

Transcription of oral history interview with Loren and MaryAnn Anderson at Gonyea House on January 13, 2012. Interview conducted by University Archivist Kerstin Ringdahl. Edited by University Historian, Philip Nordquist.

K: When and where were you born?

L: I was born in Rugby ND in 1945, second son of Elvin and Lydia Kjellstrom Anderson. My father was Swedish and my two grandparents on that side came from Sweden. My mother was Norwegian and her parents came from Norway and so I guess that makes me half and half.

M: I was born in Hudson, Wisconsin, to Donald and June Waalen. My parents both came from immigrant families; my grandparents on my father's side emigrated from Norway and my great grandparents on my mother's side emigrated from Norway

K: Have you been to the family homes in Sweden or Norway?

L: I have been to Norway in Hadeland near the towns of Lunner and Jevnaker and about 30 years ago I found the farm. My Norwegian grandfather on my mother's side was born in Oslo but was raised as a foster child by a family just across the border in Sweden. I found that farm, the people living there knew nothing of him, I had some old postcards I had gotten from my mother, I could tell it was the right place, but they said that the house had been taken down about 1920 and been rebuilt so it was not the original house and they knew nothing of the people who had raised him who were named Nordenga. That's the closest I have ever gotten to the Swedish roots

M: We have been to the home of my great grandmother who grew up in Brandebo, Norway, which is just outside of Gran which is just outside of Oslo. I knew my great grandmother as a child and had great affection for her and she taught me how to knit. That's a wonderful thing. And then my grandfather, my father's father, was the caretaker of Svatsun church up in Gudbrandsdalen and we were there in 1995, I with my parents and we saw the home where my grandfather was born, spent some time with some distant relatives there and that was really lovely. We keep in contact with people from both of those families

K: What kind of traditions have you kept from your heritage?

L: Well I speak of growing up with traditions, in my case my father was the youngest in his family, his mom died when he was three so he was really raised by his father, his older sisters and there were not a lot of traditions from that half of the family. The traditions we tended to follow were those that came down from my mother's side related to the traditional foods particularly around the celebration of Christmas. But we didn't learn Norwegian and the connections broke off so my mother and her brothers and sisters never really had any connections back in Norway. From that point of view the connections were severed early and completely

M: I grew up in a very Norwegian community. Both of my parents had five brothers and sisters and my parents were the ones that moved away to the city which was a town of 5,000 people about 40 miles away from their home places. And so, we went back every weekend. My maternal grandmother was there. She died in 2001 at the age of 94. She wanted us to be proud of where we'd come from, and I think that was true from the moment I was born. She was my godmother; she was a great, fun, vivacious, dancing Norwegian. I came from very happy Norwegians. So, she kept all those traditions alive: klub, fruit soup, they were always around. The church that both sides of my family founded when they came to America in the 1870's, a wooden country church called West Emmanuel, has its annual Lutefisk dinner in November. A few years ago it was written up in *Gourmet Magazine*. And that was always a really important part of our tradition. It was always the second Saturday in November and that kind of started the holiday season; we sat in the church, sat upstairs in the church and waited for our number to be called—I always thought that was theologically ordained—and then we would all go down to the tables that were set up. About Lutefisk, I never knew there was an option not to like it. It was just a part of a high holy feast that we had. My grandmother really wanted us to study Norwegian. They spoke the language when they didn't want us to understand. And she went to school speaking Norwegian and was horrified to not be able to speak English, and I think that kind of marred her. She said, "You have a responsibility to be American." So she didn't teach us the language, but when we got to college, she really wanted us to take the language. When I went to Norway in 1978—I was the first person on either side of the family to go back—I was just cleaning out upstairs a couple days ago, and I have probably fifteen letters that she wrote to me while I was in Norway, and how proud she was of that, how thrilled she was that we went back. When I brought Loren home to meet her, we had an exchange of greetings, and then we went out

the kitchen to make coffee, and she said; “He seems like a nice man, but you have to be careful about your bloodline. I’m not so sure about a mixed marriage.”

K: That’s pretty funny.

M: Well, when he was knighted in 1995, in Norway, that took care of that forever. He was really Norwegian.

K: It took a while then, didn’t it?

K: So what was your childhood like? Was it happy?

L: I grew up in a small family farm, cattle, wheat, gardens, two pigs, two milk cows, a hundred chickens. It was very much living off the land. And my father—maybe partly because of the circumstances of his growing up being orphaned by his mom at three and being raised by his father—was an incredible workaholic. I mean, the farm was his entire life. And that tended to dictate the lifestyle. I had one older brother and a couple of neighbor kids, and we spent a lot of time together. But as soon as you were able, you were expected to contribute.

K: I can imagine.

L: And so very quickly it became clear that evenings and Saturdays and summertime was work time on the farm. And you grew up doing whatever you could do at a particular age. It was Mary Ann’s joke that she comes from happy Norwegians and I came from sad Norwegians. They were very serious, they were Haugeaners. They were very fundamental, legalistic, religiously; there wasn’t a lot of time for humor and fun and silliness. It had little place.

K: It’s tough for children isn’t it?

L: Life was really taken seriously. And that’s a lot of what I remember. I think coming out of my immediate family, I was a little bit of an anomaly because I always had a little bit more of a playful spirit than the rest of my family.

M: I had a really happy childhood in this little town of Hudson Wisconsin. My dad had also grown up in a small town and he was a tremendous athlete. He had four brothers and one sister, and the sister was the oldest. His mother died in 1936 of tuberculosis, and left the oldest girl at age 15 with these five boys. She is the revered Aunt Ann, and she raised these boys. And they were a wild, rambunctious bunch. My dad was a great athlete and he excelled all the way

through high school, and then—because his younger brother took over the farm—he ended up being a cheese-maker in a small town, and fell in love with my mom who was the teacher at the one-room, country schoolhouse that he'd gone to. So she was a teacher, he was a cheese-maker, and in the early 50's, he got drafted. It was right between Korea and Vietnam. And because he was a great athlete, he played baseball in Japan for the army. When he got out of the Army, my mom continued teaching, and he decided he'd go to college. And he went off to college at age 28 and thought he was going to play football, but quickly found out that those days were over for him. He majored in physics, but then got a job in St. Paul Minnesota with a housing company. We moved to a suburb of St. Paul, the small town of Hudson. I grew up in the suburbia of the 1960's; the grade school was right across the street. My dad bought a brand new Mustang in 1965, he was very cool.

K: Oh I'm sure. I'm sure.

M: He really wanted to live the American dream. We took great family car trips all across the country, from Florida to Colorado, and every summer we spent time at a lake cabin. My dad's family, those four brothers and his sister were really close. And I had a lot of cousins my age, so the weekends were spent running with a pack of cousins, and we had wildly, ridiculous, fun, amazing times. I'm really thankful, but faith was the cornerstone; faith and education were basic, but my family liked to have fun as well.

K: You're lucky you moved into such a family.

L: My growing up was very serious, and it was very much about business. So I wasn't unhappy, it was what you did. It was the reality you were born into, and I've never been one to sit around and be unhappy.

