

Lyndal Laughlin

Interview with ~~Lendal~~

(Transcriptionist's note: Tape was scratchy and noisy. For purposes of this transcript, the Interviewer and Interviewee/Respondent are identified as "INT" and "RES" respectively.

INT: Alright, so Lendal, we're gonna begin by talking about the Island Fox and since you know so much about it I'm gonna let you just roll. To us the significance is that this is a population that essentially was disappearing and now it's back and it's one of the great recovery stories of American History.

RES: So you don't mind if it's a little more complicated than that, right?

INT: You let us have it however you want it.

RES: Okay, careful. (Both laugh). You need my name, too?

INT: No. The Island Fox, you can start by --

RES: I'm, just gonna start with how I first came to the Island, brought here by the Island Fox and roll into that.

INT: Good.

RES: I first came to Santa Cruz Island in 1965, looking for a potential project for my graduate work at UC Santa Barbara. I decided to work on mockingbirds on campus, but that's about the same time the Field Station started out here and so for the next couple of years, I came out intermittently as a grad student looking for potential projects I realized

the Island Fox was an animal that lived out here on these islands, was unique, restricted only to six of the islands of the coast of California, basically a dwarf grey fox, and that virtually nothing had been known about them. They'd been described in the literature and named, but there was nothing really known about their life history, you know, about their food habits, the populations on the different six islands, so I decided that would make a good Ph.D. topic and decided that I needed to stay at UC Santa Barbara and so I came out here starting in the kind of late sixties. At that time the Field Station had as its director, a guy named Michael Benedict, and the Field Station had just got started and in one sense I sort of grew up with it. He left fairly abruptly in 1970 to go in the wine business and I kind of had my foot in the door, knowing Dr. Stanton, spent some time on the Island, so they kind of hired me temporarily. I realized that this was a great job, a perfect career, even though I hadn't finished my Ph.D., I said, why don't you put my hat - name, you know throw my name in the hat and put it in the ring and they chose me, mostly because I knew Dr. Stanton, he was comfortable with me, and basically, whatever he wanted was good for the University, in spite of their bureaucracy of how to hire people, it didn't really matter in this case. And it's been a wonderful place to live and work and I've been here ever since. My early work was with the Island Fox. At that time this population was

very healthy, very abundant. We had lots of feral sheep, lots of over-grazing, still is a big cattle ranch. People decided you know were thinking about things that this Island, if we recover it, get rid of the sheep, bring back more vegetation, the fox population will just expand and they'll be healthy and even more than ever. We did know that there had been past population problems on Catalina Island and so there's been a varying history of the different islands of what's gone on with the fox population. You know I finished my Ph.D., worked on other things, some other folks came along and did work on the foxes and all of a sudden in the late 90s we realized that the population had started to decline. People started seeing the same thing going on on Santa Rosa and San Miguel, started to figure out what's going on and turned out the Golden Eagles had ended up becoming residents out here, having nests, raising babies and their establishment was probably enabled by the sheep and pig population, so baby pigs, baby sheep were perfect sizes and there's a fox right behind us up there in the field. For prey for these eagles, when the Nature Conservancy took over, got rid of the cattle, got rid of the sheep, got rid of the pigs, all of a sudden the eagles had no food source, they turned to the foxes, because these foxes are very naïve, they're out in the daytime, they rely on plant fruits and insects a lot so they don't have to constrain their activities to nighttime, so they're very vulnerable, they've

never had anybody hassling them, especially on the open grasslands. The eagles were picking them off left and right and when we looked at the eagle nests we were amazed at how many fox carcasses, how many foxes it was taking to feed these baby eagles as their growing up and this population, you know had sort of a safety net in that there's a lot of woodland, chaparral oak woodland, where the eagles don't hunt very effectively, but out to the west in the Christy area, the foxes were pretty much eliminated. On San Miguel they went down to only thirteen individuals, Santa Rosa had like in the low twenties, and the decision was made to put a bunch of them into captivity, almost all of them on those two islands, but here we put like two sets of pens of about ten pairs in each one, just as a safety net in case you know we couldn't deal with the eagles and get things going back to the normal situation. Luckily, by capturing the eagles and transplanting them shut down the nesting. Really, once the eagles moved off they didn't move back again in any regular pattern or any numbers and the fox population has rebounded and there's just an amazing number of foxes. The trajectory on all these islands right now is continuing to climb, so you know, seems to be like a really, you know once in a while biologists start playing God and manipulating things and this is a case where our manipulations have seemed to work out very well.

