

BOB BOSTELMANN

Version 2 (Possible extracts added), 12th April, 2013

Edited transcript of a recording of Bob Bostelmann recorded at his home at Offly Hay near Eccleshall in Staffordshire by Chris Eldon Lee on the 9th of September 2010. Transcribed by John and Catriona Zerfahs, 20th. August, 2012.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:00:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is Bob Bostelmann. Recorded at his home at Offly Hay near Eccleshall in Staffordshire by Chris Eldon Lee on the 9th of September 2010. Bob Bostelmann, Part 1.*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:00:17] Bob Bostelmann: Bob Bostelmann. I was born in August 1945 in China.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:00:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *Why?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:00:25] Bob Bostelmann: That was a silly question because – to tell you a silly story, I got a place to go to Cambridge University to read veterinary science and I was looking for someone to pay for it, and Pfizer, the American drug company, were looking to give scholarships, in those days a £1,000 a year which was huge sums of money. A 16 page application form which I filled in quite happily, there were 30 places, there were about 3 ½ thousand of us after these scholarships. Got through the first round of interviews and we were told then there were 60 people after 30 places. The interview was going to last exactly 55 minutes, the final interview, and there were going to be 3 guys there interviewing us, so you had a 1 in 2 chance. Saw the clock going to about 50 minutes and I thought ‘Cluck, I’ve cracked this, the interview is going well’, and the chairman who was a big Texan, and this was when the cultural revolution was going on in China, he goes through my application form and suddenly shouts ‘Mr Bostelmann’, he said, ‘Why was you born in China?’ Like a prat I said ‘Because my mother was there at the time’.

Laughter

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:01:44] Bob Bostelmann: and I lost the interview and got 4/6d for my underground fare.

Laughter.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:01:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *Why was your mother there at the time?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:01:51] Bob Bostelmann: Because my mother’s English, my father’s German. My father was, even though he was German, violently anti-Nazi and my parents - it’s a wonderful history - my parents were married in Holland the day the Nazis invaded Holland and the only way they could get out was going across the trans-Siberian railway into China. And that’s where my parents lived for the war.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *And were you there for a long time?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:20] Bob Bostelmann: No, I came back when I was 2 years old.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *How was the rest of the childhood?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:24] Bob Bostelmann: That was brought up in London strangely enough, well not strangely enough, being a country vet now it is rather strange but good, yeah.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *Private education?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:34] Bob Bostelmann: Private education yes boarding school, first of all down in Eastbourne then in Bradfield in Reading.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was your father's career when he re-established himself back here?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:45] Bob Bostelmann: We had a family business that my mother's family had, a business which was importing/exporting spices from China.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *Oh really?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:02:54] Bob Bostelmann: We're the biggest importer of strangely enough eiderdown feathers and rhubarb leaves and various other strange things.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:03:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was your first inkling that you might end up being a vet?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:03:08] Bob Bostelmann: Again in the late 1960's it was slightly elitist to go to university. I'm one of 4. My sister is a secretary, my brother joined the family firm. I didn't want to join the family firm, I wanted to farm. I've no idea why I wanted to farm but I always wanted to farm even though I was brought up in London and my younger brother wanted to be an accountant from a very early age, so my parents, my mother in particular, thought it would be wonderful if one of the kids went to university and if they're going to go to university they should really go to Oxford or Cambridge, that was my mother's absolute ???[inaudible]. In those days you could apply for Oxford and Cambridge and all the other universities, so I applied to Oxford and was offered a place to read microbiology, went to Cambridge with a view to reading zoology and met a most wonderful man called Mark Prior who was a tutor, who was a zoologist, and he interviewed me and said 'Yes I'm going to give you a place, but why do you want to read zoology?'

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:13] Bob Bostelmann: 'Erm don't really know'.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *'Don't know sir'.*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:18] Bob Bostelmann: 'Don't know sir' and he was a lovely man, he talked about it and he said 'Have you ever thought about being a vet?' And it was exactly like St. Paul going to Damascus, no sooner had he said it and it was so obvious that's what I was looking for. But I had no contact with any vet at home or anything at all. And that was

it. And I came back from that and I said to Mum 'I'm going to Cambridge and I'm going to be a vet'.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *And you became a vet?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:42] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:42] Chris Eldon Lee: *And your first job after Cambridge was where?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:44] Bob Bostelmann: In Letchlade in Cotswold.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *Country vet?*

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:04:48] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:04:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK then. So what was your first brush or thinking about the Antarctic and what's your earliest memory of even knowing it exists?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:04:57] Bob Bostelmann: Reading my aunt, who I never met, my mother's sister's copy of Scott's tragic trip to the Antarctic, aged about 12 or 13, and I just thought even then I have got to go there. I've absolutely no idea why, I just read it and it just - that was it.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:05:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *So was your thinking about going to the Antarctic and your thinking about being a vet divergent thoughts or convergent thoughts?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:05:29] Bob Bostelmann: Oh no, no, totally at the time they weren't even vaguely connected. The only thing is Andrew Bellars who was the vet before I went, he was there about 3 years before me, he came back from the Antarctic in my final year at Cambridge so I did meet Andrew.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:05:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you met him then?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:05:49] Bob Bostelmann: And had a ???[inaudible], yes, and the three vets who have been with BAS have all been connected with Cambridge.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:05:54] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was Andrew Bellars a sort of inspiration, did he start a train of thought rolling?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:00] Bob Bostelmann: No he just made me think there was an opportunity. Well yes from that point of view, yes.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *So how did you get to go, how did you apply?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:10] Bob Bostelmann: I went into practice, I'd been in practice for a couple of years and in those days most of us would move jobs after a couple of years - you'd got the experience, you got out of the practice, it was time to move on to somewhere else to get more experience and at that stage I wrote to BAS and in my modest way said 'I'm a great bloke and you need me'.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *So there was no advert, you didn't respond to an advert?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:33] Bob Bostelmann: No no. Absolutely not.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:34] Chris Eldon Lee: *This would have been about 1974 or so?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:37] Bob Bostelmann: '72. I was very fortunate in that this condition called footlurk had broken out about a fortnight before I applied. So that was ideal.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you a world expert on footlurk at that point?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:53] Bob Bostelmann: No, no-one knew what footlurk was.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:06:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *We'll come to that in a moment. So you wrote a letter and at some point you got a reply.*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:07:05] Bob Bostelmann: Yup.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:07:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Saying?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:07:06] Bob Bostelmann: 'Come for an interview with Eric Salmon', full stop. Went down for an interview. In those days interviews were with Eric Salmon and Bill Sloman and it was almost like the Boy Scouts, it was not a difficult interview as far as I was concerned. I was very fortunate going back some when I hadn't a clue what I wanted to do in a career my father, when I was about 17-18 before I went to university, made me go to an awful lot of interviews with people who were vaguely connected with agricultural farming. I wasn't looking for jobs, I was looking for a future career and it made me as a youngster very, very confident at interview so the interview with Eric and Bill was to me extremely relaxed. It was almost as if the job was mine let's talk and it was lovely.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:08:04] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is a common response.*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:08:05] Bob Bostelmann: I'm sure it is yes.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:08:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you at any time think you were being psyched out or sussed out psychologically?*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:08:11] Bob Bostelmann: No not in the slightest, no.

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:08:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *Do you think you might in retrospect perhaps what they..*

Disc 1 Track 2 [0:08:16] Bob Bostelmann: Well yeah I don't know what it is like now but it was so unbelievably successful that yeah it has got to work. Having got my place, I'm going on a little bit, because I was living in Cambridge anyway, and in those days BAS was not in Cambridge, the BAS headquarters right next door to the Cambridge Vet School, I don't know

if you know that, so I was at the vet school and Sir Vivian Fuchs lived at Cambridge and there were quite a few connections there and so I was working just before I went with both the vet school and SPRI, Scott Polar Research Institute, and they had a wonderful seminar of Antarctic doctors or polar doctors and there was a wonderful session on psychology. A New Zealander stood up and he gave his paper which basically he started off with psychology of prisoners, and then he moved off to Antarctic people because they were just as isolated but a damn sight nicer people to work with. I don't know if its right or wrong I have never looked it up, there was a marvellous guy, a Frenchman, who described their psychological test for people going to the Antarctic and it was very, very good and quite in depth and he was about to sit down and he got a tremendous reception and he was about to sit down and he suddenly said 'There is one problem. At the moment', and this would have been 1972, 'there have been only 7 suicides in the Antarctic, 6 of those have been French doctors'.

Laughter.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:09:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK so you were destined to go, you thought you were going to go at some point in '72?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:02] Bob Bostelmann: Ah yes.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:03:] Chris Eldon Lee: *And then there was a bit of a gap wasn't there so what happened next? Before you went I mean?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:08] Bob Bostelmann: No, a gap of about 4-5 months.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *Yes. Was that training period for you?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:13] Bob Bostelmann: Yes it was an opportunity because I was basically employed as a GA, general assistant, and the GAs going to Stonington all had other skills, most of them were climbers so I was basically going as a GA to support a scientist, so it just gave me an opportunity to read up anything I could on any veterinary condition, any medical condition on what the heck might be likely to cause this footlurk condition.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you get any health and safety? Training for crevasse rescue?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:42] Bob Bostelmann: No.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *Even in '72? Or '73?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:46] Bob Bostelmann: No. We did when we got to Stonington.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right.*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:50] Bob Bostelmann: But no.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *So let's talk a bit about footlurk because it's come up twice and it is a key moment in your career.*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:57] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:10:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *Because reading your papers you clearly had done some work on footlurk before you got there.*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:11:01] Bob Bostelmann: It was cured before I went there because I asked for material to be sent back, that came back on the ship that came back in '72, would come back about March '72 and I went out in November '72 so we had quite a lot of histological material from the stuff which I was then looking at and we spent a lot of time and that proved to be a ringworm, very unusual situation.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:11:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *Let's talk a bit about it because first of all, the name, it doesn't sound very biological to me, does it?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:11:37] Bob Bostelmann: No, no it isn't. Lurk is and/or was a fids' term for lurking about, just kind of vaguely wandering around with no direction, it was just one of these slang words that went in there and the strange thing about footlurk which is very, very interesting actually it broke out on exactly the same day Stonington, Adelaide and Argentine Islands. So how can a condition break out on exactly the same day on 3 bases, what are they, 3-400 miles apart?

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:12:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was the condition?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:12:11] Bob Bostelmann: An ulceration of the skin at the margin between the foot pad and the skin so the pad was ulcerating so that the dogs were extremely lame and unable to work, and that was the very, very serious concern especially at Stonington.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:12:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you had to unravel the mystery of what was the cause?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:12:36] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:12:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *And did you find it?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:12:39] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. 'Cos if you work back, all the dogs that were affected, 17 days before had been hauling dead seal up the beach at Stonington. So that was the connection and that's why it appeared to be breaking out on 3 different bases but that was the common denominator and working back from that, looking at the material we had which was as I say, post mortem material that was sent to me, it turned out to be a ringworm. There are 3 types of ringworm and this was almost definitely a thing called tricophyton which is the commonest one in dogs and going back through history it looks as if the actual beach was exposed at Stonington for the first time in 1971/72 which is when this broke out.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:13:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is by a thaw?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:13:34] Bob Bostelmann: By thawing yes, since 1947 when Finn Ronne was there, and Finn Ronne definitely had ringworm in his dogs and it appears that it stayed there dormant under the ice.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:13:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was it curable?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:13:55] Bob Bostelmann: Yes and that's why I sent the stuff down before I got there and it was all cleared, sorted, before I even left Cambridge to go down there.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *So did you have to concoct something to send or was it a standard veterinary?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:09] Bob Bostelmann: I used stuff called Netrocylo [phonetic] made by Bayers, no longer available it's a liquid you use to dip the feet in. A standard preparation, or it was then.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK, and then you got there.*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:22] Bob Bostelmann: The good news was that I was employed to get rid of it, got rid of it before I even left Cambridge but the contract had been signed.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *But when you got there you still carried on doing some work on the dogs' feet?*

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:35] Bob Bostelmann: Yes I was actually hoping to see this and I never ever saw it but I looked at various different skin conditions in dogs but never found, I was looking for the ringworm, I was looking for all sorts of things but never came across it.

