

John Addison Ferrick Oral History Interview
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collection
Administrative Information

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Interviewer: Phyllis Noble

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Biographical Note

John Addison Ferrick served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho from 1981 to 1984 as a secondary school teacher. He then joined Peace Corps staff as a recruiter and trainer (1985-1987), Associate Country Director in Papua New Guinea (1989-1990), and Associate and Acting Country Director in Fiji (1990-1992).

Access

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Oral History Interview

with

John Addison Ferrick

June 28, 2016
Madison, Wisconsin

By Phyllis Noble

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collection
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

NOBLE: [00:00:03] Today is June 28th, 2016. This is Phyllis Noble. I am interviewing John Addison Ferrick, who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho from 1981 to 1984. After serving as a Peace Corps volunteer, John went on to work as Peace Corps staff on and off between '85 and 1987 as a Peace Corps recruiter and trainer of incoming volunteers. And then he went on to be associate director of Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea from 1989 to 1990. And following that, he was associate director and then acting country director of Peace Corps in Fiji from 1990 to 1992. That's a long time to be associated with Peace Corps, eleven years.

FERRICK: [00:01:04] Well, I think it shows the impact.

NOBLE: [00:01:06] Yes, yes, yes. I can't wait to get your story. So, John, let's start at the beginning. Where, where were you born? Where did you grow up?

FERRICK: [00:01:17] I was born in Denver, Colorado, and spent the first six years in Denver and then came back to Wisconsin. My father was from Gays Mills, Wisconsin, west of Madison, and he was in the Navy and met my mother in Norfolk, Virginia, at a big naval base. And so my mother and father first went to Colorado because of some associations with family on my mother's side. But then we came back to, uh, to Wisconsin and to Madison. So I really see Madison as where I grew up.

NOBLE: [00:01:49] And you're still here.

FERRICK: [00:01:50] And I'm still here. Left for a few years but came back because we had some small children and just thought it's a great place to raise kids and really love the east side of Madison. And I grew up on the far east side of Madison, which at that time was very working class. There's a real split and still is in Madison today between the working class and a much more, the educated, the university, government side of town. So my dad worked at Oscar Meyer and people at P.F. Schultz, really kind of industrial side of town. La Follette High School is where I went to high school, and that was, I would say, 98, 99 percent white.

NOBLE: [00:02:37] Sure.

FERRICK: [00:02:38] At the time I was here, you know, I had a class of close to 600 kids in my graduating class. And I, I think we had two African Americans, maybe a couple Asians, and a couple of Hispanics in a class that size. So very, very homogeneous, very, very, you know, like working class Democratic conservative in terms of the social side of it in many ways. So.

NOBLE: [00:03:05] Sure. And when you were in high school, what did you do outside of academics?

FERRICK: [00:03:12] Sports. I was very much into sports, I played football, basketball, and baseball. I probably had a pretty typical kind of childhood growing up. I would say.

NOBLE: [00:03:25] Do you have brothers and sisters?

FERRICK: [00:03:26] I had an older brother that was a couple of years older than I was. He was two years, yeah, almost two years almost exactly older than I was. And that was just the two of us and my mother and father.

NOBLE: [00:03:38] And your mother stayed home?

FERRICK: [00:03:40] No, my mother worked. She worked for the telephone company for years.

NOBLE: [00:03:45] Huh, no kidding.

FERRICK: [00:03:45] She was with the telephone company.

NOBLE: [00:03:46] So did mine.

FERRICK: [00:03:47] Really? Huh. Yeah. So she worked at the telephone company and my dad had, my dad was one of these dreamers that was always trying to, to, in hindsight I understood it, trying to, to get more for the family. So he was in and out of jobs. But he, he, like I said, worked at Oscar Mayer on the, on the east side, the meatpacking plant at the time, and had other various jobs. He passed away when I was 19.

NOBLE: [00:04:16] Oh.

FERRICK: [00:04:16] So I was pretty, pretty young when he passed away.

NOBLE: [00:04:18] Yeah. You would have been in college?

FERRICK: [00:04:20] Just, I was a sophomore in college actually, and I had gone my first year of college to Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

NOBLE: [00:04:27] That's at University of Wisconsin.

