever was here on shore would help give the tours of the lab and so on. So very often when they would find out that those of us that worked onboard the ship, the students were always very interested to hear about those stories. So that's how we came about doing some of those in-school talks.

Harkewicz: Do you think you inspired anybody to go onboard a drilling ship?

Wood: I don't know if we did. *[Laugh]* I don't know if we did. We certainly had a lot of people that were very interested in the idea that there were things like that out there. Because at the time it was when women were just getting involved in the space program, even, and things like that. So it was such an unusual program.

Harkewicz: Interesting. So I just have a few last questions here, because we've been talking for quite some time. And we talked a lot about positive aspects of your job. Was there any parts of the job that you would have liked to have changed or any parts you didn't care for?

Wood: Hmm. Gee, with the gift of hindsight, I suppose, I don't know that I could think of anything that I would have really changed, because it was just such an

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Buenos Aires, two years later. He joined the Argentine Natural Research Council in 1960. He participated in DSDP Leg 26 and studied the Cenozoic bathyal foraminiferal assemblages from a number of DSDP sites. His son Demetrio Boltovskoy was a postdoctoral fellow at Scripps in 1985.

incredibly positive experience and opportunity. And for me it was kind of like taking a situation that was lemons, of coming from a situation where I didn't have a job planned, and then to sort of discover this job and have it turn into such an incredible, wonderful experience. I always was so happy that the end of the relationship that sent me down here to San Diego, I'm so happy that happened. *[Laughter]* Because it gave me just an incredible experience. And you know, I've always told people though it's just about like any job either going to sea or sailing on a boat or anything, there are so many times you can describe it in all the wonderful positive ways that ninety percent of the people you're talking to would be so anxious to think that they could do that, too, but indeed doing it on a regular basis wasn't for everybody.

Harkewicz: Yeah. I can imagine.

Wood: And that doing it on a very routine basis year after year is not something that everybody would desire to do. We had a number of people at Scripps that were very happy to do one or two legs and that was enough for them, because it's a long commitment, eight weeks or more. And even many of our other oceanographic ships that go out don't go out for that period of time. And more often they may even go into ports here and there, which we almost never did in between. So a very different commitment.

Harkewicz: So how many years did you actually work on the project?

Wood: I was with them from 1971 until we closed the door for Scripps' part of it in early 1987. That was the time when it was then moved on to Texas to College Station.

Harkewicz: Did you stay working at Scripps, then, in some capacity?

Wood: No, I had a job up on upper campus, because I didn't find anything at Scripps at the time, and there was what I thought was kind of an interesting job available on upper campus that I did for a while. But it wasn't as interesting—*[laugh]* when I compared it to what I had been doing it wasn't nearly as interesting. And eventually, I got back into doing somewhat more science-related things and I ended up in air pollution work with the county.

Harkewicz: San Diego County?

Wood: In San Diego County.

Harkewicz: So what was it like to be in one place *[laugh]* for an extended period of time and not going out?

Wood: Well, I missed the opportunities to be able to come and go different places. I missed the international aspect of it because we were part of what was sort of a state agency, at the county. We had some connection with the outside world but I

missed that largeness of the program, and I really missed that whole issue of what I mentioned before of having projects where you have beginnings, middles, and ends. Because the job that I took at the county is one that has almost no end to it. *[Laugh]* But it was interesting, too, because it was a lot of science and engineering involved, and that part was good.

Harkewicz: Did your coworkers find it interesting that you had this past career?

Wood: In fact, one of the fellows on the interview panel that hired me over at the Air Pollution Control District, he was a former Navy person who had worked on Navy ships and he was on the panel that interviewed me. And they said, "Well, do you think she's the right one to hire for this job of doing source testing of these smokestacks and things?" And he said, "She's worked on a ship. She'll learn to do anything anywhere, and we'll just make the best of it." *[Laugh]* That was his knowledge of working at sea and that's what he interjected into my election there. So my seagoing time got me that job. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Sure. Would you agree with that?

Wood: It is. People that have ever worked on a ship, particularly, or just that type of environment, especially where you're out, or in a lab in an isolated place, if you're isolated somewhere and all you have are your people and the equipment you've got, that's it. You have to learn to make do with what you've got and survive it, *[laugh]* and enjoy it, hopefully, but be able to make do with what's there.