M: But you had fun too, you had those two bachelor uncles.

L: I had two bachelor uncles and they provided a bit of a release, and we'd do some things from time to time.

M: Talk about the crates of soda that they bought.

L: We'd finish a major season on the farm, putting up the last of the hay, or seeding the last of the crop in spring or harvesting the last of the crop in the fall. We'd go off to the neighboring

town and get one of these wooden cartons that held 24 glass bottles of soda pop. And my brother and I would get to choose what mix we wanted: We'd choose two orange, two grapes, two root beers, two cokes, two black cherry sodas, and then half a gallon of ice cream. And that was a party, I'll tell ya.

K: Oh I'm sure.

L: Yeah, that was a real party. That was my Uncle Julius who always made sure we always paused a little bit to celebrate those markers along the way in the year of the farm. And I loved the farm. I mean, if I hadn't had an older brother, I would've spent my life as a farmer. So I not only got involved in the work, I relished the work.

K: It was fulfilling.

M: Oh yes. But it was different from mine because mine was really built on my dad's work week from Monday to Friday. And the weekends were free, my dad took us golfing, I have two sisters, and he took us golfing, and we really did have great family, all-American kind of vacations. I had a great-grandmother who lived in Billings who had homesteaded in Montana by herself. So we'd go with my Mother's parents, load up the car, drive to Montana. Those were big, epic outings.

K: How was school for you when you grew up?

L: I have a really distinctive educational background, because I went to Broken Bone Number 1.

K: Really?

L: We lived in Pleasant Lake Township and Broken Bone school district. Folklore has it, because either Buffalo or Indian bones were found near there, they called it Broken Bone. And in its heyday—this is a township, six miles square—there were four schools: Broken Bone 1, 2, 3, and 4. By the time I came along, we were down to three schools. By the time I finished eighth grade, we were down to two. And then eventually down to one, and then none. Because the number of families and the number of children began dwindling as farms grew larger and people moved out. But I went to Broken Bone Number 1 for eight years. You know, I never had a

teacher with a college degree until I was in the fifth grade, never had a classmate until I was in the ninth grade.

K: That sounds lonely.

L: The school had 12 students for the eight grades at our largest; we had three students at our smallest. It was me in my second grade, my cousin in the third grade, and my brother in the fifth grade. And that was the entire school.

K: Were you a good student?

M: He was at the top of his class. List a progression of how you went through the grades.

L: I did grades one, two, and in third grade, the school expanded. Two families moved in and we went from three to twelve students. And there were two fourth graders, and I was in the third grade, and the teacher couldn't keep me busy with the third grade material, so I did both the third grade and then I'd sit in on the fourth grade. And then I came back the next year and did the fourth grade over again. I don't know what I did to keep myself out of trouble. And the same thing happened in the sixth grade. In the sixth grade, I did both the sixth grade and the seventh grade material. And they actually talked about putting me forward into the eighth grade. But they decided that I was too underdeveloped for that so I did the seventh grade curriculum again. I really know the fourth and seventh grades.

K: Are there any teachers you remember from that time?

L: In the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, I had an absolutely super teacher. The people before that were well-intentioned and I think I learned a lot. But I was really fortunate with my sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teacher who was really great. Not many years after that she was picked as the state teacher of the year in North Dakota. She was a superb teacher. She pushed me, and beat me into shape. I was academically ready to attend the regional high school, but I was totally unprepared socially, having never had a classmate before.

M: Can you tell Maren's favorite story now.

L: We can't put that on tape.

M: Yes, yes, we have to. This is my favorite family story.

L: I was in the second grade and there were just three of us in the school, and the teacher fell in love. Her beau would come to visit, and she'd send us out to recess. And we had recesses that would last over an hour. And a slide, which was in its first year was by the window and allowed you to peek in. We'd go up and down the slide hoping to get some idea of what was going on in there. And I'm sure we wouldn't have known what it was anyway.

M: That was the story I was thinking of.

L: This is the other kind of thing about that environment. If there was important work to do on the farm, and you had your schoolwork done, you would get a day off; you'd stay home and work. And my brother and I, learned from my uncle, how to trap fur. So we trapped mink, and muskrats, and raccoon. The trapping season would be from about Thanksgiving to the first of the year. And you had to run your trap lines three or four times a day. You'd set them early in the morning and then you'd run at about nine, ten in the morning, go out at about two or three in the afternoon, and then run it again at around the dinner hour and pull your traps for the night. Because if you left your traps in, and anything got trapped in them overnight, they'd be gone by morning. And we would go to school in the morning, and ten o'clock, time to go run a trap line.

M: Isn't that great? I just love that story.

L: And you'd come back at about two and run a trap line.

M: That's where he learned this multitasking

K: So when you went to Broken Bones, what did you want to be when you grew up?

L: To the extent that I can think about that, I think that I had various fantasies. I remember I went through a phase where I was going to be an aeronautical engineer, I had no idea what that was. I think it was around the Sputnik time. But as I look back on it, life was simple; and you didn't think there were a lot of choices. And the two people I admired most were my father, who was a farmer, and our pastor. And my brother decided to be a farmer, so there was nothing left for me to do but go be a pastor. And when I headed off to Concordia in Moorhead, I thought that's where I was headed, to seminary. But for a variety of reasons I wound up in graduate school rather than seminary, and that's where this Lutheran higher education gig kind of brought those two things together for me.

K: Well, let's hear about your schooling.

M: There was a football field across the street from where we lived, and then our local elementary school, and I'd run down the hill to school every day. I *loved* school. I loved the smell of school, I loved the feel of school, I loved the teachers, I loved everything about school. Maybe that was from having a mother who was a school teacher. So I never remember a time where I didn't just love going to school. And in first grade, we had music as a separate class. And when our music teacher came in and I'll never forget the first day, her name was Miss Aasen. And she was this beautiful, blond-haired, piano playing, singing person from St. Olaf College. And I just thought that was absolutely the best class I could ever imagine. And from that time on, music was really a huge part of my life growing up: I've played the organ, played the flute, and done a lot of singing. But I had a wonderful time going to school. I had really wonderful teachers. It was the sixties, it was suburbia, it was a lot of people living the American dream. Our little town Hudson, because we were fifteen miles from St. Paul, we had a lot of people that worked in the Twin Cities area but wanted the advantage of living in a small town. So I had all the best of both worlds. We didn't go to St. Paul or Minneapolis very often, but we would go there to shop for clothes at the beginning of school, or to take in something special. My dad was a big Green Bay Packer fan, Minnesota Twins fan, and so we took to heart some of those things. And then, we had a really fabulous church community that we were connected with. So most of my school friends were also my friends at church, or their parents were the best friends of my parents. So you belonged to something that was bigger than yourself. When you'd win an award, or sing in a choir concert, there would be people who would write notes to you. It was a really idyllic time to grow up. And our community was very progressive; we had foreign language classes starting in the fourth grade, we had music all the way through, it was a very culturally aware community for being a small town.