Disc 1 Track 3 [0:14:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there any possibility of humans could catch this?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:14:51] Bob Bostelmann: Theoretically yes, in practice it didn't happen.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:14:54] Chris Eldon Lee: *Ok. Was that again because of the cold temperatures?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:14:59] Bob Bostelmann: I don't know is the answer to that question. You've got to have fairly close contact to spread it. Every species, man has his own types of ringworm, dog has their own type but they usually do cross-infect but in that we didn't know which variety it was we don't know if it was one that was easy to cross-infect or not, so I don't know the answer to that question.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:15:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *Yes so presumably your stakes were quite high having solved the problem without actually stepping foot on the ship let alone having been to the Antarctic?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:15:31] Bob Bostelmann: My stakes were high?

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:15:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *Your reputation was high.*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:15:34] Bob Bostelmann: Ah well yes and no but the awful thing was, I am the only vet of any nation who has spent a year in the Antarctic - a year, we've had 2 British vets who've been there for the summer - so then suddenly you've got all these questions about what are you going to do and in those days especially at Stonington, Adelaide which were very much doggy bases all your conversation was about dogs, so what else can you do and it came out that part of our course is you have to do meat inspection therefore they were expecting fresh meat whenever I was on cook and all that sort of daft sort of things.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *Let's talk about the trip down then, so you went in November of '72.*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:19] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *On which ship?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:23] Bob Bostelmann: *Bransfield.*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:24] Chris Eldon Lee: *Directly to Stanley or to what were the places on the way?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:28] Bob Bostelmann: Montevideo.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *The usual way.*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:30] Bob Bostelmann: Yep.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. And unusually you actually knew which base you were going to before to got to Stanley.*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:35] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, yes.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *And that is because that was a big dog base at that time?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:16:40] Bob Bostelmann: One of the things to do then unfortunately was, Halley Bay had dogs and Fuchs had said all the dogs would come out of Halley Bay so one of the decisions I had to make was which dogs were going to be put down at Halley Bay and which dogs were going to go on, and the vast majority of dogs left Adelaide as well so they were all going to be concentrated at Stonington and as a new boy that was one of my jobs was to persuade everybody else that was the right decision, which dogs were going to go and which dogs were going to be put down.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:17:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *You must have met resistance?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:17:11] Bob Bostelmann: A huge amount, especially at Halley Bay.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:17:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Talk me through that.*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:17:16] Bob Bostelmann: It's always very difficult isn't when - these guys have been there for 2 years, the feeling is electric about your own dogs, you are incredibly protective of them, and a new guy is going to come down especially at Halley Bay and put a lot of dogs down, not a very cheerful time. I hope I got away with it and I hope I didn't upset too many people because it was an inevitable decision it had to be done there was not room at Marguerite Bay for all the dogs.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:17:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the dogs could not come back out of the Antarctic? Would that have been cruel?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:17:50] Bob Bostelmann: I think so, yes. Moving on dramatically, when I came back - some time after I came back - it was then Sir Vivian Fuchs retired and Dick Laws had taken over, the decision was made to get rid of all the dogs and there was a lot of pressure to bring dogs back here but in fact 90% of us who worked down there didn't want that to happen. The dogs are not domestic dogs. They live in a wonderful environment, they love working, they're wonderful dogs to work with but we wouldn't have seen that decision, if the odd person had brought the odd pet back it would have been alright but to bring a load of dogs back to try and re-home them in a domestic situation was not an option.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:18:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did you choose, what criteria do you remember using to decide which dogs should survive?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:18:39] Bob Bostelmann: Sadly first of all age and second of all sex, I mean politically incorrect but older dogs, roughly dogs over 8, most of them had to be put down because they were too old and arthritic at that stage so in a decision like that anything over 6 unless it was an extremely good dog it was put down. We required many, many more dogs than bitches so a lot more bitches were put down than dogs. There were a couple of nervous dogs, I can't remember their names, and what we called lurky dogs and they again were very difficult to handle and to work with so it was that sort of decision that was made.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:19:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *How was that for a young vet who had just been trained to look after animals, to nurture them and then here you were . . . ?*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:19:24] Bob Bostelmann: You say that but unfortunately part of our job is to euthanase animals and put them down and if you are working in farm practice as I am now you know you're looking after animals in order to slaughter them for human consumption. Slightly different on domestic pets but we still have to put a lot of animals down.

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:19:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *But that you know that now but you were a young . . .*

Disc 1 Track 4 [0:19:44] Bob Bostelmann: I'd been going for a couple of years. It's never easy but you do get hardened to it. Yeah it was one of those decisions you have to make.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:19:55] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you ostracised at all by the base or did they embrace your task?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:02] Bob Bostelmann: No. I can't remember the doggy man who was down there but he was very, very kind and helped me enormously. Initially a lot of reaction against it but when you went through it logically, at the end of the day it was almost his decision as to which dogs were kept and which dogs were put down because he knew the dogs far better than I did, and there might have been one or two where we said 'Look, come on, I think we ought to go for this', so it was done by mutual consent at the end.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:28] Chris Eldon Lee: *So decisions on them were self selecting?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:30] Bob Bostelmann: Almost yes, yeah.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *What happened to the carcasses?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:34] Bob Bostelmann: They were just lobbed into the sea.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. It was '72.*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:41] Bob Bostelmann: I'm afraid yeah in those days we were completely different to now.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:45] Chris Eldon Lee: *The dogs that were selected to come out of Halley Bay how did they get to Stonington, were they flown?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:20:51] Bob Bostelmann: No, no, oh gosh no. The first plane actually flew from Marguerite Bay to Stonington when I was there, brought Sir Vivian Fuchs in. No they went on the ship.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you actually witnessed those first flights?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:05] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *I was talking to Barry Peters last week about those first flights and he was describing the attempts to take off again from Halley Bay. Had you got to Halley Bay by plane or by boat?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:20] Bob Bostelmann: Boat.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Oh I see, right, OK.*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:24] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah and then Sir Vivian Fuchs flew in and he went down to his old base at Shackleton for a jolly and he came out, (did he come out with us?), yes he came out with us on the ship.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *I usually ask this question later on but as you've brought him up lets talk about him now. What did you make of him, Sir Vivian Fuchs?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:21:39] Bob Bostelmann: I got on tremendously well with him. I thought he was a lovely man but he was very much the old style. BAS was his pigeon. I met him at Cambridge at, one of the things probably pushed me a little bit further when I was a student at Cambridge into joining BAS, a couple of the lectures he had given, they were tremendous, wonderful. Very, very friendly guy he would always be down and talk to us, a very easy person to talk to.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:22:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was he good with the troops?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:22:07] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah oh Fuchs was first class.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:22:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *Lets talk a bit more about the dogs. Apart from just putting them down which of course we had to talk about that but lets talk about the more positive side of dog management with you. I'll talk about your dog management paper in the second half of the interview in some detail if I may but I'm just interested in the way you actually control or manage the breeding of the dogs because presumably as you were the vet you were in charge of the breeding plans at Stonington.*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:22:34] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah Andrew Bellars had found two things – haemophilia which is a bleeding condition and entropion inturning eyelid. If you go back the first vet who went there was Mike Godson and the concern then was that, and which was the tieup to the Cambridge Veterinary School, was that there was a neurological condition in the dogs and a guy called Anthony Palmer, Tony Palmer, who was a neurologist at the vet school in Cambridge and lived next door to Sir Vivian Fuchs in Cambridge, that was the connection so, talking over the garden wall ‘Do you know a vet who is prepared to go out and sort out this neurological condition?’ Mike Godson was a house surgeon at Cambridge and he went out and it turned out not to be a neurological condition, it turned out to be an arthritis of the hips and the shoulders, so two years later Andrew Bellars went out with an X-ray machine to see if these dogs had got a condition called hip dysplasia which is a hereditary condition very, very common in many domestic breeds and that leads to arthritis, so if it was a hereditary condition they had got to do something about very dramatically. His x-rays proved that it wasn't, but in the process he also found haemophilia and entropion. Now haemophilia a bleeding condition, as in humans, almost self limiting because they die fairly quickly. Entropion, inturning eyelid, is much, much more serious. Most of the breeding programme was to try and outcross to make sure that these two conditions didn't survive any longer.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were they a result of inbreeding?*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:15] Bob Bostelmann: Probably. There is this massive Bellars family tree that is extremely complicated so you could see some lines had got it. Now whether they originally came from inbreeding or not is difficult to know.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *I am seeing Andy Bellars in a couple of months' time.*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:39] Bob Bostelmann: Oh right.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *And will be able to ask him about that.*

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:42] Bob Bostelmann: Yup.

Disc 1 Track 5 [0:24:43] Chris Eldon Lee: *But I just wondered whether you had to be very careful about who mated who to avoid, because it is a small number of dogs, you know, controlled in a confined space if you like or ring-fenced, aren't they so did you have to be very selective about who was allowed to breed with who?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:24:58] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. You obviously got a lot of mis-matings going on but in those days there is a product, or was a product, which would prevent that so you could jab them with oestrogen to make sure they didn't remain fertile.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Go to term?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:15] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *And I was reading about dog contraceptives, is that right?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:19] Bob Bostelmann: Yes we took it down - I took it down, a product called Polutex [phonetic] which was then a brand new product. Didn't go down very well with many people, many of the drivers didn't like the idea. There was a certain amount of tongue in cheek prestige of having a dog in season. Put the dog in front and your dogs will pull their bloody hearts out.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *Put the bitch in front, you mean?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:44] Bob Bostelmann: Absolutely, so you know if you could control the bitch it was a very good way to drive your dogs.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *You were trying to avoid bitches pupping whilst they were on fieldwork?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:56] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:57] Chris Eldon Lee: *So tell me about how you managed that.*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:25:59] Bob Bostelmann: Oh that was purely to try and, if you knew depending on when they go back, if you are on base if a bitch was in season she went into a hut, into a pen to try and keep away from the dogs. Didn't always work, I know one time we had a hell of a snowstorm and the dogs just walked over the top. So you did control it like that. In the field it is very difficult to control and you did get some mis-mating. I was trying to use the contraceptive as much as possible in the field but otherwise if you knew a bitch was going to pup you either flew her out or she didn't go into the field to begin with, depending on when she was going to pup.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:26:43] Chris Eldon Lee: *So not all the mating was man-managed, some of it took place naturally?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:26:49] Bob Bostelmann: Oh gosh yes, yes and then if the pups were born depending if you wanted the litter I'm afraid the pups were destroyed at birth if you didn't want them.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:26:57] Chris Eldon Lee: *So there's, you were particularly culling the females at birth, is that right?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:01] Bob Bostelmann: Yes because we proportionally wanted, the ideal team was said to 7 male dogs and 2 bitches. Ideally you would like 9 male dogs full stop.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right.*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:13] Bob Bostelmann: And there was a ladies' team.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *Yes.*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:16] Bob Bostelmann: Of entirely females.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *How was that compared to the men's team?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:18] Bob Bostelmann: There were 10 of them so you had 1 extra to provide the extra weight.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right. OK. So again you are playing with human emotions here, aren't you, if you if all these little furry little puppies appear and then the vet comes along with a needle.*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:33] Bob Bostelmann: Oh the vet didn't come, no, no. The doggy drivers, the doggymen, put them down.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *Oh they did?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:40] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, yes. Don't forget I was the first, I am the only vet who has been there for the winter, for the whole year, so these guys are hardened to it themselves, unfortunately.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:27:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK thank you very much indeed for clearing that up. How were the leaders chosen? By what process did the leading dog get chosen or did they choose themselves?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:28:02] Bob Bostelmann: Choose themselves. Again going backwards, a puppy would come into the field at about a year old, inevitably with - a husky pulls, with no idea of direction but naturally pulls so the puppy, I had a puppy called Jockalie [phonetic] came into the field and he was initially attached to the cowcatcher right in the front of the sledge so if he slacks at all he gets a bash up the backside with the sledge which makes

him pull. Once he has learned to pull consistently he goes further up the team and depending if he is intelligent or not he either stops at the back or he goes forward and I always talk at WI meetings and things like that, good old Irish navvies stayed at the back pulled all day, hadn't a clue why he was pulling but he pulled all day but the Cambridge graduate slowly worked his way forward because he was intelligent. But you've got to have someone so when I took over my team I had a dog called Clive who was my leader but he would not lead for me.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:28:59] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is the Gaels, isn't it?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:01] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. So he wouldn't lead for me but his brother Beast would. Why wouldn't he? I have no idea.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *But Jockalie[phonetic] became leader of the Gaels didn't he?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:09] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *So was that a natural process, or?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:12] Bob Bostelmann: Yes he was intelligent he got on very well, I got on tremendously well with him so you get that relationship and as long as he's got - the difficulty with the lead is he has got to out in front by himself and you've got to have control of him. We don't use whips or reins or anything like that so he's got to go out there and respond to you.