INT: Excellent. How significant was the timeframe in

which you were able to accomplish this? I gather from reading that this was a fairly quick fix, so to speak, and it's of very significant result in a short period of time, because of the way that it was managed. How does this restoration story rate in terms of restoration stories? Is this a text book example that should be taught?

RES: So, this whole restoration/recovery identifying the problem, a committed effort to deal with it, is become probably one of the outstanding examples of particularly the way the Endangered Species Act is supposed to work, so we had this sort of a self-appointed group of scientists, land managers, land owners, the Nature Conservancy, the Catalina Conservancy, the Navy people, because these six islands are administered to a bunch of different entities, and then the Park Service. So the land managers, the biologists, all got together, we started having these annual meetings. Right away people were trying to get a good idea of what was going on with the foxes to trapping and marking and with the breeding in captivity program, figured out the problem, did this manipulation where we removed the eagles, started trying to have reproduction in captivity, but realized shortly that the foxes were probably better able to figure that out on their own and have a better productivity and more pups, you know better health, that kind of thing if they are in the wild. So once we got a handle on the eagles, we were able to start

releasing the foxes again, but during the process we decided that you know we needed to have you know better commitment with some agencies, better way to raise funds. So the idea was we should list these guys on the Endangered Species list, which is a whole bureaucratic process in and of itself, so you have to start the process, that starts a clock, then you have to verify what the population size that you need to have a threshold above which that the foxes are gonna be healthy and able to sustain themselves. So we had to have five years of data showing that number is at the right place. So it took a while and actually several of these populations, biologically, we've probably recovered 'em at this point, but bureaucratically we haven't gone through the, 'cause once you start the, kind of the paperwork process there's an automatic five-year window you have to show the data before you can start considering delisting them. So even though we've had a couple of these islands, the populations seem healthy enough now with the numbers and the whole understanding of the situation that they could be delisted, we still have to go through this process of this clock before we can go to the next step and actually delist them so, and there are various issues you know some of the islands, different management styles that may mean that they can't really get changed, just because of the way the laws read and the process.

INT: So in your years on this Island you've seen cattle,

sheep, feral pigs, and Golden Eagles and invasive plants, all leading toward a new kind of island as opposed to the way it had been for a millennium and then through intervention and planning you've been able to turn things around in a relatively short period of time. Could you just talk about the overall state of the Island at its worst, twenty or thirty years ago and how it has evolved so quickly into a healthy biology again?

RES: Okay, well this Island has had an interesting and long history of human occupation. We have the Native Americans that now have dates on one of our nearby islands, going back thirteen thousand eight hundred years before present. You know that all ended with kind of the Spanish/Mexican period in California when most of them were moved off the islands to the missions on the mainland. Then early ranching efforts and so some of the early ranching efforts on certainly this Island and some of the other islands involved large sheep herds and this Island was kind of treated as one whole big pasture they're you know basically you're on an island so things can't wander off too far, even though this is a big and kind of a topographically complex island, we are surrounded by water and you know some of the sheep would be caught and some wouldn't, they were basically catching them here for, the whole process was to raise the wool then shear them and then turn them loose again, it wasn't really a meat

