

Transcript

Interview with Lauren Fins, Professor Emerita of Forest Genetics

This interview was conducted by Flori Tulli, English M.A. and Library Dean Fellow in Special Collections, on the 28th of June, 2022, at 12:00pm, in Café Artista, Moscow ID.

Speakers:

Lauren Fins: Professor Emerita of Forest Genetics, the University of Idaho’s College of Natural Resources.

Flori Tulli: English M.A. and Library Dean Fellow in Special Collections.

Flori: For context, this is Flori Tulli, and I'm speaking with Lauren Fins. We will see how well this recording captures our conversation in this café—we'll finish our tea and see how we get through and hear each other. Ok! So you were saying that you were going your own way in your career—you worked for a cooperative for forestry?

Lauren: It was the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative, and that was an organization composed of all of the major forest landholders in the Inland Northwest, including private companies, Universities, the Forest Service, the BLM, three state organizations (Washington, Idaho, Montana) and four Indian tribes. So everybody that had major land holdings—forest land holdings—was part of that Co-op.

Flori: So, working two full-time jobs for both of those. You were saying that you felt there really wasn't a lot—or there wasn't a necessity for the journal?

Lauren: It wasn't that I felt that there wasn't a necessity—I didn't actually see the necessity. I thought that...I thought that women should just sort of make our own way in these male-dominated fields. That if we worked hard, and we were smart, and we were confident, that we would make our way, and I didn't like the idea of separating ourselves out. I thought the way forward was to integrate in. And, I mean, in retrospect, it probably was a good idea...But I didn't see it at the time. I had never been a feminist—I hadn't belonged to women's organizations—I just sort of went along, doing my job, learning what I could, trying to be as competent as I could be—without swinging a banner that said “I am woman.”

Flori: It's interesting. This is why I like to speak to multiple people, because Jo Ellen—and I'm sure Molly—had another perspective. Maybe they had other experiences, where they were saying we need to represent women. Molly was saying in her article, “The First Wave,” that they wished there wasn't a need for this separation, but they felt that they needed to celebrate their accomplishments—have some separation. I was speaking with Jo Ellen about that too...It's this conflicting discourse of wanting to be equal in the same field and regarded as the same, but then there's this identity side to it—of wanting women to represent themselves. So did you ever feel like you faced some hardships just because you're a woman, or not really?

Lauren: I think I did, but I wasn't necessarily aware of it at the time. I think there were things that were harder for me in working with all the guys in the Co-op. There was one guy that said to me once, when I met him years later at a Society of American Foresters meeting, and he said "Oh yeah, there was always talk behind your back. There were always comments." I wasn't aware of them—I was really just oblivious. I was just trying to do my job, so I think there were things that were probably harder for me that I didn't know. I did notice that some of my male colleagues would get pats on the back for things that they did, I thought, "What was so great about that?"

Flori: Basic things?

Lauren: Yeah, and that didn't necessarily happen for me. But I just...I don't wallow in that kind of thinking. It's not productive—it's not good. And I have to say, I had allies as well.

Flori: Supportive men?

Lauren: Yeah, there were people in the Co-op and a couple in the University—in my department—that were really good to work with. They wanted to get things done, and that's what I wanted to do. And so, if we could work together to get things done, that was good. And the people who were obstructionist, well, I just had to deal with that.

Flori: I always find it's interesting to hear different discourses, because—I don't know if it was just different for some people, or maybe—like you—you had a focus, and you didn't care what's going on—I'm just doing the job. I feel like some of the women in the journal had a more adversarial perspective toward the establishment—the glass ceiling—like it's a fight. And on the other hand, we have other individuals—such as yourself—that just want to work and get the job done. So it's a whole different experience, right? And yet all valid and important—to listen to and record. It's really interesting!

Lauren: Yeah. I couldn't—I just I didn't wanna spend my life fighting. I knew that if I took the perspective that this is always a fight, that wasn't mentally healthy—that was not a healthy perspective—not for me.

Flori: Maybe some people are fueled by that. It gives them a fire, a fighting spirit.

Lauren: That's right.

Flori: Many people share that perspective: I just wanna do the job, be kind, and work with people—help people—but I don't I don't wanna bring anyone down. I just want us to work together.

Lauren: Yeah, I think things have changed too, from my generation to your generation.