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *So what are the qualities then of a good leader, the leadership qualities shall we say that you're looking for?*

Disc 1 Track 6 [0:29:38] Bob Bostelmann: Again we don't have king dogs as they did in the past, its not the biggest strongest who is going to beat everybody else up, it's an intelligent dog who will go out by himself and steer forward. I loved Beast when I was working with him especially in the summer when the crevasses were bad because Beast was, like me, terrified of crevasses. He would go out front but immediately you knew you were in crevasse country because his ears would go down, his tail would go down and he would start looking frightened and I know that sounds stupid to someone who doesn't know dogs but you knew straight away that you were in a crevasse area. But there are times when he wasn't particularly brave so there were a lot of times in icy conditions he would think it was a crevasse and he wouldn't go forward whereas Jockalie [phonetic] was still young enough and stupid enough to go forward probably because he hadn't got the experience of what might go wrong. But as long as he was prepared to pull the team forward you were alright. One of the major problems is on a traverse, very easy for the dogs to swing round and go down the hill but if you want to keep going you've got to have a dog that's big enough and brave enough to literally put his claws in and keep pulling on a straight line across a traverse.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:30:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *And Jockalie [phonetic] was that dog for you?*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:30:54] Bob Bostelmann: He was a big dog and yes he was prepared to do that. But Jockalie [phonetic] only became a leader in the last few months as Beast was my leader for most of the time.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did Beast resent not being at the front any more?*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:06] Bob Bostelmann: No I don't think so, I think he was much happier. He was always in the first pair anyway with a dog called Debbie, who my daughter is named after, no I think Beast quite frankly was much happier as second.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the dogs kind of accepted their place in the ladder of..?*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:25] Bob Bostelmann: Oh very much so yes, I think so. It was considered a huge punishment if they came back and if they were being naughty you put them on the cowcatcher or very, very close to the back and they knew that was a punishment and they knew if they didn't pull their hearts out they were going to get a bish up the backside from this thing. So you put them there for half an hour or an hour and total change of attitude and the next stop you put them back forward and they pulled their hearts out again.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *I was surprised to learn that you actually disciplined the dogs physically.*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:57] Bob Bostelmann: Eh yeah.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:31:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *I mean I've heard about using a thumper to break up a fight but the thumper was used in more ways than one.*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:32:03] Bob Bostelmann: Oh yes, yes.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:32:04] Chris Eldon Lee: *Can you talk a bit about that for me?*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:32:05] Bob Bostelmann: The thumper is a rope of about 2 foot long that's fairly thick and you beat them with that, you should only beat them on the back legs as punishment. These dogs are enormous, enormous dogs and it was often you'd see someone, the driver would be exhausted from beating the dog and so you'd have 'Get back you beggar!' and that was it, the dog would just jump up and lick the bloke's face. I don't think it had any effect on the dogs at all but the drivers felt better for it.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:32:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *So it didn't hurt them?*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:32:45] Bob Bostelmann: I don't think so. You know where we started from the word go where I wrote that article and suggested there that we were nothing like as cruel as they had been and I got a severe letter from Andrew Croft, I was pleased he wrote it, saying that they were so much more isolated they had to be much more severe and the things they were doing was completely different to what we were doing.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:33:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *And that was in what period?*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:33:09] Bob Bostelmann: 30's, 35 something like that. In the north pole, in the arctic.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:33:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *Another thing which surprised me. I've been reading your Gaels dog team report amongst other documents that BAS gave me and I was surprised that the lead dog would get bored.*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:33:26] Bob Bostelmann: Depends where you are, yeah, and they can easily get bored. If, because of this interview I'm rereading my notes, my diaries and its wonderful, if you get bondu bashing you're on the peninsula, in the middle of the peninsula - if you're either side you've got the glaciers and the scenery is beautiful - but if you go to the top of the peninsula and you stay on the plateau it's undulating and there is absolutely nothing to see and so they just plod on with nothing to look at. What you do you alternate so I spent my whole year with a guy called Peter Butler so one day I'd be in front, next day he'd be in front. The second team follow easily they've got something to look at, the one in front especially the lead dog has got nothing but nothing to look at.

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:34:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *Just snow.*

Disc 1 Track 7 [0:34:09] Bob Bostelmann: Just snow. And one of the famous occasions we were after a nunatak in the middle of nowhere actually and it was just slightly undulating and then suddenly after about 3 days I could see this nunatak so I was yelling and screaming at the dogs 'Look it's there, there!' scream on for mile or mile and a half and then suddenly 'What the hell's he talking about' and then I'd realise that I'm 6'2" so my eyes are 5'10" and their eyes are 1' 6" something like that and it was about another 20 miles before they saw this and they came over and by that time I'd gone to sleep, I'd been seeing this thing for ages, suddenly the dogs just 'Whoomph' took off completely, it was the first time they'd actually seen something in front of them for about 3 days.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:34:54] Chris Eldon Lee: *Fine. Did you ever find yourself singing to your dogs.*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:34:56] Bob Bostelmann: To me it was a complete and utter disaster, yes you sang to them, singing and they usually turn round thinking what the hell's that row. Talking to them the whole time you just talk complete gibberish but yes I did try singing but it didn't work for me. Tried whistling and it didn't work for me either.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:35:11:] Chris Eldon Lee: *But men did sing to them?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:35:13] Bob Bostelmann: Oh yes yes.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:35:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about the commands because there seemed to be some standard commands that nearly everybody in that particular era in the Antarctic used and then people had their own personal commands as well.*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:35:26] Bob Bostelmann: Yes but basically there was start, stop, left, right. Those were the basic commands, the rest yes you talked to them no different to talking to your own dog in domestic area so 'Come on, lads, come on, keep going, come on, come on, speed up, slow down' whatever it might be chatting to them those weren't commands really they were just chatting if you like.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:35:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were the commands standardised across all the bases?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:35:55] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. Very definitely because the dogs were moved around between the bases so you all had to have the same commands.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:36:01] Chris Eldon Lee: *Ok. There was some friction I believe with London about how much sledging you might be allowed to do. I gather there was a papal bull from Vivien Fuchs about this.*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:36:14] Bob Bostelmann: That happened - winter sledging is a bit of a waste of time. You don't get a lot of work done because the daylight is so short but its extremely safe because it is so cold that most of the crevasses are frozen over, the bridges good. So we arrived on base in January timeish midwinter is June, sorry March we arrived so you haven't got long before you've actually got yourself established, probably the end of March, we went out in April and were out there for about 6 weeks, frankly didn't get a lot of work done but it did give you a vast amount of experience of dogs and sledging and then when we were there then yes, the command came that you weren't allowed winter sledging any longer.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you ever get to the bottom of that decision?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:10] Bob Bostelmann: Ah who? Did we or they?

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Anybody?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:16] Bob Bostelmann: No it was just a decision that came down. I don't know what happened the following year about that because of course the following year Sir Vivien Fuchs had retired and Dick Laws had taken over. I'm not quite sure what happened the following year but to me it was inevitable, we had all gone down we were all doggy mad, we all wanted to sledge we weren't going to get any work done on base anyway there was no work to do so you might as well go out and sledge from our point of view even if you got a little bit of work done but it was the experience it was important to us.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *But you never understood why Fuchs had stopped, basically he had restricted sledging to 25 mile radius of the base.*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:56] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:57] Chris Eldon Lee: *But you never worked out why?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:37:58] Bob Bostelmann: No because no-one, in our time no-one was killed or died or there were no accidents.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *The base commander's report on that is pretty damning really. 'This late signal constituted a significant blow to morale of personnel keyed up to recommence field work in an effort to recoup lost working time'. You were all ready to go and then the memo arrived.*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:21] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. That's right.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *And what was the reaction on the base?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:25] Bob Bostelmann: Oh doom and gloom completely. You know we were there to drive dogs and get some work done.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *Conversely the following summer you did an extortionate amount of sledging 137 days 13 nearly 1400 miles was it?*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:45] Bob Bostelmann: Yes but we were actually behind about 2 years before the guys the real peak when people were doing a couple of thousand miles. Yes we did.

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:55] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about that summer trip.*

Disc 1 Track 8 [0:38:57] Bob Bostelmann: That was brilliant, that's why I went to the Antarctic basically. And that's where, the dogs have gone now, but that's where it changed completely in that we had the long trip fairly early on in pretty awful weather in order to get to our work area whereas the year after us they were all flown down straight away. Did they do any more work? I'm not sure they did quite honestly because they had to wait for the planes to come whereas we worked our way down. So yeah it's amazing how many lie-ups we did, not doing anything because of bad weather but it was a wonderful, wonderful trip seeing the Antarctic in the worst conditions possible and the best conditions possible so lots of very cold weather, some lousy winds we were down on the east coast of the peninsula where you get the east coast mawk which is the fog that rolls in from the Weddell Sea side and don't get a lot and then went across the west side which was spectacularly beautiful, very hot clear sunny days, very good sledging.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *Who was the scientist who was with you?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:05] Bob Bostelmann: Peter Butler.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *And he was doing?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:07] Bob Bostelmann: Geophysics.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. So do you want to elaborate on that slightly, can you tell me more about what exactly he was doing?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:15] Bob Bostelmann: Ah no because I never understood it all the time I was there. He basically tried to tell me that the geologists were looking at the rock structures that you could see and he was looking at the rock structures that you couldn't see. Now beyond that, although we obviously spent an awful long time talking about it, I never got any further as to what the heck was going on. I spent all year with him so I should have understood a bit more than that.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *How was it for you when you were away from base that length of time 137 days, contact with any other form of life is quite limited isn't it really so, was there any change of psychology inside you, you began to feel more isolated or you..?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:40:59] Bob Bostelmann: Oh no, no you never felt isolated it was almost the opposite way round actually, because you couldn't get away from Peter. Not that I wanted to don't get me wrong but you know you couldn't talk to anybody else there was just the two so is that isolation or not? And one of the wonderful things at Stonington base, there were 14 of us there that year, and you knew if you'd had a row with somebody you'd suddenly say 'Where's Bob gone? He's gone to see the dogs', and nothing was said and the guy would go up or I would go up to talk to the dogs, they always responded, they always knew you were right, you came back half an hour an hour later in a much, much better frame of mind. So on base even though there were 14 of us you could feel very, very - you just want to get away. Whereas once you are sledging you can't get away at all, I mean you can go outside 10-20 yards away.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:41:54] Chris Eldon Lee: *So how did that change the dynamic of the relationship with him you know suddenly the person you were with was 1 of 14, now you were just a duo?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:42:05] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah you've got to get on with him, like any relationship you've got to put up with your differences when they occur either, did Peter and I have any blazing rows? I don't think so, we had plenty disagreements but they were always sorted out, you've got to sort them out you've got no choice not to. The first month or so there were 4 of us together working our way down and then after that yes we met up with other sledges on 2 or 3 occasions but otherwise we were on our own the whole time.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:42:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did the Gaels rise to the occasion? For this long trip?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:42:43] Bob Bostelmann: You always think you've got the best team in the world, everyone does but unfortunately the Spartans which had been, Peter had been down once before and he had a lot of experience and I am grateful for that huge experience that he had, and his team seemed to be up my backside most of the time so in other words

performing better than mine, and he seemed to drive them better than mine but no, there were days when I was driving better than him and I think its like anything, at the end of the day who was the better team? I would definitely say mine was and Peter would definitely say his was but I think we were fairly compatible together actually.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:43:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *And how was that frontier when you got back when you stepped over the threshold of the hut again after being away for so long?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:43:25] Bob Bostelmann: I came out of the field early and Twiggy, who was our radio operator, went in so I came out about 3 weeks early in order to go - one of the things I wanted was actually do the sealing, in those days we were killing 4-500 Weddell seals and crabeaters, and there was a programme that I wanted to do for London Zoo looking at pathological material in what were thought to be perfectly normal seal. So I was very keen to get back in time and did in the event. So it was a bit different from all the other sledges who tended to come in at the same time and there was a very big change on base whereas when I got back there were 4 of us there and then it slowly built up and built up again back to the full complement.