FERRICK: [00:04:28] University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, up in northern Wisconsin. And then my sophomore year, I went out to Lewis Clark State out in Idaho and took classes there and at the University of Idaho, because I had relatives there and always loved it.

NOBLE: [00:04:43] Ah.

FERRICK: [00:04:43] And probably would have stayed if it wasn't for my father passing away and coming back and trying, you know, trying to support my mother and being with my mother.

NOBLE: [00:04:51] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:04:51] So eventually then graduated from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

NOBLE: [00:04:55] In what, what did you major in?

FERRICK: [00:04:56] I was in broad field social studies, it was called. But I was very interested in kind of the connection of education and agriculture in a kind of more holistic sense even back then.

NOBLE: [00:05:14] Huh. And you still are.

FERRICK: [00:05:15] And I still am. I still am.

NOBLE: [00:05:17] Yeah, yeah. Did your, um, did your family have a chance to travel together like?

FERRICK: [00:05:24] Very little. We didn't do, a little bit in northern Wisconsin, but my mother, I think, was really kind of the instigator of my wanting to explore the world. She always talked about, you know, going beyond where you are and there's a big world out there.

NOBLE: [00:05:41] Oh wow, good for her.

FERRICK: [00:05:43] And finding out. So I really do attribute my going overseas and international to my mother. My first connection with Peace Corps is my best friend in high school's older brother. Um, I knew Hank, you know, somewhat well before he left, but he left and was a Peace Corps volunteer in then Zaire.

NOBLE: [00:06:04] Uh huh.

FERRICK: [00:06:05] And we just started writing back and forth. And his.

NOBLE: [00:06:10] While he was in Zaire?

FERRICK: [00:06:11] While he was in Zaire.

NOBLE: [00:06:12] Oh, wow.

FERRICK: [00:06:12] And so his stories of what he was doing, who he was working with, being in Africa just completely intrigued me and completely stimulated my interest in saying, I've got to go there. I want to do this.

NOBLE: [00:06:29] Sure. Yeah, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:06:30] So I went through college.

NOBLE: [00:06:33] Did you study languages, picturing yourself speaking something else?

FERRICK: [00:06:37] You know, I didn't. Matter of fact, I consider myself pretty, pretty insufficient in learning language. It intimidated me I think at the time. I did have, obviously as a Peace Corps volunteer, have to learn language. I don't know how well I spoke Sesotho, though when I speak it now, and we'll get to being in Lesotho, I still, some of it comes back.

FERRICK: [00:07:02] And I just think that that language is one of those key things to being comfortable or as comfortable as you can in a foreign country is knowing the language. And you just, if you don't know the language, you miss out on so much, and not only just the connections you make with people, but understanding how people look at the world a little bit better because I think that's one of the challenges of being overseas, is trying to figure out how are people looking at their own situations. And, you know, after now over 30 years going to Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, in many ways, I still don't exactly know how people do things and how they figure

out livelihoods in that, because it just, it's just so, it's just out of my realm, out of my norm but.

NOBLE: [00:07:55] And language has something to do with figuring that out. But maybe one has to stay in a country for longer than just two years to really figure out in depth how things really work, how decisions get made.

FERRICK: [00:08:07] But even then, I don't know how, you know, it depends on who you're talking about because we're at such a different level than. I'm not a subsistence farmer. I don't know what it's like. And sometimes I go to Uganda a couple of times every year and I still don't know how people make it at a subsistence level because it's just, it's, you know, the weather changes and they don't have it. So how do they do it? There's extended families, but that's starting to break down so much. So it's just, you get a piece. I think language is essential for getting, having any idea.

FERRICK: [00:08:42] So my background that's, you know, the interest again started with my mother. I think Henri Mueller was his name, who was the Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire, just kind of facilitated that with his incredible stories. He was a great writer, so his letters to me were just, just amazing. So it's something I always had in the back of my mind that I wanted to do. And after I graduated, I said, I'm not quite sure what I want to do here, but so I'm going to do Peace Corps.