product ranching program. And so some of the Island got very abused. It depends on the geology and the sub straights but a lot of erosion and things like that. When the Stantons bought the Island in the late 1930s and then subsequent years they transitioned into a cattle ranch, which meant fewer animals per acre grazing, kind of a different style of grazing, too, sheep kind of pull things out of the ground, cattle pretty much just munch it off and things can regrow again, but it was still a grazing impact and some of the Island was just fenced off and left to feral sheep that were running wild and so it wasn't until the Nature Conservancy came on board that all of these kind of exotic grazing animals were totally removed; and I've witnessed an amazing recovery on parts of these islands and this is an Island where we really haven't done a lot of active restoration, other than basically remove the bad guys. We haven't done a lot of planting, we haven't gone out and you know treated the soil and added things and you know put seeds and transplant plants. It's more or less take the bad guys away, give it some time, and let, because basically things are here. It's not like you know in some cases they might be very limited numbers and very limited kind of inaccessible landscape elements, but they've kind of marched off those areas where they couldn't be grazed on and they're starting to fill in. So if you travel around the Island, particularly the shore lines, you'll see coreopsis spreading up on the

flatlands again, just you know the chaparral is coming back in. Some of the most impacted areas would be in the central valley where they were actually plowing and farming, where they did sort of deeper soil disturbance and that's gonna take a little longer or would be a place you'd probably want to do some intense manipulation.

INT: Last question that I have in this area: if you were invited to the National Academy of Science and Environmentalists in Geneva to give a talk about your conclusions of your time on Santa Cruz Island and what it took to get restoration going and how it went, how would you summarize your thirty-five year experience here to the world body of scientists? What have you learned that they should know?

RES: Well I think one of our primary lessons has been this idea that nature is an amazing ability, has an amazing ability to recover on its own, so, but it is really relative. So the intensity of the disturbance is gonna give you some clue onto how much effort you're gonna put into it, so if you have the native sources, it's you know moderate to mild disturbance chances are it's probably gonna be certainly less cost effective, more cost effective - less costly, and probably get a better result to let nature do its own thing, so to speak. Other areas where you might have other values that you want something to happen much more immediately, more

active intervention might be the case. Part of it also revolves around education you know, speaking to the converted, a biologist talking to the ecologist and the conservationist, yea we're gonna save little places like this, but in a bigger, broader prospective around the world, you need to engage all of these people that don't have that knowledge and experience and a best way to get 'em to do that is a hands on involvement so it may not be necessary to do that kind of active intervention from the plant world and the biological world, but from the human, get 'em involved, get 'em to respect, appreciate, and care about that kind of thing, it may be more meaningful to have those people actually doing that stuff than it is to actually be the value of the plant growing and saving that piece of the soil might have been. You know we're all in this together and you know this Island is just a small part of the world and if we can't, and it's not gonna do us a lot of good to save this Island and the rest of the world goes to hell, you know, just being a little out there by yourself, crying wolf alone is --

INT: Just to follow up on that --

I'm sorry, cut for a second.

INT: Okay, so all that said, it is a big world and a complicated world and a world in a lot of trouble, but there has been tremendous progress here. What is the lesson and how important is the lesson of Santa Cruz Island for the world?

RES: So yes, the opportunity to help restore something is great, but I think you do need to have really outstanding examples of where you're gonna restore something to and kind of result that you can show people immediately so that they can really continue that passion to be involved. And I think Santa Cruz Island and several of the Channel Islands fit that to a tee. I mean it's just really amazing, really right in your face, obvious that you can see things have happened to the good and you everything we're talking about: the plants are coming back, the Island Foxes are alive and well, you know, we've got all kinds of good stories, you know we're knocking down the bad guys and you know it's nothing but a win win situation all around.

INT: I think that's good on the environment and the ecology and all of that.

Go ahead and cut guys.

INT: Do you have anything else that you want to say in that area?

RES: Yea, right by that post there's an open gate, straight through there.