Flori: Maybe...How so, do you think?

Lauren: I just think that enough women have come into the workforce—highly professional positions—that men are more used to having women as colleagues. They're not like, "What's that?" "Where's she gonna go to the bathroom? She's not coming into my bathroom!"

Flori: That's another thing Jo Ellen was saying—about the bathrooms too! That seems to have been such a hot-button issue in Forestry. “Where are they gonna go?” Well—in that hole—that hole over there.

Lauren: Well yeah! I forgot about that, but that's true—there weren't women's bathrooms—or that it was on a different floor. And when you've gotta go, you know, you don't want to be having to run to another floor! Especially our building didn't have stairs in the middle, and still doesn't as far as I know.

Flori: The Natural Resources building?

Lauren: Yeah, there's an elevator in the center and stairs are on both ends of the building. Our offices were in the middle—so you had to run! So yeah, things have definitely changed.

Flori: Yeah, I feel like, nearing the end—when I saw the journal starting to fall apart—they were starting to say, well—or Jo Ellen was saying that—there wasn't really a need for it anymore. Or they felt like—kind of like you were saying—we have other women now, we have sisters in all sorts of fields. People are more used to us being here, so maybe we don't have the same need, or the same need for community that they found in each other. And it just broke apart, and women went on working in their own fields.

Lauren: Yeah, and I think Molly's interests changed. She went into AI—before that, she had been doing entomology and genetics and—

Flori: It sounds like she had a broad range.

Lauren: Oh yeah! Molly is definitely a polymath. So the journal may have fallen apart before she went into AI, but things run their course.

Flori: You can't always revitalize something. When a community kind of goes, people are doing their own thing, but maybe something new comes about. It's interesting how things are lining up, because we have the Women's Center's Anniversary this year—

Lauren: Oh yeah, that's right.

Flori: I mean, it seems like this might fit into that piece of the puzzle—the University's history. If I remember correctly, you worked for the University for 33 years in Forestry? So overall, you have had a positive experience?

Lauren: Yeah, the job was diverse enough to keep me engaged, and I liked the teaching assignments that I had, and—I was never gun-ho into research, but I did some good research while I was there—and I was always spread out, you know? I couldn't ever just focus on research or just focus on teaching or just focus on the Co-op. I had to do all of them. I was always juggling a whole bunch of balls—well, I shouldn't say always—after 20 or 21 years with the Co-op, I decided that the battles that I had to fight—'cause you always have challenges—it was like the third time around, fighting the same battles, dealing with the same challenges, that I decided, “You know, I'm tired of doing this...I don't want to have to fight this fight again.”

Flori: So you wanted to redirect the stream around that mountain?

Lauren: Yes. One of the things was this one company that periodically—about every five to seven years—this company would say, “We don't think we need to belong to this organization.” When management changes and they question why they should belong here. And then I would have to go out there, bring the banner and give them all the arguments, say that this is the benefit that you're getting. This is why you're with this whole group of people—everybody else in the region is part of this—and these are the benefits that you get.

Flori: What benefits would they get?

Lauren: They were getting seeds, they were getting information, they had an avenue to talk to each other—an accepted way to talk to each other without any hint of collusion. It always provided a venue for people to get together and compare notes, 'cause we would do field trips, and they would go and see how other people were managing their lands. We provided an educational platform for them. I was always available to answer questions—to come and be a consultant for them—they were already paying for me—they didn't have to pay an extra fee for a consultant. So there were lots of benefits to it. And I managed to keep all but one Indian Tribe in the Co-op—they decided that they didn't want to be part of it—otherwise, I kept everybody else in. That was a major accomplishment.

Flori: 22 organizations?

Lauren: Yes, so we went down to 21—or maybe it was 23 and went down to 22—I don't remember. Still, that's keeping a lot of people happy—and there was nothing I could do to keep that Indian Tribe in—I'm not sure if Native American is the appropriate term, or Indian—I know that there's controversy about that.

Flori: I don't know...I have always learned Native American, but many call themselves Indian, or refer to themselves as Indian in literature. I hope that being respectful is what really counts.

Lauren: Right, so anyway, by the third time around, I just thought I want some new and different challenge, not the same one over and over. I just thought, I've got other interests—I've got other things I want to do—and I'm done.