NOBLE: [00:09:15] Yeah, yeah. Terrific.

FERRICK: [00:09:17] And, you know, for me, Peace Corps at the time, I really didn't even think about it in a broad sense. I thought about going to someplace in sub-Saharan Africa because that's where I wanted to go. I didn't think about all the other connections you can have as a Peace Corps volunteer. I thought, okay, I'll go to some village and I'll meet the people there. But in that village that I went to, one of my best friends was a Sri Lankan. There was a South African that was living there. There was a whole Irish community because there was a pony project in Lesotho that I got to know. And then there are the returned Peace Corps volunteers or the volunteers that were there in my group who became some of my best friends and still are. We still get together.

NOBLE: [00:10:01] So it's, it's an international experience.

FERRICK: [00:10:05] International.

NOBLE: [00:10:05] It's much broader than what we thought.

FERRICK: [00:10:08] Very much so.

NOBLE: [00:10:09] It would be. In your application to Peace Corps, and you must have applied, what, in your senior year of college maybe?

FERRICK: [00:10:17] I think so, yes.

NOBLE: [00:10:19] You, do you remember if they asked the question of, um, where you would prefer to be sent if you had, what would be your first choice?

FERRICK: [00:10:27] Yes.

NOBLE: [00:10:28] And you got to say sub-Saharan Africa?

FERRICK: [00:10:30] I did.

NOBLE: [00:10:31] Okay.

FERRICK: [00:10:31] I did.

NOBLE: [00:10:31] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:10:32] And so, and that's really where I wanted, I didn't, I didn't really want to go anyplace else.

NOBLE: [00:10:38] Yeah. Oh, that's cool. I, I answered that question saying, yes, Latin America, because I lived in Chicago and there were millions of people who spoke Spanish. And so I got the invitation to train for Nigeria. You got exactly what you wanted. That's good.

FERRICK: [00:10:55] Well, my best friend in Peace Corps, Michael de Damo was his name, who's since passed away, he was talking about languages. He just had a gift with languages. So he was fluent in French. So he wanted to definitely go to Francophone Africa.

NOBLE: [00:11:13] Yes, yes, yes.

FERRICK: [00:11:14] Well, he ended up with Lesotho.

NOBLE: [00:11:16] Oh.

FERRICK: [00:11:16] Which is Anglophone.

NOBLE: [00:11:18] Nobody speaks French.

FERRICK: [00:11:18] Nobody speaks French.

NOBLE: [00:11:19] That's right.

FERRICK: [00:11:20] And, you know, in hindsight, it was, it was just an incredible gift to me that that happened because he was such an incredible, incredible person. But yeah, it's one of those things. It's not an exact science. And I can get into this more about my changes and thoughts about really what to me is important about Peace Corps and why it's, to me, it's more, even more critical today than it was when I was there, given the world.

NOBLE: [00:11:47] Good. Let's save that reflection for a while. But let's not abandon it. So you, you received the, uh, the invitation to train and you say goodbye to your mom and dad.

FERRICK: [00:12:03] Well, it was interesting because I was waiting. I didn't really, I had like a year. They said you can go in and but it was like a year before I went.

NOBLE: [00:12:13] Oh.

FERRICK: [00:12:13] So I ended up going out to visit a cousin out in Seattle, Washington. And then I had a very, this friend of mine from high school whose brother had been a Peace Corps volunteer. Kurt Mueller had just gotten his first job with Hormel, the meat packing place, as a salesman down in Austin, Texas. So I said, I'll go down to Austin, Texas. So I drove down to Austin, Texas, from Seattle and stayed down there for almost nine months.

NOBLE: [00:12:39] Did you work at Hormel too?

FERRICK: [00:12:40] No, I worked in various jobs just to kind of get by. And it was, it was wonderful. You know, at that time of your life, you don't need a whole lot. And Kurt had this great job at the time that he was doing so I could live with him. So it was a wonderful experience in between as I was waiting for my time to go in. And at that time they had these, you know, Peace Corps had these programs where it was almost like a week-long job interview.

NOBLE: [00:13:11] Oh, wow.