INT: Okay, let's begin the walk and talk and what I'd like you to do is just talk about Carey Stanton. I first got to know Carey Stanton and describe him to us and why he loved this Island and his commitment to preservation and --

RES: Okay. So when I first came to the Island the Island

was owned by this pretty much, even though it was owned by a company this one man, Dr. Carey Stanton, was the Island company and there's quite a mythology about him. He was very standoffish, you didn't approach him, you know he ran this Island like a little kingdom. His word was law, so to speak, and it was sort of very intimidating like for instance, people that came to the field station, you weren't supposed to interact with him or approach him unless he basically came to you. And so for many years it was kind of a relationship that was very hard to get very warm about. Once I started working out here quite regularly and then especially when I became responsible as the director for the operations for the University and more or less all the kids and the projects going on here and I got to know Dr. Stanton much better, I realized that he had a real passion for this Island. He really appreciated all the knowledge that was being gathered by the folks working for the field station, he was one of the most well-read individuals I've ever come across. All the projects' people had published their papers, their dissertations, those Ph.Ds. he wanted to have a copy for his library and he would actually read them. He would come up and engage and talk to the kids or the professors about their work. So it wasn't you know, here's this big island that I own, he was a hands on even though he was the last person you would mistake for a cattle rancher. He really wanted to be

involved in the cattle operations, even though he wasn't you know part of the day-to-day ranching, so to speak, but whenever we did the roundups, the castrations and the dehorning he'd become a pathologist, his background you know went to Stanford and became a medical doctor, and he kind of had to give that up to run this Island when his father past away, 'cause he really loved the Island and wanted to keep it in the family, and I think this whole part of the involvement with the cattle was one of the was that he kind of kept his hand in medicine, so to speak. The other thing was, you didn't dare tell him you were gonna go on a trip someplace and you needed to have some kind of a vaccination, because the next minute he'd be right there with his needle in his hand saying, roll up your sleeve or bend over and drop your trousers 'cause you know you need your gamma globulin shot or whatever else for wherever you're going. And the other thing he kept his medical license current even though he didn't practice, his specialty was pathology so that's kind of a hard thing to practice from an island, but I think he, in one way whether he regretted not having the opportunity to really do that as a lifelong thing, I think that was overcome by his love for the Island and wanting to keep that in the family and the whole ambiance of that.

INT: Did he talk with you -

Let's move, let's move you out of the (inaudible 20:29.

RES: Better background?

Well, we want it to be nature didn't want it to be, is at a well?

RES: Actually it's covering the septic system. (Laughs) Even worse.

Okay, so somewhere in here is gonna be just fine. Right in there. There is good. Sorry, Sam.

INT: No sorry, are we walking or standing still for a while?

Why don't we stay still for a while?

INT: Okay and you'd be looking at me please, Lendal, and if you want to move your hands around when you talk, you can move 'em.

A little bit more, put him in the field, there ya go. Okay. We are still rolling.

INT: Let's get into Carey Stanton in a little more detail. Mano oh mano, did you and Carey ever sit down and chat about the Island, about his goals for the Island and did he express his love for the Island, what would the kind of things you and Carey talk about?

RES: Well Carey Stanton was kind of a hard person to get to know on an intimate level. We certainly were able to talk about you know the field station and what people are doing. I helped them with the cattle operations a lot for many years, worked with them with the roundup and rode and helped branding

and both Henry Duffield and Carey Stanton, I got to know them fairly well. I'd be socially interacting with them at the ranch, cocktail hour, having dinner with them, but at the same time it was hard for me to feel comfortable to ask them intimate, at least Carey, intimate questions about his personal life. And it wasn't until very later years that I got anywhere near close enough to do that, and even then tragically he was you know he passed away before I really got to the point to get much of a clue about some of that kind of stuff. So a lot of it is just conjecture after the fact, which you know may or may not be, sounds good as a story, but not something you probably want to really make people believe too faithfully.

INT: What was dinner like? Talk about dinner. Did you have to get invited, did you have to get dressed up to go to cocktails and have chat and coffee after? What was dinner like with Carey Stanton? Can you remember any specific dinner, any conversations, any fun guests who came?