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:44:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me more about this work you were doing for London Zoo because in the diary the base diary for 13th August 73 they talk about you measuring seals. Is that what you were doing?*

Disc 1 Track 9 [0:44:25] Bob Bostelmann: No that was part of Laws's programme. What I was trying to do, I didn't have a problem with killing a large number of seal. I'm told that there was something like 125 million crabeaters and it's the largest population of mammals in the world except for humans, so the numbers we were taking was immaterial but I did feel that if we were going to kill them we ought to try and get as much information as possible. Laws was doing a lot of work on this so we were measuring them, we were collecting either the testicles or the ovaries and we were collecting the second molar tooth to age them. Now it was a complete fluke but I was extremely glad that - most people just wanted to get the sealing done, finished, job done and they could go and have a good beer afterwards and because I was kind of 'in charge' of it I said to everyone before we started 'Look we want to get all this done please', and I then showed them how I felt it should be done from my experience of post mortem animals so instead of taking just the one tooth out we took the whole jaw out which was a lot, lot quicker than just trying to - so that sped things up, the testicle in seals is internal so can be quite difficult to find, ovaries are not a problem, measuring is not a problem but what was important from the dog point of view is that you go through the mandibular sense??[indecipherable], the two jawbones are not complete there is a gap between so if you go through there you get the jawbone easily, you can then slice through the brisket at the chest which is easy if you go the right place which most people hadn't realised because there is a bit of cartilage there and you must go through the pelvis at the other end because a lot of times they'd left a small amount of the rectum in the animal and that would then go off when it thawed out later years later so you were wasting a lot of meat from the dogs' point of view. So I showed people how they should do it straight

through and it actually took 27 seconds to collect the material and gut it and as a result of that, I can't remember the seaman's name, but one of the seamen who had been on the ship for years and years and years and had never seen this technique, thought that was unbelievable and he was my shadow for the next 3 days and he just stayed there sharpened knives and every time I put my hand up there was a knife that was so incredibly sharp and yeah because of that we got, I can't remember of the 500 seals we killed we got samples from 400 and something, far higher than they'd ever had before and Dick Laws was thrilled and I was thrilled. So at the same time I said to anybody who was doing it, because what we were doing we were landing about 8 seal at a time so I wasn't doing all the gutting, other people were doing the gutting, so if you ever see anything that looks unusual please stop and shout. And as a result of that first of all you were collecting perfectly normal tissue to send to London Zoo, so they'd got a library basically of normal wild seal tissue, and then we were looking at anything abnormal to send to them as well.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:47:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *This would be disease or . . . ?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:47:52] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:47:53] Bob Bostelmann: What looked like disease at the time, and that was material that had gone to London Zoo and I had no more to do with it at all.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:47:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did that come about, do you remember? Did they approach you?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:01] Bob Bostelmann: Eh yes I was approached on that one. Because of the ringworm I'd seen a guy whose name I can't remember at London Zoo, who was then one of the big experts on ringworm in animals, and I had spoken to him so presumably through that contact - just before I left for the Antarctic quite a few people had contacted me and asked if I could get material for various things, it was such a strange thing for a vet to go down for there.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *A unique opportunity.*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:30] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, and from BAS's point of view obviously the more material we could get for other people or anything it's prestige

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *It is valuable.*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:38] Bob Bostelmann: Absolutely.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did I read right that you actually did some sealing from the Biscoe?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:43] Bob Bostelmann: Yes sorry that was all from the *Biscoe*.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:45] Chris Eldon Lee: *Oh right, OK. Was that standard practice? Or was that one of those lucky - you don't know?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:52] Bob Bostelmann: I don't know, I think it was standard practice actually.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:55] Chris Eldon Lee: *When the boat was in you took the opportunity to go and fetch..*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:58] Bob Bostelmann: Oh no, no it was part of their schedule. They knew they needed so many seals at Stonington so it was part of the programme, it had to be done.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *They were bringing them in for you?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:09] Bob Bostelmann: No they came in, they had a full complement, they had quite a few people who were on their way out of the Antarctic on the ship and then yes we'd go into a field somewhere close by and then the small boats would go onto the ice floes, kill them, and then they'd drag them up at about 8 at a time.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *So it was a specific hunting trip when you were there?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:31] Bob Bostelmann: Oh totally, absolutely.

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *And you were in charge?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:33] Bob Bostelmann: Not in, I was in charge of, not the slaughtering itself if you like, but just the management of the carcasses.

Disc 1 Track 1 [0:49:43] Chris Eldon Lee: *Would you regard that to be humane killing?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:49:48] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, I don't see a problem with that.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:49:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK, jolly good. There were one or two other little things that I didn't quite follow from the report because I hadn't come across them before. So tell me about outdoor chess.*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:50:00] Bob Bostelmann: Outdoor chess?

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:50:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *Yes. Moving stores around.*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:50:06] Bob Bostelmann: Oh that was just the usual sort of thing, sorry. Have I mentioned things like that?

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:50:11] Chris Eldon Lee: *No but the base report does.*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:50:14] Bob Bostelmann: Oh no that when we arrived you got Stonington base itself hut, you had the old American hut, which was then used as a sledging workshop,

and you had Fuchs's old hut, which had mostly burnt down, and you had another area which all Antarctic bases have, a refuge in case there is a fire. So we've landed up by moving an awful lot of stores around and then at the end of the day set fire to the rest of Fuchs's base just to tidy it up. So yes there was a lot of moving of stores backwards and forwards, god knows where.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:50:55] Chris Eldon Lee: *You also got the impression that you had to do quite a lot of cleaning up of Stonington area.*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:00] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:01] Chris Eldon Lee: *Can you elaborate on that as well? I think you went to do some work on the Finn Ronne base, didn't you?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:05] Bob Bostelmann: Yes because it was falling down, the whole I think that was one of the directives that Steve the base commander had had to try and tidy the place up and we were proud of the job that we did at the end of the day. It was because there was a huge thaw had gone on around that time the year before.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *Really?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:23] Bob Bostelmann: Revealing all this rubbish around the place. Yeah we spent a lot of time cleaning it up and basically burning it. Politically incorrect now big black fires going on the whole time.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *There's an observation here which I'll put to you and see what you think. 'There seemed to have been frictions with the directorship of BAS which affected the whole base, the impression is also given that Base E had been very sloppy in the past and dirty through weak leadership and that the base commander had been put in to clean the place up. Certainly much work and effort was extended that year in cleaning up the site, inventorying the stores properly and putting in a proper indent system'. Is that a fair summary?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:51:58] Bob Bostelmann: Oh I think that's absolutely true. One of the comments, I can clearly remember when I arrived comments in my diary, was the place was absolutely disgusting when I arrived. It's very difficult when we are all doggy, when you're feeding seal during the winter, alright not every person is feeding it but your dogs were fed every other day, there's 14 of us so you kind of get involved, a couple of people doing it once a week, once a fortnight you're involved in handling this pretty revolting seal meat. If its frozen that's fine but often its not quite frozen so its greasy and revolting, the dogs are greasy and revolting and we all smelt and yeah, we were allowed a shower once a fortnight, so it was all pretty disgusting but to me there was no reason that the whole hut was like that and it was very greasy and dirty when we arrived, and we were very, very proud of the fact how clean it was when we left. Steve was a wonderful base commander, fantastic.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Steve?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:05] Bob Bostelmann: Steve Wormauld.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *So this was not resentful work then, this was work you wanted to do? Having been denied the chance of sledging in the winter, this was OK work?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:14] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah most of it. It wasn't necessarily in the winter we were doing it, we were doing it before the ship came back before we leave, we were doing it the whole time. No it was totally unrelated, we were fairly proud of the base that we had.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:27] Chris Eldon Lee: *Does it raise morale to be clean and tidy and shaved and . . . ?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:33] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. Oh we weren't shaved.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *That was one step too far?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:53:36] Bob Bostelmann: Oh definitely and sadly, because of the water situation, it was literally we had a 5 gallon oil drum with a garden sprinkler underneath and you were entitled that when you were on gash hand which was the day before you did cook, so it was once a fortnight. So once a fortnight 5 gallons of water and that was it. So we were all pretty revolting and smelly but every week we had, exactly as on the ship, you had a scrub out and the place was scrubbed out and made I won't say spotless but extremely clean.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *Underarm deodorant spray?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:10] Bob Bostelmann: Didn't exist in those days.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:11] Chris Eldon Lee: *Rollon underarm deodorant?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:14] Bob Bostelmann: Didn't exist in those days, did it?

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *I think as a teenager I seem to remember dabbling with it.*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:19] Bob Bostelmann: *Laughter.* I can't remember I don't think so.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *So it wasn't bothered with then, it never made it to Stonington?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:25] Bob Bostelmann: No absolutely not.

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *When you got together in the bar at the end of the day what sort of conversations did you have? There is a reference again in the base commander's report to spending some evenings sorting out the world's problems around the bar. Was that a regular occurrence?*

Disc 1 Track 11 [0:54:44] Bob Bostelmann: Mmm, yes and no. How much contact did we have with the BBC and the World Service? Not a lot.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:54:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you want it?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:54:53] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, in a way. The two things were happening, the Vietnam war was coming to an end and more important was the troubles in Northern Ireland. We had a guy from Northern Ireland, Eric Lawther, with us whose brother was in trouble in Northern Ireland so that was something that we did discuss quite a lot, and then towards the end we had this winter of discontent with the Edward Heath government when all the strikes were going on. So we weren't quite sure what world we were going back to. But then you'd get all these weird things that 'Have you heard?' or 'Haven't you heard?', and one of the things 'Had Barbra Streisand died?', and this argument went backwards and forwards for months upon end because someone maintained they'd heard it on the World Service and someone maintained 'Don't be so stupid!', you know but because you get so little news and in those days don't forget it was long before internet or anything like that, we had contact with Adelaide Island for 1 hour a day or something like that, but otherwise we were virtually on our own. It's such a different world now its difficult to make people understand what it was like.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *Some of the fids I talked to actually quite revelled in the fact they had no idea what was going on.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:06] Bob Bostelmann: Oh absolutely.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *On the rest of the planet.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:08] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. Did it matter?