FERRICK: [00:13:12] Where, and they were called, I want to say CRESTs, which was the acronym. I can't remember, CATs and CRESTs. But they, in, it was, it was actually Halloween that we went out to Washington. All of us flew to Washington. And then they put us in busses and we went out to a place called Cappahosic, Virginia, which is the birthplace I think of the NAACP. Beautiful place out in the countryside but you're very isolated. And you would have these what they called intact groups where you were with a group of other people wanting to go into Peace Corps and you had two trainers and you would go through these exercises all day long.

NOBLE: [00:14:04] And how many people would be in your group?

FERRICK: [00:14:07] Well, I think at the time there was, that was like 60 some people.

NOBLE: [00:14:12] Divided up into smaller groups?

FERRICK: [00:14:13] And divided up into smaller groups. So you had all these intact groups that you went with and they had exercises. They had these different almost kind of scenarios and case studies, and you watched films and they even said, you know, even when you're eating, when you're interacting, we're watching.

NOBLE: [00:14:34] Okay. So were they talking about deselection?

FERRICK: [00:14:39] Yes.

NOBLE: [00:14:39] Only some of you will go and some of you will not.

FERRICK: [00:14:42] Exactly. So actually, the person.

NOBLE: [00:14:45] [inaudible]

FERRICK: [00:14:45] It was. It was, it was fairly intimidating because you're wondering how honest can you be if you really have a reaction to something because you don't know who these people are really. You don't know how they're interpreting it.

NOBLE: [00:15:00] And all these other people, these 60 other people. Was it a mixed group, men and women?

FERRICK: [00:15:06] Men and women.

NOBLE: [00:15:06] Some married couples?

FERRICK: [00:15:09] Um, one married couple. And that was it.

NOBLE: [00:15:12] And you were all expecting to go to Lesotho?

FERRICK: [00:15:15] Yes.

NOBLE: [00:15:16] If this week of.

FERRICK: [00:15:16] It was all for Lesotho.

NOBLE: [00:15:17] Yeah. Yeah. How interesting.

FERRICK: [00:15:20] And we, there was a couple African American. No, one African American, I believe, in the group if I remember.

NOBLE: [00:15:29] Just one?

FERRICK: [00:15:30] Yeah.

NOBLE: [00:15:30] Everybody else was white?

FERRICK: [00:15:31] Right. Mm hmm. And so. And that was a part of it. You're going to Lesotho, which is stuck in the middle of South Africa. Apartheid is alive and well. And so a lot of it was, and he was actually deselected.

NOBLE: [00:15:48] The African American?

FERRICK: [00:15:50] Mm hmm. Because of, and again, I'm, I don't know the whole story, but part of it was because, you know, the questions of how would you handle these situations if you're confronted, which you have to be. Lesotho is like an island in the middle of South Africa, with these situations of whites, when you have to go into South Africa to do things. And his reaction was pretty strong about what he wouldn't put up with and what he wouldn't do. And coming from his perspective, I can understand that. But he's also going to South Africa and so he was deselected.

NOBLE: [00:16:25] Wow.

FERRICK: [00:16:27] And my best friend from that, that I got closest to, was my roommate, was deselected. And part of that is because, um, he was quiet. And they told you right up front, no data is data. So and, you know, I don't, I thought it was a mistake because I thought he would be an incredible volunteer. But he was also deselected. And then the way it was handled was done very poorly.

NOBLE: [00:16:56] And all those decisions about being selected or deselected were made on the basis of that one first week?

FERRICK: [00:17:03] Yes. Well, in your, yeah. You got there and you were, how that worked is you went through this week and the last day you were called in by yourself and you had your, your two intact leaders there and they talked to you about things that they saw and they said and we've, you know, for me they said we think you'll be a good Peace Corps volunteer. And so you, you're out of there. I hate it!

NOBLE: [00:17:27] That's right. Yes.

FERRICK: [00:17:28] And then you had other people that were in tears coming out and they put us all in the same bus back to Washington.

NOBLE: [00:17:36] Oh, how difficult.