RES: So, I had the opportunity to be invited to dinner to the ranch with Dr. Stanton and usually with Henry also many times. And again it was sort of a, almost an out of context experience. Here you're on this big cattle ranch, beautiful island, kind of a rural outdoor experience, but Carey Stanton, one part of his life, certainly his social life, was very old school. He, basically, when he went to town he had a coat and

tie on, he would put it on here, go out to the airport or go down to the harbor and get on the boat or the airplane and it didn't matter if it was raining, he'd be hiking up the hill, still have his coat and tie on. So dinner was always a coat and tie obligation, especially if you knew ahead of time. Sometimes people that he would invite like a professor from the field station, impromptu would be forgiven for not having a coat and tie, but like the residents or any of his friends when they came out they always brought that kind of formal dinner wear you know to wear to the dinner table. And so the dinner was in this formal dining room. There would be formal place settings, there'd be a little bell to ring so the maid would bring in, the helpers and the cook would bring in each course, he'd ring the little bell for the next course and she would bring it in, and so it was you know cocktail hour promptly at 6:30, dinner promptly at usually 7:30, he wasn't a gourmet by any means and it was pretty simple cooking straight forward and kind of a rotation of five or six planned menus that would rotate through the clock like that and pretty much not a long evening of chit chat afterwards, at least in our situations. Maybe when you had personal guests that were staying you know maybe they would go off and drink for late in the night, but usually Dr. Stanton went right to bed at you know by 8:30 to 9:00 and then usually they were up quite early the next morning by 5:30 to 6:00.

INT: Did you ever have dinner with Carey Stanton and Joe Walsh?

RES: Yea, there'd been quite a few guests that would come out and have dinner at the ranch and I'd be asked to join them. Joe Walsh was one of them, Richard Diebenkorn, one of the most famous California artists, was actually Carey Stanton's roommate at Stanford and he and his wife and actually his children came out you know regularly over a long period of time and you know so there were quite a few people that, even though you're on an island and even though Carey Stanton wasn't that social, it still seemed like there was opportunities for these kinds of interactions. So I actually got to know Joe through the interaction out here. He actually became good friends with Henry Duffield, the Ranch manager who was actually paralyzed from the waist down and when Dr. Stanton would leave the Island he would sometimes ask Joe to come out and kind of hang around with Henry to just be a companion and friend and you know so quite a few times Joe was out here and you know we would just end up with dinner in the evenings and --

INT: Were you here before --

Sorry.

INT: I'd just like to go a little bit more down the jaw bed, so --

RES: Okay, so yea, Carey Stanton's interaction with Joe

Walsh was very interesting. I mean when I first met Joe he was still heavily involved in kind of the wild, crazy rock 'n roll world you know all the different things that go along with that that we know about for you know altered states of mind and drinking and whatever, but through some other friends Joe made this connection to come out here. He actually came out here, met Dr. Stanton and Henry Duffield, became friends with them, he actually, one of his marriages occurred here on the Island, and Joe would come out and you know dinner at the ranch, ride around in the jeep, it got to the point where sometimes Carey would leave the Island for oh maybe a month at a time, 'cause he ended up having this property over in the outer Hebrides off the West Coast of Scotland, kind of a very anomalous, in one sense, place for him to end up, considering he could have had the same experience out at the West end of this Island, but you know that's life. But anyway Joe would come out and take care of Henry, kind of not take care of him, but be a companion and go around in the jeep with him and so you know I'd have the opportunity to come down and have dinner with them. Sometimes Joe would have these impromptu guitar sessions around the pool or around the little patio there where they'd have cocktails in the evening, so it was quite an interesting and great memory for me.

INT: Would you say that Joe Walsh and Carey Stanton comprised an odd couple, an odd pairing with a surprising

pairing? If you think so could you use those words maybe?
Sounds like sort of an odd couple.

RES: Well I would be hard pressed to call them a
'couple.' I mean they were odd, they operated out of odd
parts, you know very different parts of the world and they
became friends and you know a couple of instances you know Joe
and the Eagles would have these mega concerts like at the Rose
Bowl and they would invite Carey Stanton and Joe would send
his limo and everything and get him front row seats and you
know here's Carey Stanton in this major rock 'n roll concert
going on and he was you know sort of a fish out of water for
sure, 'cause that was not anything that, in the rest of his
life he didn't listen to that kind of music, he didn't go to
those kind of events you know he didn't do that kind of thing,
but at the same time, I think it was interesting enough for
him to do it on these limited occasions.