K: So what did you want to be when you grew up?

M: I was never involved in any athletic team, we had something called Girls Athletic Association which was just terrible. We hated it. And you had to wear your bloomers to that. They looked like they came from the 1920s, so no self-respecting girl in Hudson would do that. Cheerleading was your option. Growing up, you could be a nurse, or a teacher, or a secretary, and of course, with my love for school, I had always wanted to be a teacher. At the time I left for

college, I had a really fabulous music teacher. And in high school, I had a very renowned choral conductor by the name of Miss Dorwin, who was a St. Olaf graduate who came from a community where she had been for thirty or forty years, and every two years they would do a high school musical. So that was huge. I remember as a kid, in fifth grade, ten years old, sitting in the bleachers thinking, just dreaming of the day when I could be in those musicals. So when I went to high school, we did *Oklahoma*, and I was Laurie which was great; I thought I could be a Broadway star, maybe. And then we got to my senior year and we did my favorite musical, *The Sound of Music*. I had always wanted to be Maria, but unfortunately, I was the only person who could hit the high A in “Climb Every Mountain” so I had to be the Mother Abbess, which was a great disappointment. And my very best friend for all time was Elsa the Baroness. So at practice we’d—Mother Abbess and Elsa—we’d run away with Captain Von Trapp every rehearsal. We changed the ending just a little bit. But it was great fun, and I went off to Concordia thinking that my greatest heart’s desire was to be a high school choral conductor.

K: So you both went to Concordia?

L: Yes.

K: What were your majors?

L: I wound up being a Philosophy major, and an English minor. I don’t think I’d ever heard of philosophy when I went to college. But I wandered into Philosophy 101, taught by Albert Anderson—no relation—who was himself a Concordia graduate with a fresh Harvard Ph.D. And I was intrigued by this introduction into the world of ideas. We were big in doing things in Rugby, but we weren’t much on sitting around and thinking about things; too much to be done. So this was a whole new world, and I was totally intrigued. I must have had a strange advisor, because by the time I was done with my sophomore year, I was one course away from a major in philosophy, so I did things backwards; I did my major first and then I went back and took all the required courses, all the GURs. Somehow I got a degree put together.

K: What kind of activities were you involved in?

L: One of the turning points in my life happened when I was in high school. I had a high school speech teacher who convinced me that I could give a speech, and I entered an oratory contest and won the state title in oratory. So I was convinced I was pretty good, and when I went to college, I

signed up for the debate team. And the new coach for the debate team was a young Ph.D. out of Northwestern by the name of Paul Dovre, who I met as a freshman in 1963, his first full year on the faculty. And he was my debate coach for four years. Then he went into administration and ultimately became the Concordia president. And I wound up working with him in Concordia for twenty years before coming to PLU. Paul and Mardy were just here for the Christmas concerts, and they were here for our daughter's wedding this summer, and they're our next door neighbor at the lake in Minnesota. It's a remarkable story. So I got into debate, but this somber Norwegian culture that I grew up in was very real too. I call it an inferiority provincialism. People east of the Hudson think they're better than everybody else. Farm kids who grow up with sad Norwegians in North Dakota are continually told that they're dumber than everyone else. You know, "You're just a poor, dumb farm kid. Don't expect too much of yourself." And what happened is, I got to Concordia, got involved in debate, and pretty soon started traveling around the country going to debate tournaments and running into students from USC, and Harvard, and all these big name institutions. And most of the time in the early years, we got wupped pretty good, but I discovered that they weren't that much smarter than I was. And the result, in my case, was a kind of a revolution on how I thought about myself and the gifts and talents God had given me, and what I was going to do in life. It was an amazing experience, because I'd been told for eighteen years that I was a farm kid from North Dakota, and if I could feed myself that would be pretty good. And then you start to think, "Aha! Maybe there are bigger possibilities in life."

K: Were there other things you were involved with during college years?

L: Oh I did way too much. I was socially active, I was in student government, I was in a lot of clubs and activities, and I did a lot of work in the church during those years. If you needed some money, you could always do a little supply preaching. Fifty dollars a week plus ten cents a mile for gas, you could go out and speak at a couple of churches on Sunday morning, and you'd have spending money for a few days. I loved college; I really had a good time.

K: So then you went on to graduate school?

L: Yeah, and that was the key choice, because I had applied for a Rockefeller Fellowship to study theology. I became an alternate in the Rockefeller competition, and the day they told me I didn't win, I got a call from Michigan State University that said we want you here, and we want you to coach debate and work on a master's degree. And so I went to Michigan State and became

one of the debate coaches and did my master's. And during that year, a friend from the University of Michigan stopped me and said, you ought to come down here, we've got an NDA doctoral fellowship that's available. So I went to the University of Michigan and did the Ph.D., and that's the kind of break from the seminary track to the academic track that happened. And then was teaching at Wayne State University in Detroit, my first full-time faculty assignment, when Paul Dovre reappeared in my life and said "I'd like you to come back to Concordia". And I did. I went back as a faculty member, but I started doing part time administrative work. And then Paul got elected president, and I became his assistant, so that's when I went over to the dark side. And I've been doing administrative work ever since, chasing money, and pushing paper.

K: So what about you MaryAnn? Your college?

M: Well, I went off to Concordia as a kind of as a rebel because I was supposed to go closer to home, that would be St. Olaf. My pastor, growing up, was a Concordia graduate. He was a classmate of Sidney Rand, so my pastor suggested to my father that we should look at Concordia. My mom was dead-set against it. We drove up there on a November day that was kind of sleeting, half rain, half ice, half snow. It was terrible; my mother sat in the back seat and had a headache the whole day, my dad kept driving. And I remember the actual moment, I remember what I was wearing, I remember how I felt. We drove around campus to find a parking lot for the admissions office. And that day is so firmly etched in my brain, I knew instantly that that's where I needed to go. I can't really tell you why. It was just a really incredible sense of this was where I needed to go. And that's why I feel really strongly as life has evolved that that really powerful feeling for students who come to look at a campus is really important. Of course my mom just had a fit about it, but my dad said, "No, we just will do whatever it takes to let you go to Concordia." And of course, when I got there in August and realized I was in a place that was totally flat with no trees, and that fall it was a hundred degrees, I thought, "What have I done?" I started out in music, but a funny thing happened along the way. I had taken a political science class—one that was required, a GUR kind of experience—and had a professor by the name of Peter Hovde who was a Luther College graduate. I can remember sitting in the classroom one day where we were dialoguing about some political issue and he said, "You know, it's never about the answer, it's about the question. And the question is going to lead you forward." That was just like a light bulb going off in my head. And I started to think,

“Okay, did I really enjoy all that time I was spending in the practice room?” I had music theory and all those classes that I thought were going to lead me to my dream of being this high school choral conductor, but I didn’t really *like* the classes. And that was a big dilemma, because my whole little town had supported me in going off and being this . . . and Concordia was this great music place, and what do you do when you say you don’t like it? But through the grace of people along the way, great mentors, and Peter Hovde obviously was one of those people that said, “You know, you have to be able to pivot and try things out.” So I left my musical ambitions at the end of my sophomore year, and took some more political science classes, I had started writing for the newspaper and really enjoyed that. After a time I was editor of the newspaper. We didn’t have sororities at Concordia, we had societies. I joined a new outdoors recreational society. We went kayaking, and skiing, and I ended up going on a five-week tour through Norway, England, Austria, mountain climbing, skiing, and rock climbing, which was not me. But it was a great experience, because all along, Concordia taught me to enter the unknown boldly. All of my experiences underscored that. I’m thankful for all the and teachers and friends that supported me.