FERRICK: [00:17:38] So how do you? You're in your, you know, I was euphoric. So were all these other people. And you have this other group. How do you, you're sitting there going, you know, I can't be excited. This person's been devastated. So it was, it was a really horrible, horrible part. That part of it was horrible. That week was actually lovely. It was just incredible.

NOBLE: [00:17:59] Did they asked you to evaluate your peers at any point during that week?

FERRICK: [00:18:02] No.

NOBLE: [00:18:03] It was all the trainers.

FERRICK: [00:18:05] Right.

NOBLE: [00:18:05] Evaluating you.

FERRICK: [00:18:06] Exactly. Yeah. So that was, that was, that was intense. And so but then you had a month. They sent you back.

NOBLE: [00:18:14] Back home?

FERRICK: [00:18:15] Back home.

NOBLE: [00:18:15] Oh my goodness.

FERRICK: [00:18:16] I had a month before, when that was over to the time we left. So you had this month of getting ready and.

NOBLE: [00:18:23] Packing up.

FERRICK: [00:18:24] Packing up.

NOBLE: [00:18:24] They gave you a list of things?

FERRICK: [00:18:26] They give you a list, you know, Peace Corps is very good at providing those, that type, that type of information. I got to learn more about, you know, when I first went into it, I thought it was "Le-so-to" I was going to.

NOBLE: [00:18:38] Right. Right.

FERRICK: [00:18:39] I didn't know anything about it. They had a little phrase book. You could start to learn some of the greetings and but you went back and then we kept in contact with each other that were going by calling and.

NOBLE: [00:18:50] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:18:50] And so we had a month, and four of us.

NOBLE: [00:18:53] How many of you were going to go now from the sixty?

FERRICK: [00:18:58] Probably about 45 or 46.

NOBLE: [00:19:01] Okay. So maybe 15 people were deselected at the time. So you had a month at home. What were your, your mom was, I'm sure, quite supportive. You've given an indication that she's.

FERRICK: [00:19:16] She was, but she was also, you know, the real, the realization that I was going to be gone for two plus years and communication at that time, as we talked about, Phyllis, was a lot different than it is today.

NOBLE: [00:19:30] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:19:30] She was also really, she was excited for me, but at the same time, she was frightened. I was going to Africa. What did you know about Africa? All these images that sadly haven't changed all that much from today, I think, in terms of our knowledge of what Africa is. We still get things so distorted. We're all there. So she was excited and at the time my mother had gotten remarried. My father had passed away several years before.

NOBLE: [00:19:58] That's right.

FERRICK: [00:19:59] She met a wonderful guy. So that made me feel better about going in.

NOBLE: [00:20:03] Okay, because you wouldn't have to worry about your mom.

FERRICK: [00:20:06] Right, my mother. So she was, so she was excited. It was, it was that part of it. And, you know, having to sell. I had an old car, so it wasn't a big deal because I think I sold it for \$100 or something to somebody, it was an old beater. And then friends, saying goodbye to them and things. So it was an exciting time. And then we met out in Croton on Hudson, to a guy that lived out there. Went to New York City because we were all flying out of JFK on.

NOBLE: [00:20:36] So, so Peace Corps flew you from Madison, Wisconsin, to Croton on Hudson?

FERRICK: [00:20:41] To New York City.

NOBLE: [00:20:43] Oh, that is New York City.

FERRICK: [00:20:43] Yeah, it's just north, it's just up the Hudson.

NOBLE: [00:20:46] Okay.

FERRICK: [00:20:46] So we flew in the JFK and four of us met and went out the night before. And then all of us met at JFK, 45 of us or whatever it was, and flew to Paris. Had a day in Paris.

NOBLE: [00:20:58] No kidding.

FERRICK: [00:20:59] So we all went.

NOBLE: [00:21:00] So you get over your jetlag.

FERRICK: [00:21:01] Jetlag. A little bit.

NOBLE: [00:21:03] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:21:05] Because there was quite a bit of drinking going on and card playing on the way over. And then we were out in Paris. So we're at the cafes drinking wine, and then we, everybody crashed. We got on the plane and went from there to Johannesburg, which is a long flight.

NOBLE: [00:21:19] Long flight.