Flori: That sounds very relatable to some people—trying to do so many things—succeeded in a lot. I've listened to a lot of different ideologies: some say you need to focus on one thing—put all your heart and soul into it—and then you can try to be the very best. Some people try to integrate all their interests together. So you are saying that you were fighting this battle, and eventually, it's time to move on?

Lauren: Yeah, it's time to do something else, and to teach more—maybe do other kinds of research—just explore other avenues.

Flori: I was reading up a little bit of your bio, and something came up with cocoa or chocolate—I remember something like that and about theatre—I was really curious if you can tell me more about that?

Lauren: Well, my avocation has always been theater, so I've done a lot of acting in my life, and I've been in a lot of productions—including at the University and in Pullman, at Regional Theater of the Palouse. And I actually did a play in New York, just off-off-off-off-off Broadway.

Flori: What was the play called?

Lauren: What was it called... "The Invisible Clowns." It was National Jewish Children's Theater, and I played a kibbutznik—a woman who worked on the kibbutz—I don't even remember what my lines were or anything like that, but that's what it was.

Flori: That's awesome, you made it to New York!

Lauren: Well, I was in New York, yeah. And it was very funny, because when I think back on it—the likelihood of me getting selected—I wasn't an actor. It was just something I did as a hobby, something I loved. And, I mean, think about that—New York has professional actors and people who were striving to make that as their profession, and I get it. And I got paid—not a lot. But it was awesome! So anyway, I've done that all my life—I shouldn't say all my life—when I was a graduate student I didn't do it—anyway, when the University was developing new courses, or courses that were sort of integrated, I got together with somebody in theater and somebody in journalism, and we were doing a course called "Fire Myth and Mankind." We had the students work in groups and write their own plays—and perform their own plays—it was really an amazing experience.

Flori: I wish we had more classes like that for graduate students.

Lauren: Well it was really hard for the students. For some of them—well, it was hard for students—freshmen—but most did fine. But every once in a while, there was somebody—there was one guy who absolutely refused to speak on stage—so his group gave him a part where he played the fire. He could move around the stage, but he didn't have any lines. So they accommodated him to make it work. It's very hard, and I think a lot of kids worked through that—that idea of being on stage—it's terrifying for students to get up on stage, for most people to get up on stage and say something. I think we did them a great service.

Flori: Some of the best classes I've taken made us do just that—the challenge. Not just writing an essay—you know we can write an essay—or hypothetically, we should be able to write an essay—but can you talk about it? Can you talk about it casually and also academically, try to speak about it, instead of just on a piece of paper. It's interdisciplinary and also very applicable

Lauren: Yeah, it was, it was fun! And one of the faculty members in Natural Resources now was one of my first students in that class. She was a firefighter, and so she could bring that experience to the class. Her name is Heather Heward—I don't even know if she remembers the class—but I remember her.

Flori: I bet she would remember—we remember great classes.

Lauren: Well, I don't know if she thought it was great—I don't know if the students thought it was great, but the instructors thought it was great!

Flori: You'd be surprised!

Lauren: Yeah, maybe. Maybe. Anyway, once I quit the Co-op, I was looking for other things to do and our Dean or Associate Dean at the time was interested in leadership classes. So I worked with him—we co-taught a class in leadership, and he was interested in process, and I was interested in product. So I said to him, “We can't just teach them how to be leaders through process. They have to have something to work on—a project—an experience—that they can bring those skills to.” So we brainstormed with students for a project—it's a longer story—but they eventually decided on chocolate as the project. In other words, explore chocolate: see where it comes from, who eats chocolate, grows chocolate, the biochemistry and medicinal properties of chocolate. I mean, you can take one product and see how does it gets from the plant into the store or into your mouth. I also wound up getting a sabbatical to go to Costa Rica to work on chocolate—do research on chocolate—and it wasn't the basic biological research, but it was to pull together all the information that I could and develop a graduate class about chocolate that took all of those different topics. I developed a lecture on each one, and then I wound up writing a little illustrated booklet that they produced in Costa Rica—in English and in Spanish—to use for ecotourism tours on farms there or any place growing chocolate. About the history of chocolate—about the original culture of chocolate—the historical uses of chocolate by Indigenous Peoples—so I had all of that in this booklet.

Flori: That's quite the topic to get hooked on! Now, while you were in Costa Rica, did you get to do some taste-testing of said chocolate?