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *Where did you stand on that?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:11] Bob Bostelmann: It didn't matter because we couldn't do anything about it. I think that's the great thing, even in this country how many people vote on the basis 'Well, my vote won't make a difference', but out there when there is absolutely nothing that you can do about it, the ship's coming back in a year's time so you can't get out early, go and help your brother or whatever because he's in trouble in Northern Ireland or whatever it might be, there's nothing you can do.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *So did the impotence lead to frustration or to a zen-like state?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:56:45] Bob Bostelmann: Oh zen-like because it didn't affect us so we were not really bothered. We were much more concerned that a dog was pulling well or not pulling well or a bitch was in heat, the whole life, 90% of our conversation, was dogs. It might sound incredibly sad but that was the case.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:04] Chris Eldon Lee: *It sounds incredibly realistic.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:06] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *You had a Landrover on the base I was . .*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:10] Bob Bostelmann: No that only arrived at relief.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *It was still there.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:17] Bob Bostelmann: Oh absolutely.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *So did you ever find out how effective it was?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:21] Bob Bostelmann: Well yeah. John Newman who was our mechanic thought it was the best thing since sliced bread. We always thought the dogs pulled a hell of a lot more than the Landrover could but it was fun to have it. I'm not quite sure how effective it was quite frankly.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *I'm just staggered it got there.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:37] Bob Bostelmann: It came off the scow, yes.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *But I'm just amazed that anybody could think of taking a Landrover.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:57:44] Bob Bostelmann: But that's the point because the terrain at Stonington stands reasonably, not that high up, but it's a beach a very, very large stony beach so quite frankly it wasn't the best thing to be carrying goods up and down. Fid power which is carrying, and/or dogs which were far more effective quite frankly.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *Would you say this was a planned experiment or was it just . . ?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:07] Bob Bostelmann: I have no idea who sent it down or why it came.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about your time with the skidoos.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:11] Bob Bostelmann: Me? I had very little time with the skidoos. Did we have any on base? We had them at Halley Bay.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:19] Chris Eldon Lee: *There's talk of them being used to round up the dogs, a skidoo rodeo.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:24] Bob Bostelmann: To round up the dogs? No that would be the odd one that got loose. No I don't remember that too much actually.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK that's fine. I have to try these things and see. On the same basis you may not know what this means. What was the Steptoe Game?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:42] Bob Bostelmann: Steptoe Game? No can't help with that one either.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *That's fine, that's fine.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:50] Bob Bostelmann: That's a shame, let me know what it is when you find out.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:58:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *It's in the base commander's report and it was obviously such a well known phrase at the time that he doesn't explain it.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:00] Bob Bostelmann: Well this is the problem.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:01] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you have to convert your veterinary skills to human doctoring skills at all?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:06] Bob Bostelmann: Yes and dentistry.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *I think you had to help Dave Burkitt at some point, Father Burkitt?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:12] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah well there were quite a few people that needed stitching up. And then I think it was Steve Yates got malaria, someone got malaria down there. He'd been in Africa before, but no there was quite a bit of stitching people up no not much more than that.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *Nothing too serious?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:32] Bob Bostelmann: No.

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *Didn't Dave Burkitt have an injury that was quite difficult to diagnose?*

Disc 1 Track 12 [0:59:37] Bob Bostelmann: He did, he fell, coming back from the winter trip he had a terrible accident and he was coming off the Sodabread. He did and I remember talking to the doctor at Adelaide about it. I'm on a blank on that one no. He's perfectly alright because I saw Dave not that long ago.

Disc 1 Track 12 [1:00:05] Chris Eldon Lee: He's recovered.

Disc 1 Track 12 [1:00:07] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 1 Track 12 [1:00:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *Let's take a break, if we may and then we'll come back and spend some more time talking about your publications.*

Disc 1 Track 12 [1:00:14] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

End of disc 1

Disc 2

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is Bob Bostelmann recorded at his home at Offley Hay near Eccleshall in Staffordshire by Chris Eldon Lee on the 9th of September, 2010. Bob Bostelmann, part 2.*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *Let's talk a little bit about your time at Halley, Bob. You weren't there very long, were you? But you...*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:24] Bob Bostelmann: No we were there for a month which was a lot longer than normal because we were putting in Halley Bay 3? I think, the whole idea was to put in a tunnel of Armco so that all the marines came out of Stanley to help us build it.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *Under the control of Big Al Smith?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:43] Bob Bostelmann: Correct, yep.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *What did you make of him?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:45] Bob Bostelmann: A character.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *When the Bransfield arrived there was a lot of unloading to do as there always is and the geography of the unloading conditions wasn't very conducive was it? There was problems.*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:00:59] Bob Bostelmann: No

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:01:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *What are your memories of that process?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:01:04] Bob Bostelmann: Because I didn't know the area at all I didn't quite understand what was going on but basically there are a number of well organised bays, what they call chips which are natural bays in the ice and there was a problem getting into the normal chip and we were in I think chip 3 therefore it was much further to take the cargo up to the new base than they were hoping.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:01:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *And it all went wrong?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:01:36] Bob Bostelmann: It went desperately wrong on a number of occasions. We were unloading and I can remember absolutely clear as a bell, because I tell people this story every single day.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:01:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *Give me a really good pen pointer of this.*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:01:51] Bob Bostelmann: Dave Fletcher was unloading with me and there were about 6 of us. Dave Fletcher, big lad, and he was going on about could I tie a bowline. I'm not a climber, everyone will know that it is the normal climbing knot, so he taught me how to, while we were waiting for the next load of cargo to come, and he was saying you can tie it with one hand and I thought 'what the do I need to tie it with one hand for' so anyway

he taught me and about half an hour later I was on the edge of the cliff and the cliff just gave way and we were dropped probably about 30-35 feet. Adrian and myself both went down the cliff and as Sods' law would have it we both landed on small icebergs, bergy bits, and therefore didn't get our feet wet. All the hawsers that were holding the ship in were all either broken or ripped out, the ship just went out laterally and came back, put the crane over and we were told 'Jump – you've got one chance', and that's how we got back on base.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you fell into the space that the ship had previously occupied?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:13] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *But you didn't fall in the water?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:17] Bob Bostelmann: No.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:19] Chris Eldon Lee: *Because of the fortuitous position of..*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:20] Bob Bostelmann: Absolutely landed on this little ice floe.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you both fall on the same one?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:24] Bob Bostelmann: No we were both on different ones, Adrian was on a much bigger one than me. Having got down there, Dave, bless his little cotton socks, said 'I'll throw you a rope'.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *Dave?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:03:34] Bob Bostelmann: Dave Fletcher, who had been teaching this method of doing this bowline 'I'll throw you a rope, can you tie it with a . . .?' So I was then hauled up but unfortunately my glasses were left in the water on this bergy bit but underwater and then Dave Fletcher again very kindly went down on the crane and with a bit of bent wire, managed to get my glasses back again.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:01] Chris Eldon Lee: *Really?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:02] Bob Bostelmann: Yep.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was that your only pair?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:03] Bob Bostelmann: No I had the dark pair as well.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Later that night how did you feel about that?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:11] Bob Bostelmann: At the time not a problem and then later on like all these accidents which are a close run thing you just think 'Thank the Lord', you suddenly get a horrible feeling about it.

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *There was no warning, there were no cracks?*

Disc 2 Track 1 [0:04:27] Bob Bostelmann: No no, absolutely not, no. It was much, much more serious the next day or two days later because our ice cliff only went back 20 yards and as a result of that only 2 of us went in but the next night when we were having smoko it went back a heck of a lot further, probably 100 metres or something. They lost I think 3 or 4 sledges and I've got a feeling 1 Muskeg. Again whether you are Christian or not we all believed in some being up there who was looking after us, and it was a complete fluke it was smoko, so we had all come off onto the ship for smoko.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the ship got pushed out?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:05] Bob Bostelmann: Again yeah.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *And you with it?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:06] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *What would have happened if it hadn't been smoko?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:11] Bob Bostelmann: Without any shadow of a doubt 6 or 8 of us would have been killed, no question about it.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *And at one point there was a search for a man who was thought to be missing was that on that one?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:25] Bob Bostelmann: Yes because he was meant to be unloading the ship, he was actually having a kip on the base up on the base, so yes there was an absolute panic. We were all having smoko bar him and on the last load he'd gone up to the base.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *And then there was the big ice cliff fall at night?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:05:45] Bob Bostelmann: That was at night when we were all, we were then actually unloading off the cliff which was higher than the ship, the Bransfield, believe it or not, so the only way we could get in was on the crane to lift us way above the ship and we were then on 12 hour shifts building 12 hours, sleeping for 12 hours, I was on base building, we suddenly heard that the cliff had fallen onto the ship.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *There was nobody working?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:16] Bob Bostelmann: No, no we had fully unloaded there, we were just literally parked up there that time.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *And again if it had been the alternative group?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:24] Bob Bostelmann: No, the alternative group they were sleeping so there was no unloading at that stage we were literally just parked there, it had all been unloaded we were all building.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:34] Chris Eldon Lee: *My understanding is that that was the first night where there hadn't been any night unloading.*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:40] Bob Bostelmann: Correct, absolutely.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:42] Chris Eldon Lee: *So if it had happened 24 hours earlier.*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:43] Bob Bostelmann: It would have been a different situation again.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *Those are 3 very hefty warnings, aren't they? Was there any change of policy at the base about the unloading process?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:06:56] Bob Bostelmann: Well it wasn't on the base. I mean Sir Vivian Fuchs was with us at the time, he was on the ship when it happened last time. No I don't think there was. They weren't happy at being on – not knowing the geography of Halley Bay I was fairly sure that they were not happy at unloading on the third chip anyway they wanted to be on the first chip or something but because of the ice conditions they had no choice in that matter.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did the men get a bit spooky about it?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:25] Bob Bostelmann: No I don't think so I think it was just 'that's life'.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK.*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:30] Bob Bostelmann: We were all young and beyond redemption.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *You were immortal were you?*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:36] Bob Bostelmann: We were immortal, that's the word, absolutely.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *There was an incident apparently where you ended up with two black eyes I can't work out quite what happened.*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:07:45] Bob Bostelmann: Oh that was a complete disaster. Moving on completely we were at Stonington, the dogs on the northeast glacier above a very, very steep ramp, ramp of 1 in 4 or something which is the ramp that connects the northeast glacier to the island itself and my dogs were meant to be going uphill and we were right on the edge anyway and they spun round and came downhill, capsized the sledge with me underneath it, smashed my glasses and landed up with 2 black eyes. That was not an issue really. This was just before the planes were coming back down, so a quick telex to London in those days, to Eleanor Honeywell 'Can you get my mother to get some more glasses to try and catch up

with the pilots to take to Canada to bring them over on the plane?' Eleanor Honeywell phones my mother in London and says 'Mrs Bostelman, I'm sorry but your son's had an accident and he's broken..' and the line went dead. Bearing in mind what the phones were like in 1973 you know they were not like they are now, Mother was in an absolute state and it was quarter of an hour before Eleanor came back on the phone to say I'd broken my glasses, can you get another pair! Laughter.