FERRICK: [00:21:21] Long flight. And I had my first. Stop me too, Phyllis, if I'm jumping ahead. But I had my first sort of experience with apartheid at the airport in Johannesburg, where a friend of mine, Mike, the guy I said before that was my, ended up being my best friend, went up to the bank in Johannesburg to change some money from dollars into rand.

NOBLE: [00:21:47] So you didn't have to stay in the airport at Johannesburg?

FERRICK: [00:21:49] No, we were, we were. We were getting on, we were going to go. They were trying to figure out exactly some, something happened with travel, but what they were going to do with us. So we were there and wanted to transfer some money, went to the line where there's a bank.

And the teller made the two Africans who were in front of us move to the side. And we, and of course, we were kind of indignant about that and said, no, we're not going to do this. And the guy said, well, then I'm not going to wait on you.

NOBLE: [00:22:17] Oh, wow. So you're in South Africa. Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:22:21] And the two guys there said just go up and do it. So we got up and changed our money. And then we went to, uh, we went to this very nice hotel. Peace Corps put us into what they called a braai, which is a barbecue. That's what they call a barbecue in South Africa. And I think braai is either Dutch or Afrikaans. And did that for the day. There was a swimming pool and it was just, it was bizarre because we're in this hotel. The only Blacks there are waiters and waitresses. They couldn't, it was illegal for them to be in that hotel. And so Peace Corps did that, which we were all saying, what is this about? You know, because that wasn't our image of what we were supposed to do.

NOBLE: [00:23:12] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:23:12] And then we ended up flying to a.

NOBLE: [00:23:14] But that was just one night, right, in that hotel?

FERRICK: [00:23:16] We didn't even spend the night. We were waiting for a flight later to fly to Bloemfontein.

NOBLE: [00:23:20] Oh, okay.

FERRICK: [00:23:22] So it was during the day.

NOBLE: [00:23:23] A few hours of, uh, R & R.

FERRICK: [00:23:25] There was about six or 7 hours that we were there and then took a flight to Bloemfontein, which is in the Orange Free State, which is kind of the center of, it was the center of the Afrikaans, um, kind of power structure at the time. So it was all, all white, surrounded by all white

farmers. And you did have these townships or homelands at the time around there. So Bloemfontein was a city that at night all the Blacks had to leave, so they all had to go out to their, to their little township outside of Bloemfontein.

NOBLE: [00:24:05] And how long a journey might that be, where they worked in Bloemfontein to where they lived?

FERRICK: [00:24:10] No, they all, all these busses came in and they got on busses. It wasn't too far outside, but the conditions were, you know, this nice city and the conditions in the townships were pretty horrible. And then we took a bus from Bloemfontein into Lesotho. And I remember it was pouring raining, it was dark. We didn't, you know, you're so disoriented, you're tired. They served us Kentucky Fried Chicken on the bus.

NOBLE: [00:24:38] And the road, what's the road like?

FERRICK: [00:24:40] The road wasn't bad from there.

NOBLE: [00:24:42] Paved?

FERRICK: [00:24:42] Yeah, it was paved. It was all paved. You know, South Africa is one of those places where, you know, even, even today, they talk about it different than the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, because it was very Western in what was developed. A very large African population that was totally disenfranchised. But it was, it was, that part of it going from Bloemfontein into South Africa to Lesotho was very well done. It was a very nice highway. And so we went to the border, got in, and then we, it was nighttime and we took the bus to a town called Roma.

NOBLE: [00:25:21] This is a different bus now, you switched at the border?

FERRICK: [00:25:23] No, same bus. We had to walk across the border, then get back on the bus, and it was pouring raining.

NOBLE: [00:25:29] Oh, my.

FERRICK: [00:25:31] Get our passports and all that done. And it was interesting because at the time we had two passports as Peace Corps volunteers.

NOBLE: [00:25:40] Two?

FERRICK: [00:25:42] Because I think we were the only country in the world that they allowed that. Because if you traveled, many countries, both in southern Africa as well other places, if you could, wouldn't accept your passport if you had a South African stamp in it.

NOBLE: [00:25:57] Oh.

FERRICK: [00:25:59] So they knew that.