K: Did you go on to graduate school?

M: My senior year I was editor of the newspaper. Loren mentioned Paul Dovre, I had my own Paul Dovre relationship because he was publisher of the paper. And at Concordia the editor you met with the publisher weekly. He was a great mentor to me as well. I had also taken a part time job writing in the news bureau for the office of communications and was fascinated that beyond the classroom there was this whole world that existed in a place like Concordia where people actually worked.

K: Right.

M: I had the privilege of going out on development campaigns, so I went with a couple of my friends who were in student government and talked to alumni about the Concordia experience. And I was also working for a congressman. I really thought I wanted to go to Washington D.C. and work in politics. I got offered a position in Washington D.C. working for a congressman. At the same time, I got a job offer from Paul Dovre to become an administrative trainee at Concordia. That meant the jobs that no one else wanted to do. The job at Concordia was great. I did the administrative trainee job, and then the alumni director left. So here they took this 21

year old young woman and gave her the opportunity of a lifetime. And it was great, I always thought I started with the best job first.

K: So is that how you met? At Concordia?

L: Yep. And I was working there . . . we actually met when I was working there and she was a student.

K: So was it love at first sight?

M: Absolutely not. In fact, our very first meeting when I was a student was a rather contentious meeting, because it was 1979, and I had found out from one of my staff members on the newspaper, whose parents were donors to Concordia, that the vice president for development had been out visiting with the family, and told them that they were going to tear down the house that the African Americans students had. And of course, when you're an editor of a newspaper, this is a big deal.

K: Of course, it's a big story.

M: That was key. And there weren't a lot of African American students at Concordia, but they were quite vocal in those days. So I made an appointment with the vice president for planning and development and said, "I need you to confirm or deny this story." So that was my first meeting with Loren. I was quite sure he was not going to tell me the truth, and I was a little afraid about going into his office and meeting him.

L: Did I tell you the truth?

M: I don't know. I think so.

L: Yeah, yeah.

M: I think so, you were congenial.

K: So, how did you propose? And how long did you date before you married?

L: You know, life evolved, and both of us left Concordia. I went to Minneapolis and did a tour of duty at National Church Administration at the American Lutheran Church. And MaryAnn left Concordia and went to Augsburg College, so we both wound up in Minneapolis. And it was during that time that things moved from friendship.

M: I had been working on my master's degree in the summer at the University of Notre Dame. You grow up in a place, you go to school in a place, you work in a place. I had an incredible experience, but I always felt like there must be something more, and really wanted to see if I could finish my degree. And the College of St. Thomas had a great program that it was coordinating with the University of Notre Dame. So when a position at Augsburg came up, I thought that'd be a great way to finish it out and have another life experience. And I liked Minneapolis, so that's how I ended up going to Minneapolis.

K: So did you go down on one knee to propose to her?

M: Well, you know, we had been friends. We had been friends; we had a lot of mutual friends. I think you were in Minneapolis first, I was there later, we had lunch as friends, kind of connecting.

L: Here we are.

M: We went skiing, We signed up for ski lessons at Buck Hill. So did you propose?

L: It just kind of happened.

M: No, I remember. We were on a chair lift, we were good friends.

L: Yeah, that's one part of it.

M: We were skiing in Steamboat Springs, I lived with two other women in this great house in Minneapolis, it was our Mary Tyler Moore days. And we decided we were all going to go skiing in Colorado; we brought our significant, we called them "boyfriends."

M: So we were on the chairlift, and you remember those red appointment books people used to have?

M: Those church books? Every college administrator had his red book. I was riding up the chairlift with Loren, and he said, "Well, I think I have a Saturday free in November . . . free in June."

L: June.

M: "I think I have this Saturday free in June, why don't we get married?"

K: That's romantic.

M: I don't remember it being romantic. It was *significant*.

K: So did you have a big church wedding?

L: We had a modest-sized church wedding.

M: Well, you know, this grows out of that whole sense of family. And the fact that there's this little church, West Emmanuel Lutheran Church, out in the country that both sides, my maternal and my paternal family had founded when they came to this country. And until the day I married, I assumed my great-grandparents had been married there because my great-grandmother came over here when she was seventeen. My grandmother had been baptized, confirmed, and married there, my mother had been baptized, confirmed, and married there. I had been baptized there, so that was always where I was going to get married. We had a lovely, country church wedding in a place that's always been really dear to my heart. It was just family and friends, we had great friends.

K: And then you had Maren.

M: Then we had Maren in 1987.

K: How has being a parent changed you?

M: For the best. I didn't really like baby-sitting, I had two younger sisters, but I didn't really ever see myself as really maternal, but we knew that we wanted to have a child, and I worked right up until the day before she was born. I really didn't know how that was going to play out, but the moment I met Maren, and I looked into her eyes, and you could see time in a whole different expanse. We had the privilege of raising her, and I can say for both of us, we're better people for having known Maren.

L: You know the thing I always remember about the sensation of parenthood is the experience, you know, when she was just a few days old, the first time that we wanted to go to bed and sleep and she decided she was going to cry all night. And the lesson I learned from that is as soon as you become a parent, with God's help, you've participated in creating another human being who's free, independent, with their own will. And from that point on you realize you can love,

you can encourage, you can guide, you can motivate, you can suggest, you can listen. But there's this other person there, right from day one, and that's just a lesson I've never forgotten.

M: We lived right downtown in Minneapolis when we were first married. We lived right across the street from Symphony Orchestra Hall, on the seventeenth floor, and we brought her home from the hospital. And you know, we're both pretty smart people, we were late parents, but we were with this baby – and I remember laying her down in the living room and kind of looking out at this big city and this little tiny girl and we said, “What are we going to do now?”

K: Big responsibility.

M: “We had no idea what to do.” And you know, that's where the question really leads you forward. It wasn't about the answer. Obviously we had no answers then. But you know, it's been part of the evolution of the question. And she was a great kid. The fall after she was born, the church moved to Chicago, and we moved back to Concordia. You were executive vice president so we would do a lot of entertaining at our home, and I remember Maren, six months old in a pink terry cloth suit, she wouldn't go to bed if she sensed that there was something. So I would lay her down on the floor, and we'd have parties with people and she'd be rolling around on the floor happy. You know, you pick her up and try to put her to bed, did not work. And so from the time she was very little, she just went with the flow.

K: She's been part of it, hasn't she?

M: She's been part of it.

L: Yeah, she really has.