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:09:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK.*

Disc 2 Track 2 [0:09:19] Chris Eldon Lee: *And there was, when you were sledging you got stuck in a rather large blow at one point, I believe?*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:09:24] Bob Bostelmann: *In a rather?*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:09:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *Large blow, a big blow, lost your tents.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:09:27] Bob Bostelmann: Well no that was in the winter. Yes, that was in the winter and again we all believe in this other being, it was extraordinary. I can't remember the glacier we were in, we weren't that far about 25 miles from base. Had some evil, evil, evil weather so we hadn't actually been outside, we'd tried to feed the dogs but believe it or not although we were on a relatively level area we were wearing crampons to move around on the flat and were still being blown away so we gave up feeding the dogs, hadn't fed them for 2 days and on the second night we assume a lump of ice, something came hit the tent, ripped it completely. Peter and I were both fully clothed inside our sleeping bags we just literally pulled it down on top of us and about, that was in the middle of night-time 2 or 3 o'clock or something in the morning, and about half past seven, 8 o'clock, the wind went down to about 40 knots and we said 'Look the only thing we can do is abandon as much equipment as we can, keep the pup tent, the pyramid tent was a complete waste of time, we always had a pup tent so we would just take that and try and get back to base. And its one of these extraordinary things so we did, we loaded up and just fled back to base which as I say was about 24-25 miles which is a good day's sledging with the dogs especially in winter and when we got back Peter said 'What was your reaction?' I said 'I don't know but somehow those dogs knew we were in trouble'. They did everything miraculously, every command was instant response and, dunno, I believe my dogs understand my feeling here and to me there was absolutely no shadow of a doubt that Peter and I felt that those dogs knew exactly that we were in trouble and knew that we weren't stopping the night mate, we were going to go straight through.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:11:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did it change your views on creation or creativity or the great white god in the sky? Were your beliefs affected by these experiences?*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:11:34] Bob Bostelmann: No. I had been brought up as a Christian. I'm not an active church member but I have always believed in something and I don't know what it is.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:11:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was that belief reinforced then by these incidents in the Antarctic?*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:11:49] Bob Bostelmann: Probably yes, and I was grateful for whoever or whatever it is somehow, you know it goes back to Shackleton's days, doesn't it, when the fourth person walking across South Georgia with them. I dunno we just believed in something that would look after us. We were either that or we were damn lucky the whole time we were there.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:12:11] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about the scallop bed in Back Bay.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:12:16] Bob Bostelmann: Oh that was known to be there and it was one of those things that every so often someone would be stupid enough to go in there and bring the scallops up and we would have them for supper and they would give you the most awful almighty diarrhoea and I don't know how or why we had them but it was just a different diet for a day. So yeah it was there and we used to go and feed off them every so often.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:12:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. Obviously the strong point of interviewing you is to talk about the dogs and the dog work you did and if I can just turn to my other notes and take a slurp of tea whilst you're about it there were two or three things that you wrote. Famously there was an Antarctic publication called Cure A Fid.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:02] Bob Bostelmann: Yup.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *And you wrote Cure A Hound.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:04] Bob Bostelmann: Yup.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about that.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:07] Bob Bostelmann: Have you not seen it?

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *No.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:09] Bob Bostelmann: Only because *Cure A Fid* was only a very simplistic first aid kit for fids and includes dose rates of anything that is there in the medical emergency kit. The idea of *Cure A Hound* was the same sort of idea because I'm the first guy [*sic – probably meant vet*] that had actually sledged with huskies it was just a very, very simple first aid kit, first aid manual for what to do with dogs and dose rates for drugs that were down there.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right, and are you aware of it being used after you had come back?*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:43] Bob Bostelmann: Sadly two years after I came out the dogs came out too. So yes it was used but for a very limited time.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *And Grow A Pup?*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:13:51] Bob Bostelmann: Well that was also the same sort of idea was to try and - I had forgotten that one - these dogs we reared our own and they were virtually fed on evaporated milk and seal meat from day 1. If I actually suggested that to any of my clients now they'd go absolutely mad. So it was trying to give an idea of how much and at what stage, when you go from minced seal to chopped up seal to whole seal meat and to give an idea of how we ought to feed these poor little hounds.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:14:27] Chris Eldon Lee: *And again it was used for a couple of years and then became a collectors' item I suppose.*

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:14:31] Bob Bostelmann: Probably.

Disc 2 Track 3 [0:14:34] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. What I have got in front of me, which I have thoroughly enjoyed reading, is The Management of Sledge Dogs in the Antarctic by R W Bostelmann and it is in Polar Record Volume 18 number 112 published in 1975, and it is a very comprehensive study really of the history of dogs in the Antarctic and of how dog management's changed in those years. So let me pick on some of the points you make and perhaps you can elaborate on them if you wouldn't mind. What is the most effective Antarctic husky? Describe the perfect beast for the Antarctic jobs.*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:15:17] Bob Bostelmann: Sadly male, only because it doesn't come into season and he's heavier. Fairly heavy, 55 kilos that sort of weight, longish legs and very, very good thick coat. It was very noticeable when we started the interview we were talking about the hereditary diseases that Andrew Bellars found on them and as a result of that 6 Greenland dogs came down one of which sadly died in the tropics on the way down and I had 3 on my team, believe it or not, and those dogs, although they were wonderful dogs, were very, very different to the British Antarctic dog which is almost a sub-species because it has been bred for so long. So the British Antarctic dogs for instance, if they get a real ball of ice on their feet didn't seem to bother about it so they were walking almost on stilts great big balls, the Greenland dogs absolutely hated it. Unlike most dogs they were very, very hairy round the pads so you accumulated ice very, very quickly. Our dogs, the BAS dogs, hated having a lot of snow and ice on their heads, the Greenland dogs didn't care about that at all they had a great almost a helmet on their heads. So it was very strange to see the difference between these two types.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:16:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did the two types of dog get on socially?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:16:56] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. Yes that's not an issue.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:16:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. Obviously we touched on briefly earlier in the first part of the interview about the problems of interbreeding but you are essentially close breeding aren't you?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:17:07] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:17:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *So are you looking for a uniform dog? Are you aiming for uniformity, or were you, in the 70's?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:17:14] Bob Bostelmann: No not really. We had that gene, they were a fairly uniform anyway there were one or two, there was a dog called Baloo which had an unbelievably long coat and although we kept her I'm really not quite sure why, it was a throwback you wouldn't want a long coat because it got iced up very, very quickly so that was the sort of thing that we wouldn't breed from her at all. Yes, we were looking for uniformity. One of the sad things about it, the way it worked, these dogs lost a heck of a lot of weight at the beginning of the summer trip so while you wanted heavy dogs you didn't want fat dogs, you didn't want little fat dogs that made them heavy, you wanted a big structure, a big frame so that they would still pull. Some of these dogs would lose 25-30% of their weight in the first month of sledging.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *And that was because you couldn't give them the same . . . ?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:08] Bob Bostelmann: You couldn't feed them enough.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *Simply by volume?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:11] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. Oh you could have fed them enough but you couldn't carry the weight in order to feed them enough. You were, the whole of sledging was spent trying to cut your weight down.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *When they were at base they would get seal?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:24] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *But they couldn't have seal when they were in the field?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:18:27] Bob Bostelmann: No you couldn't carry the weight. One of the programmes I did when I was down there was we were feeding them stuff called Nutty or Nutrican and the British Nutrican was based on whale meat. The importation of whale meat was banned in I think 1968 and therefore we had to find another source so I took down a Nutty based on soya, it was the first time soya had been used to feed dogs and I also took the New Zealand stuff which was based on wild deer meat and we were comparing them, one of the things we were doing was comparing the 3 diets.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:19:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is when you got the nickname The Turd Burglar?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:19:08] Bob Bostelmann: Absolutely.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:19:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *Because presumably you were doing literally what it says were you?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:19:14] Bob Bostelmann: Absolutely because what you do in any nutritional diet programme is measure what goes in measure what comes out measure the dog in between whether its losing weight, gained weight, so yes I was collecting huge numbers samples of faeces to analyse and see how much protein was actually being captured by the dog or being passed out.

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:19:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *Can you remember your findings?*

Disc 2 Track 4 [0:19:36] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah it was published in the, well it wasn't published, it was all extremely annoying. I submitted it to the *Journal of Nutrition* because that's where the previous work had been done, and it took so long to come back, by that time I was in Australia and I hadn't got my notes with me and there was every single point that needed editing and it never happened which was very, very sad but at the end of the day, yes, the new one which was based on soya bean was the more efficient of the diets, the New Zealand diet was way, way worse than anything we'd had.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:20:11] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the dogs didn't seem to mind not having meat?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:20:13] Bob Bostelmann: They didn't have a choice.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:20:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you commission somebody to make dog food out of soya?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:20:20] Bob Bostelmann: It was made by – it wasn't a problem. I can't remember who made the stuff. I want to say its Kellogs but its next door to the Kellogs factory in Liverpool, the people who made it. We didn't have whale meat so you had to find something else, it was as simple as that. There is an aside to this actually.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:20:43] Chris Eldon Lee: *Sorry?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:20:43] Bob Bostelmann: There is an aside to this because it was worse than being ???[indecipherable] by a ???[indecipherable] because the dogs will eat each other's faeces, they are so hungry they will eat each other's faeces as quickly as they can so that's why you've got to get it, that's hence the Turd Burglar because you had to get in there before the dogs would eat it, their own faeces. So I then landed up with, I can't remember, 600 samples of dog faeces some big volume which then wanted drying. We were living on a very small base, so I then had a tent I pitched downwind from the base where I used to boil the ruddy stuff up. This went into 2 manfood boxes which is now semi-dried to come back to this country, and when it came back it was stopped in Southampton because they thought it was some sort of drugs. And it was quite difficult apparently to get it through Customs I'm told.

Laughter.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:21:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there a problem with the dogs eating each other's faeces, it doesn't sound terribly healthy?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:21:44] Bob Bostelmann: It's not healthy if there's disease around but these dogs had absolutely no disease at all so its no its ultimate recycling probably.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:21:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK right. Let's talk a bit more about breeding then. We talked about the contraceptives in the first part of the interview and it wasn't possible in the field but when you are actually wanting to breed bringing two dogs together how did it actually physically do that?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:10] Bob Bostelmann: If you were in the field it could be quite difficult and sometimes you relied on the planes literally to fly the bitch or the dog backwards or forwards but generally speaking you didn't. They would come on twice a year, you tried to mate them in the winter when they were on base but bitches are in season were hopefully brought into pens away from the male dogs and if you wanted a mating you brought the dog down.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *And these were very much arranged marriages?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:43] Bob Bostelmann: Oh absolutely, yes.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *And so would you leave them together for a while?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:48] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, a couple of days.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *You then assume that the deed had been done?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:22:54] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. Oh but it's the sort of thing, hang on, we've got no sex, we've got no women, we've got no television, it's the sort of thing that men would stand there and watch till it happened.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. And the pups would arrive, and then what was the next step?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:09] Bob Bostelmann: Ah no the step before that about a week, 10 days before the bitch was due she would be taken off her chain, off the span, and brought into another pen which would have some sort of packing case as a kennel in inverted commas, she'd whelp, very often she'd not use the packing case cover but she'd whelp outside, you would then look at the pups and, sadly, if you didn't want the bitches they were put down there and then and if you did fine but they were, you know, either keep the whole litter or not keep the whole litter.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you were handling them whilst they were still blind?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:50] Bob Bostelmann: Yes oh yes.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *That was a positive thing was it?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:53] Bob Bostelmann: How do you mean?

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:54] Chris Eldon Lee: *To handle the dogs early?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:56] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, yes,

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:57] Chris Eldon Lee: *Can you elaborate on that?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:23:59] Bob Bostelmann: Well one of the major concerns they were concerned about was this lurkiness, this nervousness that was happening, and I was instrumental probably in trying to get people to handle them as much as possible so you handled them as much as possible. The bitches although huskies got a terrible reputation of being nasty, horrible dogs, 99% of ours were incredibly friendly and let you handle them straight away, straight after birth and then you would examine the bitches as I say if you needed the bitches put down they would be put down there and then on day 1, or before day 1, and they were handled straight away.