INT: Did Carey ever tell you the next day or when he got
back to the Island, what it was like at the concert, how --

RES: No.

INT: Okay.

RES: I don't have any knot on the head.

INT: Henry Duffield, can you just tell us briefly about,
describe Henry and his, where he was discovered and how he got
here and what he did and the wonderful relationships that
existed between all of you?

RES: 'Em hm.

INT: How, who's Henry Duffield and how important was he to Santa Cruz Island?

RES: So, when I first started coming to the Island the ranch manager at that time was Henry Duffield, so the history out here, most of the owners of the Island didn't really live here and operate you know run the cattle ranch themselves, hands on to a large extent. So Mr. Stanton, when he purchased the Island had a series of ranch foremen and some were good and some were not so good for various reasons and this fellow named Henry Duffield met Carey Stanton in Acapulco, Mexico, or maybe it was Portoviejo, but anyway in Mexico in one of these resort places, while he was down there with a group of his doctor friends. Henry Duffield had grown up in a fairly wealthy family in Michigan, in the Detroit area not too far from Detroit, but the family had a summer place down in Bulla, Colorado and so they'd go down there every summer and Henry's father was very prosperous, I think in the stock business, you know stock in the sense of Wall Street not livestock, but Henry just had this fascination with ranching and he kind of ended up working for one of these ranchers in that area in the summertime in Colorado and decided he was just gonna go off and become a rancher. And so at a very young age he kind of became the black sheep of the family, went to Colorado, ended up buying property down in the Spanish peeks area, he had a

relationship with an Opera star, he sort of traveled a bit with her. They realized that their two live styles weren't really messing and so they kind of had a mutual separation and you know she didn't want to live on a cattle ranch and he didn't want to spend all his time traveling around chasing after wherever the opera was going on. He then ended up, actually, in Cuba with some partners in a big ranch in the era before Castro, kind of saw Castro come into power, saw the writing on the wall, bailed out of there, ended up in southern Mexico in the Chiapas region with some other partners and he was, these other guys were fairly wealthy Mexicans and Henry would end up in Mexico City playing polo with them quite often and he ended up contracting, contracting polio and ended up in an iron lunge in a hospital in Mexico City for almost a year. And so he got out of there, he had the full-on brace system, he could kind of, with crutches and these braces, he could be upright and walk around, and so he was in this bar, not in the cattle business anymore, in either Puerto Vallarta or Acapulco, I'm not sure, when Stanton and his doctor friends showed up and they saw him standing over there and sort of the story I got was that you know here's this interesting medical specimen, let's invite him over and have a drink and talk to him about what his ailments were and how he got to that place. And one thing led to another, talking to Dr. Stanton it came out that his family owned this cattle ranch on this island off

of southern California and Henry's background in cattle in Colorado and Mexico and whatnot. Carey said, you know you should come out to the Island just come out and visit and meet my father and so Henry, obviously, at that point had nothing better to do and decided to take him up on it, came out here and met Mr. Stanton and apparently in the course of their driving around the island and talking about things, at that point the Stantons really didn't have a great manager for the Island and Mr. Stanton realized that Henry had a lot of this knowledge. Even though he was physically unable to ride a horse and chase cows and do all that kind of stuff, his brain was really good and his knowledge, so he said, you know why don't you come and work for me, run this operation. I need a good brain here. I can get one of the Mexican boys to ride around with you and open the gates, I'll fix up the jeep with hand controls so you can drive it yourself, and that's the beginning of Henry and he became the ranch foreman, running the ranch for Carey Stanton, all the way up to his death in 1986, lived here at the ranch. Finally ended up so he only had a brace system on his lower leg and so he had crutches and he could get around with those crutches amazingly. He'd come up here to the field station with all the kids and drink and party and play cards all night long and then he'd hop in his jeep and go down there and they lived upstairs in the ranch in one of the two-story adobe buildings, and you know he'd make

it up the stairs and even though he was using these crutches and been partying all night long and first thing five thirty in the morning he'd be up with the cowboys helping 'em get sorted out for the next day's work.

INT: What became of Henry Duffield, how did he die?