Lauren: Oh sure! But in Costa Rica—so here's one of the things that I discovered very early on—that the people who grow cacao aren't necessarily the ones who are producing fine chocolate or are eating the fine chocolate. They're just producing the “beans.” There was one company in Costa Rica that was producing fine chocolate—one company—and it was fabulous. They didn't have a distributor, and they probably didn't produce enough to even get it distributed. I found out that I couldn't bring it back to the U.S.—they needed a distributor in order for me to bring it here—there are all kinds of laws.

Flori: And you were still in Forestry?

Lauren: Yeah, I did this sabbatical—I went back a second year, for three months—it's a forest product—it's a tree, cacao is a tree.

Flori: You wouldn't think it. Forestry gives an impression of logging, but there's so many more finer details—your own experiences—there's so many different avenues. That's one thing I think the journal did really well—yes, it was women-focused—but it has such a breadth, a breadth of topics and professions. It went from *Women in Forestry* initially and then changed to *Women in Natural Resources* to encompass fisheries, wildlife—anything and everything—which is very cool. Even if it was women-focused, there is still a lot of great historical documents there, of experiences. Did you ever submit any articles to it?

Lauren: I don't think so, not that I remember—my name is probably not even mentioned in it.

Flori: Did they ever ask you for any articles or no?

Lauren: Well, I don't know what I would have written for that. When did they stop making it?

Flori: I'm pretty sure it was 2013, the last printed one being 1997, the year I was born.

Lauren: So I was on sabbatical—I think it was 2010—when I was on sabbatical in Costa Rica—then went back the following year, and then I retired.

Flori: Jo Ellen mentioned you guys were the first three on tenure track, but that doesn't mean it's all within the journal. So I'm glad I can clarify this with you and understand what everyone was up to. Still, you clearly had the potential to be in it—you were doing what they were talking about—without a label or sharing what you were doing.

Lauren: If I had a choice of writing for a science journal or for *Women in Natural Resources*, I would have chosen a science journal, because I'm sure I considered that more legitimate as a peer-reviewed publication. I know that *Women in Natural Resources*—or I think it was peer-reviewed—but I didn't think it had the prestige of the journals that I would have wanted to write for. I mean, in retrospect, I think I probably could have—and should have—been more supportive.

Flori: You did what you felt you needed to do.

Lauren: But I think I missed out on some opportunities for friendships and connections. But then again, you know, my personality is different from Jo Ellen and different from Molly's. And, you know, we follow our own paths and our own rhythms, so there are missed opportunities and that's just the way it is.

Flori: Yeah, it seems for some people, they like to form communities and collaborate a lot, while others do our own things, juggling projects. It is personality. It sounds like Molly was one of the journal's cores, but she was also doing her own thing and had multiple projects as well. Very interesting. I mean, I never really see it as missed potential, when you're following what you want to do, you know what I mean?

Lauren: Yeah. And I didn't feel it at the time—I didn't feel like it was a missed opportunity at the time—I just didn't have time for it.

Flori: I think Jo Ellen has a different perspective on entering male-dominated fields, but she was also similar in a way. She was focusing on tenure, is what she's was saying, like “I want my tenure—”

Lauren: Me too!

Flori: “—I don't really have time.” So it almost sounds like the journal was more of a passion project and community, rather than just a publication.

Lauren: Yeah, I mean, for me, it was terribly important to get promoted and get tenure the first time around. I didn't wanna be rejected, and I was gonna have a really hard time with my split-position because some people didn't consider what I did for the Co-op as legitimate academic work toward tenure—or work toward advancement and promotion.

Flori: Because it wasn't within the academic circle?

Lauren: That's right, that's right. That was considered by some as not, even though I had to write a budget—and defend my budget every year—it wasn't the same as writing a grant proposal. Except that it was—it was hard enough—I just couldn't do that other stuff. And I did get promoted and got tenure the first time around. And when I opened those envelopes, I cried.

Flori: Oh sure, I mean, after all the hard work you put into it—the focus and the dedication—you deserve to cry.

Lauren: Well, it was as if I'd been holding my breath, and I'm sure I was when I opened them. It was as if I'd been holding my breath for months!

Flori: When did you get it? Do you remember the year?

Lauren: Seems like '95 or 97.

Flori: So 90s...sounds like a long time coming. Was that after you left the co-op?