M: You know, a favorite story I have about Maren is that she's always had very good command of language at a very young age. I think that's genetic from her father. We'd leave church in Fargo every Sunday, and visit with the pastors on the way out. And you know there is Maren visiting with the pastors at age three. And the Gulf War came along and we were like every other family having CNN on. We thought - in the background. And one afternoon, there was a knock at the door of the house, and it was our pastor. And he didn't really ever show up unannounced, so I said, “Oh, Pastor Crane.” And he said, “Oh, I was just going to stop by and see how you were.” And I said, “Oh come on in, have a cup of coffee.” We sat down and he said, “Well, I'm just out visiting families, and I wanted you to know that there's all kinds of support for your

family.” And I said, “Wow, I’m not sure what this is about.” And he said, “Well, we’re trying to be very cognizant of the families who have people in the armed services and in Iraq.” And I said, “I don’t think we have anybody in our family in Iraq.” And he said, “Well, Maren, on the way out of church, told me all about her uncle who is fighting in the War in Iraq, and he was in Bagdad.” And I’m thinking, “I’m raising a pathological liar!” And he said, “I’m so sorry. She had all the details, and where he was.” And I said, “Well, I don’t even have a brother, and Loren only has a sister, and we have no one in our family who’s in the armed services.” So, Maren was really good at making up stories.

K: And she listened to CNN and heard about it.

L: Yeah.

M: And decided to share it with the pastor.

K: So are you looking forward to becoming grandparents?

M: *No . . .* sure, but I

L: It’s like your son or daughter choosing their college. You might wish, but you don’t say anything about it.

K: So tell me, what were your first impressions of PLU? And how was it different from today?

L: If you grew up in the Midwest Lutheran College family, that atmosphere, you know. I think PLU is always a sort of place of intrigue. Because it was far away, it was over the mountains, it was by the ocean. And so I remember being really curious about it, I remember my sister in her college days wanted in the worst way to transfer out here but wasn’t able to put it together. So it’s always been a king of intriguing place, and the first people I ever met from PLU were Ted Karl, and the PLU debate and forensics teams.

K: Oh, sure.

L: Because when there were national Phi Kappa Delta tournaments—and they were often in Illinois and kind of in the center of the country—and a couple of times we had chartered trains. And PLU would get on the train in Seattle, and other schools along the way, and when they got to Moorhead, we’d get on, and we’d get to the cities where Macalester and others that were

active would get on. So you had all these people going to the National Phi Kappa Delta tournaments. And the first person I remember meeting from PLU was Prof. Karl.

K: Prof. Karl, T.O.H.

L: I grew up as an administrator at Concordia, so you got to know administrators from here, Jim van Beek, Luther Bekemeier, the people in development office.

M: Phil Nordquist

L: Phil Nordquist, Milt Nesvig . . . Harvey Neufeld. You know, all these people you see in conferences until you start forming an impression that way. And then the presidency came up, and we got a variety of advice from different people about whether or not we should throw our hat in the ring and see what might happen. And we did, and the rest is history. You know, I think there were two overwhelming impressions: number one, it was fairly well known that PLU was a really good place, that it was a financially challenged place. And when we came here, I think the overwhelming impression I remember leaving with, was the quality of the people, and how much the people of PLU were people with the same kind of dedication and commitment to mission, and really a sense of quality and excellence that I'd grown up with in all these Lutheran places in the Midwest. And I think I went home from that first visit here saying, "With people like that, you can fix a balance sheet."

M: You know, I remember when the PLU alumni paper would come to the alumni office at Concordia, and it would have, like, fir trees on it. And I'd never been out to this kind of country, that kind of sticks in my brain. Then Loren came home one night in Fargo with this position description, and I remember sitting around the dining room table talking about would this be a good move for us? Of course, I always wanted to be supportive, and open to opportunities and then lo and behold. I came out here in November, and I had never been in the Pacific Northwest. It was a rainy and cold.

K: I was going to say it probably rained.

M: Rainy, rainy night, our plane was late, Frank and Sandy Jennings picked us up at the airport, we had to hurry to get to campus, so it was dark. But then there were these incredible leaves, and incredible trees, and incredible campus. Some of my first impressions, was a student speaker at chapel who talked about the power of the question. That's a theme, I thought, "Wow." I met

Monica Ricarte. Who was on one of the student committees and I had a fascinating, hour-long conversation with her in the PLU bookstore, I was picking out a book for Maren, *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub*. And I thought if the students at PLU are like Monica, this would be an amazing place.

K: So you have lots and lots of public events. What do you do when you're not on duty? What is a regular day for you when you're just by yourselves?

M: There are no regular days here. When we are here in this house, there is nothing routine or ordinary about it. I think that's one of the things that took some getting used to. When we have regular, or what we call "ordinary" days, they're usually at our Minnesota place called Fred.

K: You can't walk along in your pajamas all day long here, can you?

M: No. In fact, early on I tried to do that.

K: Did you?

M: A few times. But it's a great story, Lauralee Hagen and I developed a really close friendship from the beginning, and it was when Princess Diana was killed. And we decided we were going to stay up all night and watch the memorial service. And we both cried our eyes out, and both wore our pajamas. She left about six in the morning, we'd just gotten Trygve the dog and he had to go outside, and it was a Saturday, so I was in my hot pink nightgown and matching bathrobe, and my face was all swollen from crying, and I decided to let Trygve out in the yard, and of course he goes scampering across the bridge, and I follow him with my cup of coffee in hand. And as I do that, a truck-load of physical plant people—a whole truck-load of them came—they're going to work in our yard.

K: On a Saturday?

M: On a Saturday. And I'm across the bridge, and the dog runs for the physical plant guys. And I'm standing up there, on the other side of the bridge, thinking, "Okay, do I regally walk across the bridge?" Regally, that would be a hard thing for me to walk, in a hot pink nightgown. Or do I go get the dog and just own up to the fact that I'm out here in my bathrobe with a swollen face? I went and got the dog. But I'm sure that story lives somewhere in the Physical Plant. And that was the last time I ever went out . . . went around in my pajamas.

K: So what are some personal highlights of the twenty years here?

L: I was cheating and looking at your sheet and saw that question. I think one of the highlights of the twenty years has been the opportunity to explore the world. Four times to China, ten times to Norway, and South Africa.

M: Six continents.

L: Namibia, and even Antarctica two years ago, and one summer to the Arctic, not PLU related. And so this chance to move around the globe has been . . . you know . . . what a gift, what a gift that is. And how much it opens one up . . . opens *one* up, and broadens one's perspective . . . *perspectives* in all kinds of ways. The second highlight is the people . . . of all the wonderful people we've worked with. But I also think of all these people who invested the results of their life's work in this place: Karen Hille Phillips, and the Art and Jenny Hansen, and Mary Baker Russell, these people who during these two decades have really carried and moved the place forward. And the other great, great group of people you think about are all the students. I was curious so Kris Plaehn sat down and figured out that going into this year I've had the privilege of shaking 17,045 hands.

K: And how many hugs?