RES: Well Henry, as I mentioned he had this medical impairment, he was paralyzed from the waist down, so he had this personality, he was one of these guys that just loved everybody, you know he could ride his horse into a bar and buy everybody a drink and drink all night and be raring to go the next day. He was very strong-willed, very active person and I think this paralyzation helped things, you know that took a big toll on him, but this opportunity to live and work on the Island and still kind of have this independence and kind of have a commitment and a sense of fulfillment running this ranch was very important to him. And then, sadly, in his later years, a year or two before his death, he had a stroke and that kind of set him back. He started doing some therapy, he had a guy helping him more intensively, but at the same time you could just see it wasn't sitting well with him you know being more dependent upon somebody taking care of him and then he had another stroke. That one was really bad and basically he, at that point, he had to be carried around, they tried to get him to do rehab kind of stuff in Santa Barbara, but he just didn't want to have anything to do with it and he

just wanted to go back to the Island and basically give it up, you know basically die. And you know everybody here realized that you know you couldn't deny him that kind of a thing and so he basically shot himself, committed suicide.

INT: And was Carey Stanton still alive?

RES: Oh yea, Carey was still alive.

INT: How did Carey take Henry's death?

RES: Well, Carey took that very, very hard. Henry Duffield's death was very hard on all of us, but particularly on Carey Stanton. Very interesting relationship. They were kind of like these, you know these cases you hear about two guys in the tent in the winter, trapped in the snow where they just bicker and bicker when they're together like that, but some outside force comes in and they kind of solidify and exist, so in my history out here, whenever there were issues and you walked into the ranch office and you could tell the two of 'em had been bickering and arguing you know about something, and immediately they would latch onto you and want you to take one of their sides and you knew that was like the worst thing that could happen to you 'cause there was a no win situation, whichever one you aligned with, the other one would be. So I learned long ago that basically I turned around and decided I had to work out at the west end the rest of the day. So this whole issue of Henry's deterioration of his health and, basically, him committing suicide was very difficult for

Carey Stanton. You know they were these life-long friends, even though they sometimes had these bickering incidents, they really had a true fondness love for each other besides the dependence Carey had on Henry running the ranch and all the ranching operations and Carey had this long history of problems with alcohol and he was trying to try out and not do it, but I think Henry's death kind of got him back onto alcohol sort of a problem and then kind of things went downhill from there and then, basically, Carey Stanton's death out here happened a year later.

INT: Last question.

Yea, because I think --

INT: You've given us wonderful information and insight. You're the person who's lived on the Channel Islands the longest now of anyone except for perhaps somebody on Catalina but that's residential anyway. What has your long life on the Channel Islands meant to you as a person and how did Carey Stanton and Henry Duffield and Joe Walsh influence your life and influence the health of this Island?

RES: Yea, it's been really wonderful experience to live and work here. I mean from my perspective ideal, I've been involved with a program where there's immense mental stimulation constantly. I mean there's just a whole rainbow of projects, archeology, geology, and every kind of biology, so you know you're always kept your interest, new knowledge,

watching the Island recover, knowing that you've played a part in doing that, that's just another kind of really fulfilling kind of feeling. The whole interaction with the ranch, the ranching history, the transition to the Nature Conservancy and the National Park, another, you know there's personal involvement with people that you know that kind of transition separates you know and causes some emotional trauma maybe, but at the same time you know for the good of the Island things have been going on. In one sense, my relationship with Carey Stanton, I mean Henry and I were kind of like friends and sort of co-workers with our relationship with the two different programs here. Carey was sometimes, I wouldn't say really a father figure, but almost. Joe I don't really have a lot to say about you know other than the friend and a guy I know.

INT: That's good. If you had one word to describe Carey Stanton, what one word?

RES: One word.

INT: Or you know three words to make up one idea?

RES: I mean, definitely interesting, articulate, one of the smartest guys I've ever come across, passionate about the history and the Island. I mean in one sense his idea was to go back in time with the Island and not you know follow the Catalina path with more people. His whole idea was the Island doesn't need more people tromping all over it and that's why he was so adamant about preserving it, why he did the deal

with the Nature Conservancy and didn't end up in the National Park with this part of it.