Lauren: No, I left the co-op about the year...2001 maybe. I stayed with the co-op for 21 years.

Flori: Yeah, I'm glad there wasn't that pressure that you have to choose one or the other—well, maybe there was that pressure—but not that one was or wasn't academic, so you should have only focused completely on academia.

Lauren: No, this is what I was hired to do—this is my job description. So I was doing what I was hired to do.

Flori: That's amazing dedication on your part, and I can see why you were very successful. It's really great.

Lauren: Thanks. I'll share a time with you. I had had surgery...and I remember sitting...Back up—I was the one that brought Genetics Education to the broader forestry community through the Co-op—and they're still doing it—they still have a one day meeting every year, where they invite speakers to talk about genetics and forestry—and so I decided that each year we should give people a little gift. You know, like little gift bags that you get at conferences and stuff. So, we had these coffee mugs made that had the logo—a little picture on it and the date and the name of session, and some of them were perfect and some of them weren't. And so I remember sitting at my kitchen countertop, going through these mugs soon after surgery. You know, I'm sitting there, and I'm hurting—I'm recovering from surgery—but I'm sorting through these mugs. I still have one of those, I'm sure.

Flori: Oh man, that's dedication. Nothing was stopping you! That's another thing too, I mean, journal or not, I think meeting with you guys—whoever is related to these Natural Resource fields—it's really inspiring. I'm sort of in the same boat: you're navigating—you're trying to find where you're going—you've got the fire, you're doing your best, working hard—and it's ok. You'll find it as you're working on different things—you'll get there. You'll get there with hard work.

Lauren: Yeah, and you gotta know that there are gonna be some days when you're crying, or wondering “What the hell am I doing?”

Flori: Medical stuff getting in the way.

Lauren: Yeah, but you know, eyes on the prize.

Flori: It depends what prize you're going forward too and what you're looking for. But you gotta work for it, that's the thing. I can agree with that ideology—you can cry and you can complain—you can fall again again—but you gotta get up. You need to keep going.

Lauren: Well that's the point, that you pick yourself up.

Flori: Jo Ellen mentioned that you have one daughter.

Lauren: Tracy.

Flori: Right! It sounds like you were a career-woman for a while. We all have different paths, but it sounds like Jo Ellen and Molly were having kids around the same time.

Lauren: I was 41, it was now or never. I don't know what your plans are, but there are different ways of navigating that whole thing of family and career—family and school.

Flori: I mean, everyone that we've mentioned had supportive husbands that were relatively in the university—

Lauren: Critical elements. If you can work with your husband, and you can support each other that way, that's fabulous. But even just having someone who supports you in having a career—saying that, if we want kids, I'll take some of those responsibilities—maybe that's something that's really changed with generations.

Flori: That seems to be the expectation now, if you're looking for a partner and if you want kids. You both need to work, because you can't afford not to. It's almost a luxury for one person to stay home—typically, men are still not doing that as much.

Lauren: See, that change in and of itself is so important, and so different from when we were coming up. It was starting to happen then, and we all—Molly and Jo Ellen and I and Dixie—all had husbands who were supportive, and none of them in the same field as we were.

Flori: Did you have a husband you met through the University?

Lauren: No, I met Dave in Lake Tahoe. He was passing through and I was working for the Forest Service—but yeah, my husband was in tech. He started out as a math major and then switched over to computers, and had his own software company here. Jo Ellen's husband was in libraries, Molly's husband was an engineer, and Dixie's husband was in Forestry—he was the Dean—I think his field was forest products, but it could have been economics. So yeah, all different—none of us in the same fields as our husbands—but all of them were supportive of their wives having lives and careers of their own.

Flori: It's really insightful that you say that. I hear discourse from some women who are more adversarial towards the male establishment, but at the same time they have husbands who are very supportive of their careers. It's sometimes puzzling—how do those two pieces work together?

Lauren: See, that's what I'm saying. That now I think it should be easier to be collaborative with men in your field—whatever that is—than it was before. Because there are more men who are supportive. I mean, at least I hope so—I mean, these young boys are growing up with women who have a sense of self—that's very different than we had growing up.

Flori: I mean, I'm sure during your time there was much more expectation of having kids and it was very much your responsibility, and that's your designation—the housewife. Jo-Ellen mentioned losing her mind being the housewife, saying “I don't know how much more I can macrame!”