Harkewicz: Okay. So, I have three final questions. And the first one is, in your opinion, what made Scripps succeed?

Wood: What made Scripps succeed? Well, I think Scripps is, has always succeeded because it's studying our natural world. And everything they've done from a hundred years ago *[laugh]* to the present is there. They have studied and are still studying everything related to the oceans, and the air above it, and our interactions with it. And I think just the fact that you could start out by just wandering out to the ocean on a tide pool, low tide day, and anybody would be fascinated just to see what they see in the little tide pool. And then you can take that and then you go off in the direction that we went off in and start exploring the sea floor all over the world and find out what it means to us and what the history of it was. Nowadays we're doing a lot of work with the ocean, the ocean climate interactions and all of that. And so I would say Scripps is just always finding things that are timely. Everything that we do here is timely because you're always exploring new things and finding out more about the oceans and the Earth. And there can't be anything better than that.

Harkewicz: Okay. And what about, what do you think may have threatened its success?

Wood: Well I suppose, looking in on it from having worked in it, you're always—threatened Scripps' successes?

Harkewicz: Correct. Yeah.

Wood: Well, I think probably politics and money are always the—it takes plenty of money to be able to fund these programs and that's always on everybody's plate as to how you do it. There's so many people with so many wonderful ideas of things they want to do but it takes a lot of money and support to do these things. And then there's bound to be politics on top of that, too. So that would probably be the hard parts. And those of us that weren't directly involved in that, I think, would be thankful *[laugh]* that probably we didn't have to work on that end of it.

Harkewicz: So you don't feel like you were, it really impacted you personally?

Wood: Well, Scripps, I think, eventually made their decisions that they weren't going to continue on with our drilling program. I guess there are many stories of how that really came about. But at some point they ended our participation in running the program and then it went on to another institution. So it impacted a lot of people that way. But my philosophy at the time, too, is we had just an incredible time doing what we did, and maybe it's time to let other people do it. So ultimately I learned to live with that. *[Laugh]*

Harkewicz: Okay. I understand. Okay, my final question is what did Scripps mean to you?

Wood: Oh, Scripps is, I guess, is probably a major shining golden spot in my life that, up to this point, and I'm already a retired person so I'm looking back at my working career, and it's just meant, oh, so much in terms of positive work experience, positive world experience, of getting to experience so many different countries and people from so many different countries. And even the lady I just bumped into today that I met on the way down from the parking lot, when I stopped into the core lab, and here's this lady from Sofia, Bulgaria *[laugh]* here to study some of our cores. And I got to talk to her and said, "I visited Sofia, Bulgaria on one of my trips going to the ship." *[Laugh]* So just strange connections like that. When you're really proud of the work that people did and the effort that you and everyone else put into it, it's just a wonderful experience so that you're happy to talk to people about it and happy to represent Scripps in the outside world. Even though I don't work here anymore I still feel very much attached to Scripps and always will.

Harkewicz: Okay. So what are they doing up at Deep Sea Drilling now if Scripps isn't directly related to the program, the people that you visited up there?

Wood: They still have a lot of the cores stored here. They had split them up kind of geographically, all the Pacific Region cores had been stored here, and the East Coast at Lamont. I don't know what the current plans are, whether they will

combine them all someday or what, but as far as I know there's still a very large collection, a part of the whole collection that Deep Sea Drilling did and the Ocean Drilling Program that followed on. And, there's still some drilling activity, research drilling activity out there. So judging from the scientist that I met today, they're still looking at cores, and sampling cores, and doing some of the same work that we did back in the early seventies. So it looks like it's still going on.

Harkewicz: Well, I appreciate you talking with me today. We covered a lot of things. Is there anything that you wanted to add or you felt like I didn't cover that you wanted to share with an audience?

Wood: Oh, I think we covered quite a bit today.

Harkewicz: Okay. Well, thank you very much for talking with me and for participating in this project. I really appreciated your coming in here and taking time to visit with me today.

Wood: Well, I always love talking about Deep Sea Drilling. It's always a pleasure, *[laugh]* and thank you for the experience.