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:24:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did the mother respond to the loss of any of these puppies?*

Disc 2 Track 5 [0:24:40] Bob Bostelmann: No, no, no, and they don't in this country as long as they're left with some, they can't count, so they're not aware seriously if they've got a litter of 6 they're at a low ebb, somehow 2 have gone.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:24:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK.*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:24:50] Bob Bostelmann: Well they're not showing any response to them.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:24:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *But there was a natural infant mortality rate anyway, wasn't there?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:24:56] Bob Bostelmann: Yes yes.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:24:57] Chris Eldon Lee: *Again can you elaborate on that?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:24:59] Bob Bostelmann: Well there was no heating and if the bitches are whelped outside even though we're providing her with a pen its literally a packing case with a sack over the front to try and keep the wind out but very often they would whelp outside and/or the puppies would go outside after a very few days or hours and die from cold very, very quickly.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:25:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were they good mothers?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:25:26] Bob Bostelmann: Exactly like dogs in this country some were extremely good and some were pretty useless frankly.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:25:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the weaning process?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:25:35] Bob Bostelmann: Was pretty abrupt. Again if we wanted them in the field about 5 weeks and they would be back in the field, and the puppies would be on evaporated milk and seal meat minced.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:25:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *This could lead to some problems I believe?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:25:50] Bob Bostelmann: Well not really they were – early reports were suggesting they would get terrible worms with this, now we know seals have got worms but the worm wasn't spread to dogs so I'm never quite sure where this came from so except for the fact they caused terrible diarrhoea, no I don't think there were major problems with it – its not a diet I would recommend now.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:26:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *There was something called intussusception?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:26:14] Bob Bostelmann: Intussusception is a very common problem in dogs only when it occurs in this country where the intestines basically works like a worm. You've got a continuous gut movement and if one end stops and the other goes the intestine just goes on top of itself and as a result that causes complete blockage. So yes it can be consequence of worms but its normally a consequence of diarrhoea.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:26:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right because of the seal meat and the . . . ?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:26:50] Bob Bostelmann: Possibly yes.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:26:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *So in a way that was a natural selective process that the stronger dogs survived?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:26:56] Bob Bostelmann: No I wouldn't say so I think it was just bad luck.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:27:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:27:01] Bob Bostelmann: Well you see intussuseption in this country is nearly always in dogs under 6 weeks old.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:27:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the pups then once they've been separated from their mother the pups had a bit of a free time didn't they really?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:27:12] Bob Bostelmann: Yes. We tried, although it was pretty revolting because they were on mostly seal meat so this disgustingly black, tarry faeces, to bring them into the hut most nights just to associate with humans. Well you can imagine having 10, 15 non-house trained puppies with black scour going through the hut, although everybody loved

it the bloke who was on gash, on cleaning, did not love it he went round spent his time with a bucket and mop following behind these thing. But no everybody loved it and it was a very, very good form of relaxation for everybody on base frankly I mean playing with the puppies.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:27:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *What point would you start thinking about teaching the pups what their job was going to be?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:04] Bob Bostelmann: Generally speaking a year. So they were weaned at about 5, 6 weeks they would stay in a cage on minced seal meat graduating to chopped seal meat graduating to lumps of seal meat, they would go onto a span at about 6 months and then normally go out to start doing work at about a year.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *The six months span would be because that would be when they would start fighting?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:30] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, and also the management of them. I mean if they are in a cage someone has got to clean them out if they're on a span then I'm afraid they don't get cleaned out they've got a fairly big area to work over and we rely on the snow to cover it up.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *So that's 6 months of inactivity on a span?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:50] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:55] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did that lead to psychological problems these poor things that were . . . ?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:28:58] Bob Bostelmann: No, no. Among the other reasons, important reasons because thinking about it the earlier days these dogs were actually loose, vast numbers died, lost, they went out to sea basically, chasing penguins or something like that, fell down crevasses were lost, went on to sea ice which was blown out and there were very, very heavy losses. So bearing in mind in the summer we've only got 2 people on base, the mechanic and the radio operator, they needed control of the dogs.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:29:28] Chris Eldon Lee: *Self preservation then?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:29:29] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:29:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *Really?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:29:30] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:29:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *You say after a year some of the other countries seem to work their dogs much younger than that don't they?*

Disc 2 Track 6 [0:29:35] Bob Bostelmann: I didn't know that ... The South Africans did that, yes, and we would too if there was a need, if there wasn't a need we wouldn't. Some of the dogs were working at 8 months but that was pretty unusual.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:29:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *I remember reading something about the fact they were working too young in their lives and osteoporosis would...*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:29:55] Bob Bostelmann: That was our major concern, the work that Andrew Bellars had done which was suggesting it wasn't hip dysplasia but osteoarthritis. Dogs were sexually mature at about 6 or 8 months but they weren't mature from the bone point of view until they were about 15 months, so if you do work them too hard too early you can cause chaos to the joints.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:30:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the working life of a dog would be how long?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:30:22] Bob Bostelmann: About 8 years.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:30:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *So take me through the training process then - how would you introduce the dog to the idea that life was not actually just lounging around doing nothing all day?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:30:32] Bob Bostelmann: You try to make them enjoy it. Husky pulls naturally so you start - we have a team of 9, 4 sets of 2 and a leader in the front generally speaking, in a kind of herring bone formation, so most of the dogs were started either right at the back or behind the back pair as close to, either on the carabiner which was the attachment to the central rope which was fairly far back or actually onto what we call the cow catcher which was part of the sledge to teach them they've got to pull and keep pulling. Once they've learned that then they move further up depending on whether they were intelligent or not, or whether they're just going to pull.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:31:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did they learn, so they learnt to follow orders by watching what other dogs do?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:31:22] Bob Bostelmann: Oh totally, yes.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:31:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *And associating the dogs' response to your calls?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:31:26] Bob Bostelmann: The ideal world would be that the first 3 dogs know the command of left and right and everyone knows the command for stop and start. One of the biggest problems if you're trying to turn left or right is if you start them going and the back pair have learnt they will swing the whole sledge round very, very quickly indeed. So what I was doing was shouting to my lead dog Beast 'Irra, irra Beast, irra' and he'd start going round and immediately you got in the right angle 'Hup' straight again and try and pull them straight, whereas if everybody knows that you can imagine the whole lot just turns a right angle virtually very, very quickly indeed and then the guys in the front the leader hasn't got the strength to pull the team back on course again.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:32:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *There are various stories of dogs seeming to know how to get home or seeming to know where they're meant to be going towards.*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:32:26] Bob Bostelmann: Oh but every dog in the world does that, but there yes I'd agree with that.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:32:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *There's a natural instinct then, homing instinct?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:32:35] Bob Bostelmann: Somehow yes, yes.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:32:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *The lead dog, lets talk about him for a little while, we talked about choosing the lead dog but the lead dog of course is the one that's most likely to fall into a crevasse isn't it, so they are more accident prone than the others is that fair?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:32:54] Bob Bostelmann: Yes and no. Could fall in but he could be the one that actually gets over luckily because he's probably not the heaviest dog and he might get over before he's causing the bridge to collapse so it's the next dogs, in my case Beast, my lead, never went down. I put Debbie down a couple of times and she was the first pair, but most of mine it was the third pair that went down.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:33:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *Why because the bridge is ok for a while but once the third pair of dogs get to it it's been weakened by the first ones?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:33:31] Bob Bostelmann: That's right.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:33:32] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the lead dog is a single dog therefore its not so heavy?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:33:35] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:33:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. There are stories also of dogs going down crevasses and then falling out of their harnesses, this was before your time, and I gather that you were able to do something about that?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:33:48] Bob Bostelmann: No, this happens the whole time unfortunately and to me it's - I'll probably get rollicked by my colleagues - its bad management because we do spend most the time, we should spend most the time, adjusting the harnesses. As I said earlier dogs lose a huge amount of weight at the beginning of the trip so the harness has got to be continually made smaller, smaller and then if they put on weight made bigger again purely because they are slipping out of the harness.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:34:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right, so when dogs have fallen out of their harnesses it's actually because the harness weren't tight enough?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:34:22] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:34:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *Thank you very much for that. Did you ever have to go down to get one out?*

Disc 2 Track 7 [0:34:29] Bob Bostelmann: I didn't. We were very fortunate that year we didn't lose a dog. That was extremely rare and I think it was just good fortune rather than

good driving I have to say that. To be fair that's why we use dogs, I'm sorry it's a horrible thing to say, but that's why we use dogs. Beast was more of a coward than I am and if he came across crevasses very frequently he'd turn left or right at an angle and before I knew the dog I used to go forward but he would turn left or right and then suddenly go back again and he'd find a much better bridge than I had anticipated and he'd found a better bridge before I even knew we were in crevasse areas and that's what we used huskies for, and it is far more important I'm afraid to lose a husky than to lose a human.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:35:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *The leader had to be a friendly animal?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:35:18] Bob Bostelmann: Yes.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:35:19] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about that.*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:35:20] Bob Bostelmann: Well because we've got these lurky ones, what we called lurky ones which are nervous ones they would never respond the same way. If you went up to them and they would kind of cringe and run to the far end of the span and you've got to have someone who you relate to. It's no more different than someone here. I don't shoot but you know you can't shoot with a nervous dog you've got to have a dog that respects you, that you get on well with as a mate or whatever and almost you'll enjoy each others company, whereas if you've got a nervous one and you're trying to give a command to a nervous dog its going to sit down and cringe rather than go forward and keep going. So lurky dogs were bad news and you know if occasionally, as they did, if the toggle got frozen and they got loose it could be days before you caught the damned dog again. And it was one of these extraordinary things I knew with a dog called Kovik [phonetic], which was a New Zealand dog, that occasionally got loose and he was relatively nervous when I got him first, he was alright towards the end, and he would get loose but if you were running he'd get into exactly the right position in the team run all day in that position, wouldn't pull obviously because he wasn't attached and when you told camp for the night you would kind of quietly go up to him he'd disappear off, couldn't catch him.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:36:34] Chris Eldon Lee: *Chewing problems?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:36:36] Bob Bostelmann: Well that's where I fell out with Andrew Croft completely. We didn't get much chewing problems I'm glad to say but if they do chew of course it's a disaster because it's all rope. So they can get loose at night; we did have one dog that got loose at night, I can't remember who it was, and ate a vast amount of our food and dog food and he caused chaos. You know we rely on them and they are all on ropes so if they chew they get loose and can eat anything frankly and they do eat anything.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:11] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you stop them from chewing or what do you do to prevent them?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:14] Bob Bostelmann: We personally didn't, whereas before one of the things a lot of people did try was dragging - you know it sounds horribly cruel now -

dragging a rope through their mouth sawing it backwards and forwards to make the mouth sore. I personally didn't think it worked.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *So because their mouth was sore they wouldn't chew it?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:35] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, that was the theory, yes.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK, sounds a bit dramatic doesn't it?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:40] Bob Bostelmann: It's pretty barbaric, yes.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:42] Chris Eldon Lee: *About this idea of early in a lead dog's career you might actually go out there in front yourselves so it would be a man on a ski showing the dog the way.*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:37:51] Bob Bostelmann: We'd try to discourage that as much as possible. Now early reports would say that and, daft as it sounds, some of the very last reports were doing that. The guy, whose name I can't remember, who went right the way across, American guy from Hope Bay they were leading the whole way with a man. That was actively discouraged from our point of view.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:38:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *Because?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:38:14] Bob Bostelmann: Because basically you want the dogs to do the work and the whole idea was the dogs would go in front rather than a human lead. We didn't have the manpower and yes there was one dog driver and a team so if I went in front who was going to be at the back to manage them? If they actually decided to disappear off I'm left there like an idiot in front!

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:38:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *There were reports in the earlier, before your time, of men on skis actually trying to entertain the dogs to try and encourage them to follow them.*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:38:43] Bob Bostelmann: Yes I know. We were adamantly against that sort of thing.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:38:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *There was also some management of loads so if one team was faster than the other how would you have?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:38:53] Bob Bostelmann: The whole idea is trying to get to the end at the same time. The lead team, it's much more difficult to lead whereas the team behind has got someone to follow so naturally they're going to try and catch them up and, more important, the lead team is making a track. So depending on the snow conditions if you had very deep soft snow the lead team might only have 200 lb weight whereas the one behind would have 6-700 lb.