L: And then another 140 or so in December, and we'll do another 650 in Spring. So I'm thinking over 17,500 hands one has shaken, and you'd like to believe that there's at least a few of those on whom you've made an impression, and been part of shaping what is going to be their life in the future. And that's a tremendous gift. So you think about people, you think about all the places we've been, you take satisfaction from the new buildings, and the fixed up buildings, and the new technology, and the things that you hope you've been a part of making possible.

M: And then your team of people.

L: Your team of people, absolutely.

M: You know, it's an interesting question because I was starting to think of it in terms of day highlights. I think of the day that King Harald and Queen Sonja came.

K: Absolutely, absolutely.

M: The day that we went to the palace to invite them, coming out of the backgrounds that we had, one of the most amazing days of my life was sitting in his office with their Royal Highnesses, thinking, “Gosh, my whole family left this country with nothing.” You almost felt them on your shoulders, and that they had been people for whom faith and education was everything, and in a couple of generations, there we were. It takes your breath away. And when they were here, it was a highlight day; High Holy Day.

L: Yep.

M: You know, the first Wang Symposium was just fabulous.

L: Dedication of the Mary Baker Russell building.

M: Yeah, the dedication of Mary Baker Russell building.

L: And the dedication of the Morken Center. Those were days that one will never forget. And you’ll never forget the tragedies. The day that Jim Hollaway was murdered, the day that Monica Lightell was killed, the day we lost the two students in the car accident. They marked us.

K: But what a place like PLU does when something like this happens. If it had been a regular office, this wouldn’t have had that kind of togetherness.

M: Right. In a sense, that’s why you wouldn’t think of them as positive highlights, but you think those are the times . . . September 11, 2001, because that was on the heels of Monica Lightell and Jim Holloway. We’d opened school the day before, it was beautiful. We went to bed that night saying, “Oh thank goodness we’d survived all that.” And the next morning you could hardly, hardly believe it. But it was all in the context of this immense community, and the ways that people come together here; the ways that they knit themselves in some really powerful ways, both internally, but then the outreach piece. I was with a woman this morning who said, “You know that service —” she was a UPS graduate and a community person and she said, “Oh it was so breath-taking to watch how PLU does that in times of tragedy. You have this sense of hospitality that’s spiritual.” and I thought, “Oh, that someone from the outside could see that. That’s amazing.”

M: And the other great personal highlight, for me, having a profession bent out, representing PLU out in the community was the Desmond Tutu community evening.

K: Oh, of course.

M: The energy, the momentum, and contributions that PLU made to that incredible community event were remarkable.

K: That was an exciting event. Very exciting.

M: That was one of the great things, that was one of the great days. And to watch student Mycal Ford on stage, representing so much of what was great about PLU, I think that will always be what I think is a highlight.

L: I'm going to join my own immigrant story. You talked about going to see the King and Queen? We went to see them together, and we had an audience, they came and visited here, and the next time we were in Norway—ah, maybe not the next time, maybe it was a couple times down the line—it was 1999. November of 1999, and we had a group together for lunch including Knut Brakstad you know, Audun's nephew [Audun Toven, professor of Norwegian], the secretary to the king. And he as we were breaking up afterward, he said, "Have you made arrangements for an audience with the king?" And of course he knew we hadn't because we would've made them with him. But I said, "No," and he said, "You should know that when a knight comes into the country, they're supposed to report to the king." So he said, "I'm going back to the palace so I'll take a look at the King's calendar and see what it looks like." And he went back, and thirty minutes later he called me up and he said, "Tomorrow at one thirty the king's got thirty minutes open and he wants to see you." So I went over there, but the history part of that was it was November 30, 1999, and my grandfather left Oslo to come to this country on May 30, 1900. And what I realized, that day as I was walking over to the palace, is that it was 99 years and six months to the day from the time my grandfather left my grandmother and three little boys and a house and a farm outside of Jevnaker, and sailed out of Oslo to come to this country. It was 99 years and six months to the day I was back sitting and talking with the king.

K: They didn't even have a king then.

M: No, they didn't even have a king, you're right! They didn't even have a king!

L: You know, they came here . . . my family came here pursuing whatever dream they were pursuing, and he came in 1900, and they got off to a good start. And by 1911, they owned not one homestead, but three . . . three years of drought they lost it all. And the family myth was he

left Norway because he didn't want to be a worker on a farm the rest of his life—and truth be known, he was a worker on farms for the rest of his life. And I'm the second child of the twelfth child, and the first one to have a terminal degree. And most of the second generation wound up as blue-collar, worker-type people. It was not until the third generation that education started opening to them.

K: Think how proud he would have been of you.

M: Oh yeah.

L: Yeah, her grandmother too. Her grandmother would probably not been able to contain herself. Well anyway, when you started talking about the king and queen I just treasured that story.

K: And you know, the way PLU is, I think that's one of the many reasons why I've stayed so long. I have no family here at all, and PLU has been like a family to me.

M: Oh that's moving.

K: That's kind of a feeling. You know that feeling?

M: Absolutely, you know, that first fall that we came here the house wasn't ready so we had to live in David and Marilyn Knutson's basement. What a gift. What an incredible place to start off.

K: Oh absolutely.

M: You know, because they are so true PLU, and every morning Marilyn would come and sit on the stairs to the basement, and tell me stories about PLU.

K: As only she can.

M: Yes, as only she can. And David was such a remarkable man for little Maren. You know, he was out there shooting basketballs, a blind man with no legs

L: And playing catch.

M: Playing basketball with her. That was remarkable. We knew we had landed in a remarkable place.

K: I know that students are very important to you, so tell me about the Gonyea Fellows and how you interact with students other than the Gonyea Fellows.

M: You know when we moved here, we knew we had this big challenge to open the door — open the front door to PLU. And since I had worked with students a lot at Concordia I was always good at hiring students to help. And people had done that for me when I was a student. We've got all this energy; we've got to invite people into the conversation. So we said, "We can't really have any events here without some kind of student presence." And, the students had to be trained, we had to help them make meaning of it, and especially if we were going to ask them to share their stories with people they didn't know. So that's kind of how it birthed, Erin McGinnis [Director of Culinary and Dining Services]—genius that she is helped, our whole life at PLU would be different without her.

K: Oh I'm sure.