Lauren: She always likes to use that example. So I would hope so now that it's easier. I've heard a lot of examples recently of people who've figured out ways—they've gotten jobs that allow them to switch off childcare—For example, the daughter of one of my friends is a midwife and her husband is a doctor, and they switch off childcare. So there's always one of them home with the baby. My daughter and her partner—there's always somebody with that baby. One of them is out in the field, and the other one is in the house with the baby—or they take the baby out in the field. I have also discovered—only as I've gotten older—that the relationships are most important—they become more and more important to me as I've matured. I've learned that having relationships that you go back to over and over again—even if there are long times in-between—that reconnection—those relationships—are gold. They're really worth something.

Flori: Good friends you have—it doesn't matter how long you are away—you can come back and pick right up where you left off.

Lauren: So have we gone through your questions?

Flori: Who knows! I'm sure we did—most of them were pretty much journal-related, but a lot I also wanted to focus on was individual: Who are you? What was your field? I guess, Natural Resource-related: Once you've retired, do you still involve yourself with Natural Resources? Any hobbies or something similar like that?

Lauren: Once I retired, I really stepped away from Natural Resources as field of professional inquiry, and I focused on other things. On the other hand, I've gotten very involved with the League of Women Voters. For example, there are a lot of environmental policies—laws that affect the environment—and so I think I've been a force in that organization—one that has brought in speakers. I mean, I had a wide array—a wide network of connections—of people who were doing interesting things or had interesting perspectives. So I've brought some of those to the Speakers Series that the League of Women Voters organizes locally. So I've kept my interest in Natural Resources without being professionally-involved.

Flori: Without the research or study side of things? Rather, taking action with policy?

Lauren: Right. I've also developed that work on chocolate—it took on a life of its own—and I've developed a talk, a slide presentation—I've been all over the state of Idaho, funded by the Idaho Humanities Council. I've talked about chocolate in every major city and town in in Idaho—I mean,

people have told me that I've changed their lives with regard to chocolate—that they would never see chocolate the same way again.

Flori: They know the name Lauren Fins when they think of chocolate!

Lauren: We would do tastings, so they could taste the difference, and I introduced them to some new flavors and nuances. Of course, some people go away saying “I grew up on Hershey’s, and that's what I like!” But anyway, that whole chocolate thing—literally took on a life of its own—and I loved it, I just loved it. And even now it’s been 12 years since that sabbatical and I'm going to do a talk on chocolate in Spokane in September, and I'm going to do one in New Mexico in October! So it's perfect: I'm known as the chocolate lady.

Flori: Wow! I mean, that is the perfect topic to be hooked on, something like chocolate. It's so great that you can still pursue that and just spread the word about chocolate. And afterwards, you're still on that council as well, the League of Women Voters? Is that women-centered, or women-focused?

Lauren: No, no the mission of the League of Women Voters is community-based education about politics and policy that affects everybody, and how it affects our lives.

Flori: Does it just happen to be women?

Lauren: Well we have male members also, you don't have to be female to be a member. It's just that women started it—you know, I should look into the history of it—I'm not very knowledgeable about that. But we're just interested in really educating people about how policies and laws affect our lives.

Flori: That’s excellent! Well Lauren, that is essentially all my questions for you. I'll follow up with you after we spoke today, and—if you're willing—I could submit parts of your experience—parts of this interview—into the *WzNR* collection. I think it’s important to include your experience as one of the three women with tenure in Natural Resources, an experience similar to others which the journal has touched upon. I would say you are a key member of the beginning of this movement—you went your own way with it—but you are still part of it.

Lauren: Well, I was. More women were hired and got tenure after us. I was the first woman who was the head of a Cooperative—I mean, there are more cooperatives around the country—and so, I was the first one to do that. I think Jo Ellen may have been the first woman in the Department, Molly the second, me the third. But I was the first one to head up a Cooperative. I mean, it was different, it's part of history—not that it matters to be the first.

Flori: But I think that would be a very great thing to add to the Collection. If we go that route, I'll do my best to get a transcript, and I would send it to you for approval with a consent form of releasing it to the Collection.

Lauren: Alright, good!

Flori: Thank you, Lauren, so much for coming out. I love how you guys have these stories to tell, lifetimes of experiences from the three of you. Take care!