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:39:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *Because he's following in his footsteps?*

Disc 2 Track 8 [0:39:26] Bob Bostelmann: Because he's following in his footsteps. If it was hard conditions or ice then the differential between the two might only be 100 lb. So it depended on the conditions, depending if it was uphill downhill and everything else and if you had a good mate and I was very fortunate that Peter was very good to me, if suddenly Peter was up my backside the whole time and I couldn't get away we'd chuck off a box of Nutty which was 50 lb and he'd take extra weight to try and slow them down and conversely if I got away I'd stop some time and take a load off him. You always tried to balance it out, there's no science behind it but you know your teams you start the day thinking you know what the snow conditions are, they can change dramatically during the day so that food was chucked backwards and forwards.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:40:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was this always done willingly or could there sometimes be a certain amount of pride at stake?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:40:19] Bob Bostelmann: There was probably more of a problem taking weight off than taking it back. There is a certain amount of pride, yes, but at the end of the day we're all trying to travel as far as we can and arrive there at the same time, so you know yes occasionally one of us would get way in front and you think the guy behind would say 'Well why the heck isn't he stopping and taking some of my weight?' and resenting it and occasionally a guy was right up your backside all day and you're thinking 'Why isn't he offering to take weight?' But generally speaking it's done with very good spirit.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:40:56] Chris Eldon Lee: *Sometimes you have to stop don't you - what was the most efficient way of bringing the sledge to a halt?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:41:02] Bob Bostelmann: Depends where you were. I mean if you're on deep snow just say 'Ah now' and they just stop like that. If you're on icy conditions where the sledge is going very easily then we would, again depending what you're doing, if you're ski joring which is skiing on skis behind or alongside, the ski would just drop back then bring your right ski (in my case) onto the brake which is a plank of wood with 2 nails in it and you'd press hard on that and scream very slowly, very quietly 'Aaaaaah now - Aaaaaah now, stop team - AAAAAAAH NOW', getting more and more distressed as you go on.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:41:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you have any incidents?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:41:50] Bob Bostelmann: Oh yes, plenty of course yes. Usually downhill. Fast downhill is wonderful when it goes well, it is horrendous when it goes badly because if you're going down on glare ice or ice the sledge is going faster than the dogs and even though you've got rope brakes or chain brakes and you're hanging on for dear life keeping all your weight on the nails on the sledge you are screaming your dogs to go faster and faster for fear of running them over.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did that ever happen?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:24] Bob Bostelmann: Oh yes. Very good brake if you've got a dog under your sledge, but it's not recommended.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *Do the dogs survive that?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:31] Bob Bostelmann: Oh yes, yes.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was your feeling, you were back here by that time, what was your feeling when you heard that the dogs were being banned in the Antarctic?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:41] Bob Bostelmann: Banned entirely?

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:43] Chris Eldon Lee: *Yes.*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:42:44] Bob Bostelmann: Saddened really. I find the whole thing is a little bit strange but I can half understand it. The fact that everything has to come out now, and I mean everything, is understandable in a way, and round bases I have absolutely no problem about that at all. But in the field where it's such a huge place and if human waste has to come back, as it does, nothing's left behind I can half understand it but is it totally necessary? And I feel dogs were in the same sort of line. The whole way that BAS is run now probably dogs wouldn't work, because they are going further afield and they're not there for the winter and I think it was necessary for us to be present with dogs. There's no way you can have a skeleton staff at Rothera looking after the dogs and the people flying in whenever it is, November time, and take the dog team out. It wouldn't work, you'd have far too many accidents and injuries. That was the main advantage of us being out there in the winter, didn't do a great deal of work but you got to experience the dogs in safe times. So it's a total change in the way it's worked.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *What happened to Bob Bostelmann when he came out of the Antarctic?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:06] Bob Bostelmann: I worked for the Falkland Islands for a spell.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *In the Falkland Islands?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:11] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, and then ...

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *As a vet?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:13] Bob Bostelmann: Yes, yes, yes.

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did that come about, Bob, was that reluctance to come home or ?*

Disc 2 Track 9 [0:44:19] Bob Bostelmann: No, no, no not at all. There hadn't been a vet, Alison MacRae was the first vet before me with the Government so there hadn't been a vet there for 23 years and I was very keen to work there. I'd done a bit of work on my way down, I'd spent a month there on the way down and got a very good reception from the farmers so I was very keen to work on the way back and the Ministry of Overseas Development were prepared to pay me so, I spent 7 months there and came back to Cambridge to write up the work that I'd done. That was a condition that BAS would release me as long as I would come back. So I came back hoping to go back to the Falklands but to this day I haven't a clue what happened, there was some political nonsense that wouldn't allow me back.

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:45:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Are you referring to the Falklands conflict or something else?*

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:45:08] Bob Bostelmann: No, no, not at all. When I left the Falklands I had a word with the governor, whose name I can't remember, and he said 'Would you be prepared to come back when you've finished with BAS?' and I said very definitely. There were programmes I'd started I wanted to finish. He said 'Well write me a report and tell me what you want', and simple things - they promised me transport in the Falklands and I never ever got transport I had to beg and steal. I wanted accommodation and yes I had a room in a house because it was vacant because the people were actually in England at the time so it was very, very basic what they offered me and I felt their side of the contract - the Ministry of Overseas Development were paying me, the host country should provide some basic things. So I came back here, the Ministry of Overseas Development asked me if I'd be prepared to go back again and the answer was 'Yes', but I'm now married. My wife's a veterinary nurse so I expect her to be able to fly, flying was paid for by the government, because she would be helping me in my work and things like that, then I want transport, I'll take my own Land Rover don't have a problem if you ship it down. There were various things like that and the next thing is the Chief Secretary of the Falkland Islands said he's not coming back. I've never met the man, hadn't met him before, he's a new Chief Secretary a new governor. The sheep owners association were in conference at the time and were saying 'Why isn't he allowed back?' I would have thought having got back they all said 'Thank god we got rid of you, dreadful man' - to my face they were very, very pleasant then fine but they all wanted me back. My old governor who was now in the Foreign Office, sent me a very nice note saying 'I'm very sorry you're not going back'. I would love to know what stopped me but one of these days we'll find out.

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:46:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *Writing up your notes - I haven't really asked anybody this before because a lot of people have to do it - what is it like being back in Cambridge having to write up your notes, is it a wistful experience?*

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:47:05] Bob Bostelmann: I'm not a researcher and I was back in the neurological department trying to do nutritional work. First thing is boiling these ruddy faeces up again so my colleagues suggested it should be a night time task which I did, so this was all air dried at night and as long as I finished about 6 o'clock in the morning, opened all the windows then went to bed at 8 o'clock they were happy with it. So, no, it was good and I did enjoy it. I got quite a lot out of it. Unfortunately I didn't get as much publications as I wanted because straight after that we went to Australia and it took so long to be edited back to us that by the time I actually got the papers that wanted editing, I was in Australia and my stuff was still in Cambridge sadly. And I regret that ???[indecipherable]

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:47:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *So Australia was the next step in your career as a vet?*

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:01] Bob Bostelmann: Yeah.

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did the time out in the Antarctic help you with your future career or did it actually hold you back because you'd missed those critical months or years?*

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:16] Bob Bostelmann: I was concerned it was going to hold me back, in effect it has made no difference at all. Very, very happy 18 months sojourn and thoroughly enjoyed it

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *Have you ever had to treat a husky since?*

Disc 1 Track 10 [0:48:28] Bob Bostelmann: No.

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *If a husky came in to your surgery in Staffordshire tomorrow, how would you feel?*

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:38] Bob Bostelmann: Oh there are a few Spitz and no huskies I've seen a few huskies but I have never treated. Great and like any other Fid I'll quite happily tell some terrible tall stories. That's how it is!

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:48:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *You've never been back to the Falklands but you have been back to the Antarctic. You were on the 2005 Marguerite Bay cruise. That's 30 years later, and you got into Stonington. Tell me about that.*

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:49:10] Bob Bostelmann: That was wonderful that was the highlight of the trip that's what we all wanted to do and it was just wonderful. We left Ushuaia, went straight down there, woke up one morning and there we were, parked outside. Magic. The sad thing is - everybody thoroughly enjoyed it my wife included she thought it was wonderful - but the cloud base was something like 1500 feet or so, so we really didn't get the real magic of the place. They thought it was wonderful but I knew it could be even better. But yes it was a wonderful, wonderful emotive occasion.

Disc 2 Track 10 [0:49:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was it like stepping back onto base inside your heart?*

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:49:52] Bob Bostelmann: It's like this interview, just lots of lovely memories come back and it's such a long time ago and it's such an unusual thing that you forget half of it, and I was saying to you off-tape you talk to the WI and people like that and they ask questions and all these memories come back and they're very, very happy memories and so, yes, it was wonderful going back and there were things that you suddenly remembered that you'd basically forgotten for 30 years.

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:50:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did anything take you aback?*

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:50:22] Bob Bostelmann: The thing that really is staggering now, Stonington is an island, the ramp has gone completely, the northeast glacier has gone completely. We couldn't see the Debenham Islands you can now see them clearly, and if you believe or don't believe in global warming go down there and you can't do anything else but believe in global warming. That was the real frightening, to see the changes to the glaciers round there.

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:50:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *Is there anything else you'd like me to ask you, I think we're..?*

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:50:55] Bob Bostelmann: No not really I've thoroughly enjoyed it.

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:50:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *Thank you very much indeed, Bob*

Disc 2 Track 11 [0:51:00] Bob Bostelmann: No problem at all.

Possible extracts:

- Pre-Antarctic selection psychology tests [Disc 1 Track 2 00:08:16]
- 'Footlurk' in dogs [Disc 1 Track 3 00:10:51]
- End of Halley Bay dogs [Disc 1 Track 4 00:16:40]
- Endemic diseases in BAS dogs [Disc 1 Track 5 00:22:34]
- Contraception, exploitation and management of bitch in season [Disc 1 Track 6 00:25:16]
- Process of choosing lead dog [Disc 1 Track 6 00:27:50]
- Qualities of a good lead dog [Disc 1 Track 6 00:29:30]
- Dog discipline [Disc 1 Track 7 00:31:53]
- Lead dog boredom [Disc 1 Track 7 00:33:26]
- Dog driving commands [Disc 1 Track 8 00:35:26]
- New restrictions on winter sledging [Disc 1 Track 8 00:36:14]
- Long summer trip [Disc 1 Track 8 00:38:55]
- Sealing [Disc 1 Track 9 00:44:25]
- Cleaning up Stonington [Disc 1 Track 11 00:50:55]
- Fids' personal hygiene [Disc 1 Track 11 00:53:27]

- News from outside world [Disc 1 Track 11 00:54:26]
- Close calls unloading ship at Halley Bay [Disc 2 Track 1 00:01:33]
- Loss of tent in severe storm [Disc 2 Track 3 00:09:27]
- The ideal Antarctic husky [Disc 2 Track 4 00:15:17]
- Dogs' loss of weight in the field [Disc 2 Track 4 00:17:14]
- 'Turd Burglar' [Disc 2 Track 4 00:19:06]
- Dog breeding [Disc 2 Track 5 00:21:52]
- Dog training [Disc 2 Track 7 00:30:32]
- Dogs falling out of harness [Disc 2 Track 7 00:33:35]
- Undesirable traits in dogs [Disc 2 Track 8 00:35:20]
- Importance of allowing dogs to do the leading [Disc 2 Track 8 00:37:42]
- How to bring sledge to halt [Disc 2 Track 9 00:40:56]
- Feelings on hearing of banning of dogs in the Antarctic [Disc 2 Track 9 00:42:33]
- Re-visiting Antarctica [Disc 2 Track 10 00:48:52]

Notes:

Naturally, being an interview largely to do with veterinary matters, various drug names crop up which to a layman's ear can only be transcribed phonetically. Perhaps someone might be in a position to replace these phonetic spellings with the proper names. (See Disc 1, Track 3 [14:09], and Track 6 [25:19]).

Similarly, dogs' and team's names have been transcribed phonetically. Anyone who was there at the time should be able to confirm or correct what has been written. (See Disc 1, Track 6 [28:02], [28:59]).