M: That's, thanks to Marilyn Knutson. Because one of those mornings on the basement steps—the catering director had quit in August of 1992—and Marilyn said, "You have that big faculty picnic to pull together. How are you going to do that?" and I said, "I have no idea." You know, they didn't have a job description for a spouse, and she said, "Well, there is this girl who graduated in 1990, but she's back taking care of her mom, but I think she just graduated from the culinary institute and she does *great* things with baskets." And I thought, "Well, it's the nineties. Baskets are kind of 'in'." so she said, "Here, call her." So I called Erin and I said, "You don't know me, I don't know you, I've got to do this party, Marilyn Knutson said you would be great. So she came and did that first party and after it was over I stood outside and I think I literally went down on my knees and asked her "Will you please stay here for a year?" And we had such a good time the rest is history. She is a genius. So, because she was doing the catering, and she got the student part we were able to get students in here working, helping us with dinners and that sort of thing and out of that group and the fact that we needed some students who were trained and I took a look at that and the institution was not financially very well positioned. We had a fulltime gardener out here and I felt guilty about that so we thought you had better put that person on campus and I thought, well, I don't know much about gardening or lawn work so that is how we got started having students taking care of the lawn. They work together at all of these big events so we had to do some training and one thing led to another and pretty soon we had 20

students working here and they identify as a group and they liked to make meaning out of their experiences so after events here they always had a de-brief time and they were always free to ask questions about things they didn't understand who these people were and how it made an impact on the university. I think Eva Johnson gave them the name Gonyea Fellows. We did a summer orientation every year and one year Eva was our guest speaker talking about student life and things and she said "This is like a fellowship, they should be the Gonyea Fellows." And I think we've had about 150 students.

K: Tell me about this Pilgrim's Walk that you went on. I have a feeling that that was an important thing in your life.

M: It was. You know, when we first went to Norway . . . well, the time we went to see the king and queen and invited them to PLU, I had never read *Kristen Lavransdatter*, and so I decided to read it while I was there. And of course, we went up the valley to Gudbrandsdalen, and by the end I was totally captivated. And at the end of that trip, we had dinner with Penny and Kjetil Flatin. And I was sitting with Kjetil and I said, "You know, I'm so intrigued by this walk that she takes to Trondheim several times in the book." And I said, "Is the path still there?" and he said, "The path is still there. If you want to go someday, I'll take you on that path." Well, you know, life goes on. But I love that book so much. And so for our twentieth wedding anniversary, I asked Kjetil on one of our trips, "Do you think you'd be willing . . . I think we're ready, we have some time. Could you?" so he pulled together a trip through Normannsforbundet, it was kind of half Norwegians and half Americans. It was an awesome time, and we had just a great experience.. And it wasn't Loren's favorite kind of trip 'cause the first night, we ended up on this medieval farm and the beds are short, and it was cold, and Loren said, "You know, some people go to Italy and drink wine. . . ."

L: It was our twentieth anniversary.

M: But we had a great, great trek, it was really meaningful. And he asked me what I wanted to do for my fiftieth birthday, and I said I wanted to go walk that path. It's kind of a midpoint of my life, I just can't imagine anywhere else on the planet I'd rather be than on that path. And he said, "Well it'd be fun to bring some friends," so we talked to Audun and we talked to Kjetil, and they said, "Oh yeah, we'd be happy to do that." One thing after another happened and it ended up being all these amazing people from very different venues of our life. And we hadn't really

started out with a list of who we were going to invite. It just kind of all happened. And we ended up with 19 people. That ended up being one of the highlights of my life.

L: Yeah, fabulous experience. Just fabulous.

M: Everybody was at different stages of transition: some had just lost a spouse, some had just ended a significant relationship, some had just lost their parents, some were thinking about new careers, some—like Maren—were thinking about what their lives were about, and it was transformative for everyone who was on the trip.

M: A couple people got married, Kit and Gary Severson.

L: A couple of people fell in love.

K: That's great. I'm sure being in your positions it has been hard for you to have personal friends versus public friends. I'm sure that's not easy.

L: One common denominator with everyone who was on that trip, was that we did not know any of them before 1992.

M: Except your sister.

L: Yeah, my sister.

M: And Maren.

L: Yeah. But I mean outside the family though, in terms of the friends category. Everyone who was on that trip was in one way or another, a "PLU friend" you'd say. And I think we didn't realize that at the beginning—in fact, we did invite some people that we've known longer, but it didn't work out for them to go—so PLU was the circle around which that whole group was built. And our PLU experience.

K: And you still meet from time to time.

M: We do meet. . . we meet several times a year, and that's amazing because they're all very busy people.

K: Yeah, yeah.

M: One of them is Viebecke WVraalsen from Norway who finds her way back to connect with the group. It was an amazing time of life.

K: So how is your life when you are at Fred? And did you name it Fred because it's so peaceful there?

L: Yeah.

M: Yes! So the great story about that is for years Loren had that place when I married him, he bought it in 1981, I always say I married him for his lake place.

M: I love it there. So we'd send Maren out to Norwegian camp, and tell her to think of a name, she'd come home with ideas for names, they never stuck. One summer, Loren put up a shed, and in his lovely way he likes to name things. And so he named the shed Fred. And so it was Fred the Shed, and going out to Fred the Shed, and "Where is this? It's out in Fred the Shed." Fred just became a part of life at the lake. Meanwhile, we were looking for this Norwegian name, and . . . oh I don't know, it was one summer, we were at the Nobel Institute in Oslo, and I was sitting there going through some books, and I look up on the wall, and there is this big poster, in the middle of it, it says "Fred". And then it says all these different words for peace in children's handwriting around it, but it said Fred. And I said, "Fred, why in the world would it say Fred?" and all of a sudden it hit me. "Oh no, that's a Norwegian word for 'peace', and the name for our lake place has been there all the time." So some people think we're weird for having a lake place named Fred, which is fine. But the people who know us know that it's really Fred.

L: I've been building a man cave. That's "Fred 3". So we now have Fred, Fred 2, and Fred 3, so that's become the nomenclature by which we keep track of things.

K: Which reminds me, what is the story about you and tractors?

L: I have always loved machinery. I could take apart, and repair, and put together a John Deere tractor or a John Deere combine by the time I was twelve years old. And indeed, that was my job, because my brother and dad got to go out in the field and do all the field work. So they were out there in July, putting up the hay for the year, for the winter, while my job was to be getting all the harvesting equipment ready. And so I was a pretty good little mechanic by about age 12, or 13, or 14. So, I've always been intrigued by the machinery aspect of farming. We had been

here a few years, and somehow I've been able to pick up a couple little models: somebody gave me one, and then they started showing up at the door.

M: It was magic. No, he'd travel, he'd go off apparently by himself, but a week later these boxes would pile up.

L: So I've got about three hundred items downstairs in my collection which I am now trying to sell because we have no place to keep them, I'm not anxious to lug them around with us when we start moving.

K: You'll be homeless pretty soon.

M: That's right. But last year you bought a tractor.

L: Oh yeah, I actually have a real live tractor now in Fred.

K: Who has been the most important person in your life? Or the biggest influence on your life?

L: Well I suppose she's sitting with me.

M: That's just what I was going to say. You know, it's just this incredible dance. You know, there was this great Munch exhibition, when we were in Norway in the fall, and there's this great picture or painting of Munch's that's called *The Circle . . . Dance of Life? The Circle of Life?* It's the woman in the red dress and the man dancing, and then this incredible cast of characters around them, and the moonlight shining on the water, and I thought "Oh." I sat there thinking for a long time that day, thinking how thankful I am to be married to my best friend, to be married to someone who's always willing to dance even though he didn't come from those happy Norwegians, but he gets the music, and he has a lovely string of melody that's all his own that has led our dance into some very interesting places. And yet, as every day begins, and as every night closes, it's the person that I'm most thankful for.