INT: And how would you say he would feel about what's happened since?

RES: I think he would have mixed feelings about the path we've been on since. It would be hard to say you know I think, again, he's a complicated person and I think he would have a mixed comment about that. I mean for this part of the Island, it's been stabilized and it's recovering. I think he would be in support of that. You know certainly the way the NC uses it to cultivate, I mean it's just part of their gig, they gotta do that to cultivate high-end donors to support and appreciate the programs, but that was certainly not Stanton's idea of visitation to the Island on his part of it.

INT: What about Joe and, I'm sorry, Carey and Father, Monsignor Webber? Did you ever see them together?

RES: Oh yes. Yea that was another interesting relationship. You know he, Frank Webber, the Monsignor in later years at Mission San Fernando, many, many years ago sort of talked his way into coming out to the Island to have a mass at the chapel that really hadn't been used for many years. Stanton was a little, the story I heard, was a little put off in the initial approach but once it happened he basically paid for the airplane trip, told Monsignor Webber that he would have to come back and do this every year and started this

whole tradition of the annual mass that we still have today, even though Monsignor Webber is now of an age that he can't really continue to be the one doing the mass anymore.

INT: Alright, Brent, that's it for me. Brent always gets the last question.

Why don't we walk, why don't we walk back and --

RES: Yea we are getting kind of close to rolling it time.

Yea, so I guess Peter, I'll hang onto you, watch out for this rock. What was the best time you had out here with Carey and Henry?

RES: Some of the really great times that I had, I mean I grew up in kind of a rural background so even though I went into academia my family always had horses, we didn't really have a ranch but we had some livestock around and so the chance to participate in the cattle ranching operations, the roundups, riding the horses, doing the branding, I always look back and think of Moses, kind of high points. I don't know I think just knowing a couple of very interesting guys and becoming fairly close friends with them. Not that I have anything, you know a good example about that, but --

There wasn't a cocktail that you shared or --

RES: Oh we shared many cocktails you know all over the place.

INT: How big a sense of loss did you feel within that two-year period that you lost both of those guys?

RES: I think that was a big loss, a tremendous loss. You know at that point in time my parents hadn't died so they were kind of the closest personal people to me that I've experienced that kind of a loss and you know Henry's was sort of tragic, but it was very understandable and it's sort of, I feel, it was a, you know as macabre as it may be, it was probably a better way to end than having him go and be stuck in a hospital bed with somebody waiting on him hand and foot. Carey's loss was premature and you know he should have had more years to enjoy life and the Island, so from that sense that was another loss that was difficult, 'cause you just weren't ready for it.

That's a wrap!

INT: (Inaudible - 47:54) he was talked over) you, Lendal. That must have been hard for you to talk about some of those things. You were good to do that. It's a way of honoring them.

RES: No, no, I'm, hey there's one of the big tragedies was that you know and this isn't the first time that it's happened is that all of the people that have done so much and had such experiences on the Island and you know don't get it documented and I think Carey was one of the examples that with Marlo's help they were just in the process of beginning that and so you know the premature pulling the rug out from under him, so to speak, means a big loss to us in the knowledge of

the Island and it's something that I've tried to think, even though I haven't sat down and written things, I have done these kind of filming and oral history things to, you know realizing that I have been a part of it and I do know something and I should contribute for the future in the next go round.

This will help.

RES: And so if you, yea if you guys have any questions, I mean if you want to get anything else in the future.

INT: You may hear from us.

INT: Yea, let me know 'cause I, you know doing it on the mainland is easy.

INT: Yea, once Pete gets into the edit room and he finds out what he needs.

RES: Yea, if there's things that you know I mean we didn't talk about Carey's interaction with Jane Fonda and that was sort of another one of those total out of context things that you know, Hanoi Jane and conservative Carey Stanton. (Laughs.)

INT: Okay, we probably should move.

RES: Yea I think you guys are probably pushing Mark's patience already.

END OF INTERVIEW

+++