L: You know, you need to be kind of weird to do this work, because it is so incredibly encompassing.

L: So absolutely 24/7, nonstop . . . and then to meet someone who's almost as weird as you are, and who loves this enterprise and this work, and believes in it, and feels the same sense of vocational call that keeps one going. And I think the great strength . . . one of the great strengths of our teamwork has been that we do both share that vocational call. And it's only with that kind

of shared sense of vocation and purpose and mission and all, that you can do this for twenty years.

L: If it were a solo operation, I couldn't have sustained it for twenty years. And so I feel that I, and we have been uniquely gifted to have been able to work together on something that's so near and dear to both of our hearts. And that has sometimes made us our own worst enemies in terms of taking care of ourselves. But it's also been the source of a lot of energy, a source of inspiration, a source of counsel, a source of joy that has made it possible to sustain it. No regrets, no regrets, I'm not complaining.

M: And we've had some wildly hysterical moments too. You know, the one person on the planet you can laugh with after some of the crazy things, you can't have this many people in and out of your life without some wildly hysterical things that you can never even talk about. And we've almost laid here on the floor sometimes at the end of the day just like, "Can you believe these people?"

L: And your having said all of that serious stuff. Could you sustain this if you take yourself too seriously? You have to have a healthy regard for your own insignificance, and your own foibles, life is about muddling through. And if you lose that, you get to be too serious.

M: And we love doing things together, and that's the amazing thing. My friends sometimes say, "You're at this point, your kid is gone, and you might go off and do this, that, or the other thing by yourself." We're really not that . . . we still really love being together.

K: That's great, that's wonderful.

M: I remember Joanne Rieke saying that to me, "It will either make your marriage better, or it will have a negative impact on it." Because you do end up spending so much time together. And I thought about so many times during the year, it's really incredibly strengthened the bond that we share. We've had so many marvelous shared experiences together.

L: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

K: What are you proudest of in your life?

M: Well, obviously Loren and Maren.

K: Yeah, that's what I was going to guess. Yeah.

M: It's been so, you know, I knew Loren long before we landed here in 1992, to have, to watch. He always says that at his core he loves to build things, to make things happen—I knew that about him long before I married him—and to watch what he's been able to do here. Astonishing. And then to watch Maren's one wild and precious life unfold, and to say, "Yes, I love her as a daughter, but I so enjoy her energy, her life, her verve, her . . . just as a person. And I'm so proud of her."

K: If you could interview anyone from your life, living or dead, but not a celebrity, who would it be and why?

M: Someone I wish I had a chance to regularly interview, knowing what I know now, is Jane Russell [a former Regent and the wife of George Russell, the head of Frank Russell Company].

L: Yeah, that's a good one.

M: You know, our whole landing here would have been different without her and George. It would have been totally different. She was such a—in the very best sense of the word—a godmother to me as a very young woman trying to start out and manage a family, this wild, larger-than-life job that your spouse has, and this incredible, whatever-this-is where we live. And she was so generous in time and attention. She's the one who put me on the back of their boat one day and said, "You sit here and you knit this sweater until you are finished, because you are going to need to knit in order to survive this life, and it's so much cheaper than therapy."

K: That's true.

M: Ha, ha, ha, and it was *so* true. And I'd like to think that I appreciated that at the time. I mean, I always stood in awe of her, I find myself a lot of times in these later years wishing I had an hour to ask her some of the really big questions, because she lived that kind of life.

M: She was a very

L: Very wise woman.

M: The wisest woman I've ever met.

L: Yeah.

K: Who would you like to interview?

L: That's a really, really good question. You know, I think of various members of the family tree, because I think one of the things that happens is as you become the oldest member of your family, you realize how much dies every time someone dies. And I would love to be able to go back and interview my grandfather, my mother's father, and try and figure out what that bird was really all about. Because, he was really an interesting guy. And one of the things I've never had a chance to run down and still need to get to someday—it's on the bucket list—is he was of a mysterious parentage in Oslo, and he was hustled off to this family in Sweden where he grew up, and then came back to Norway and married my grandmother. And he told the pastor who baptized me and also buried my grandfather that his biological father was the bishop of Oslo. And he was hustled out of town because he was illegitimate, and raised in Sweden. I always thought it'd be fun to know more.

M: Audun Toven was going to help us.

L: My grandfather went to the University of Stockholm, but he quit. He was, I think, a kind of frustrated intellectual, he was a frustrated farmer he was a person of great ability who maybe never quite found his great wild hope in life.

K: One more question, whether or not you want to answer it or not, what does your future hold for you?

M: Well, Frederick Buechner says, "Vocation is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's great need." So we know something of our deep gladness, we just don't know where it intersects. Is that fair?

L: I think the short answer of it is we don't know exactly where we're going to be, or what we're going to be doing. We have some interesting possibilities that we're trying to sort out. But the point is . . . well, drop back and let me say something about context. I think it's fair . . . I think I'm speaking for us, but I know I'm speaking for me when I say that given where our life began in Pleasant Lake North Dakota and Broken Bone Number 1, with an eighth grade educated farmer father and everything, having the privilege of being the president of a great university for 20 years is something that was the furthest from my wildest dreams growing up.

K: I can imagine, yeah.

L: And I am so fundamentally grateful for the opportunities that life has provided up to this point, and for the opportunity to do this incredible work with all of these incredible people, and I'm really winding up 20 years, I feel a great sense of satisfaction, I feel a sense of pride of where the university is, and a deep, deep sense of humility that one had a chance to do it, and that it worked. And out of that sense of gratitude and humility, I've always wanted to do this work. And I hope that we can continue now to use the incredible experience we've had, and the little bit of wisdom one has gained along the way to continue to create opportunities for people. And to continue to be useful in the world, and to live a life that is driven by the sense of gratitude and humility and joy. This life is a heck of a gig.

M: And a little more time.

L: Amen!

M: And to take long walks in the woods

M: And to knit, and to read good books, and to spend time with cherished friends and family. We've had a great family who's been willing to be a part of this craziness over the last twenty years and they connected in, my mom and dad used to take care of Maren when she was little, and were here for amazing times, and Loren's sister traveled with us a lot, and we've got really close friends from before our PLU days, and wonderfully supportive, but

K: You didn't have time until now.

M: Make more time for those people, and the people we've collected along the way.

K: Sure.

M: That goes for the incredible depth of friends that we've made in this place, because every day is a gift. I think losing Audun was hard, and you're really mindful of that it is finite.

K: Yeah, it doesn't last forever.

L: Yeah, that's for sure.

M: So like Loren said, we start every morning these days with gratitude. PLU's best days are ahead. We both know that with full confidence, and we're going to look forward to seeing that unfold. We're grateful that we've been able to be a little bit of a piece of this history.

K: A big part of it.

L: Yeah.

M: And loved every minute of it.

K: So my very last question is how can I use this interview? Can it be available to anyone?

M: Yeah.

L: Sure.

M: We didn't tell you any of our secrets.