NOBLE: [00:26:00] Okay, because they were against, that was a way of showing their opposition to apartheid?

FERRICK: [00:26:06] Correct. So we had these, you know, two passports. So you gave the one passport to the South Africans and they stamped it in. And then we had this other passport later when you traveled. So and we took a bus in the middle of the night to a town called Roma, which is where the National University of Lesotho is, and the nicest, probably one of the nicest secondary schools in the country, which was a Catholic school, and went into dorms. So almost all of us were either secondary school teachers or they had a group of teacher trainers. And then they had a couple of kind of people that would work on a higher level with, you know, training programs, even at the National University and other places. And my friend actually became, Mike became a teacher at the National University in Lesotho, National University in Botswana, and the National University in Swaziland. So he went around teaching management training.

NOBLE: [00:27:09] As a Peace Corps volunteer?

FERRICK: [00:27:10] As a Peace Corps volunteer.

NOBLE: [00:27:12] Wow.

FERRICK: [00:27:13] He did those. At first he didn't like it very much. Again, I said he was gifted at languages during our training. He became quite fluent in Sesotho in a very short period of time.

NOBLE: [00:27:23] Wow, what a gift.

FERRICK: [00:27:23] But then, but then all of a sudden he's in Botswana, which he can use that because Setswana is very close to Sesotho, but then Setswati is very different. So he, but he'd learned bits and pieces of all of those. But that was the group. And we were in these dorms and it was a wonderful time just getting to know all the other, uh, Peace Corps volunteers. I met some of the people that are my best friends today. I also was exposed, I think, back up. I was, I think I grew up in a, you know, Madison was pretty conservative where I was. So, you know, obviously, I knew, I knew, obviously there was people that were gay or lesbian.

NOBLE: [00:28:10] In the training group?

FERRICK: [00:28:11] No. Back, backing up. Back when I was in high school.

NOBLE: [00:28:15] Oh, okay.

FERRICK: [00:28:15] But I didn't, it was like that was totally out of my thought. I didn't even think about that at the time. And it really wasn't until I became a Peace Corps volunteer and a couple of my best friends were gay. A couple of women that I, and I started to examine my own self in terms of where was I and this feelings of these things. And it opened up a whole different world than where people are from.

NOBLE: [00:28:39] Yeah. Another thing that you didn't anticipate Peace Corps giving you.

FERRICK: [00:28:42] Never. You know.

NOBLE: [00:28:43] So many, yes.

FERRICK: [00:28:44] Didn't even think about it.

NOBLE: [00:28:46] Right, right.

FERRICK: [00:28:46] And you know, it's, it's.

NOBLE: [00:28:48] What, uh, were, if there were gay people in your Peace Corps group, were they able to be out or do they have to?

FERRICK: [00:28:57] No, not really. Not at the time. It wasn't that, in fact, my, again, one of my better friends and still they, Bill Botticker, who lives in San Francisco now. Bill didn't come out to any of us till about a year later.

NOBLE: [00:29:10] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:29:11] And it was, it was more of, you know.

NOBLE: [00:29:13] While still in Lesotho?

FERRICK: [00:29:15] Yeah, we were still in Lesotho when he said that. I don't know who you are. I didn't know any of this stuff. Part of it came out that we started discussing because at the time we used to get Newsweek magazine as volunteers.

NOBLE: [00:29:25] Yes.

FERRICK: [00:29:26] They, that one, when we were in country very early on, they came out with a story about this new disease called Slim's Disease. And nobody knew what it was, but it was impacting the gay community and people, the drug users.

NOBLE: [00:29:41] Was that what we now call HIV AIDS?

FERRICK: [00:29:45] Yes. And so, and so Bill, we didn't know at the time. Bill actually would go to gay bars in South Africa.

NOBLE: [00:29:54] Ah, okay.

FERRICK: [00:29:54] He would escape and get out. And he was a math teacher. He ended up being in Roma in that national university. So he was close to the border and could get out. And it's a whole different community. So it wasn't till about a year later and then there's a couple other people came out. You just kind of, you know, that's, that's when I really, it became very clear to me. It's like, so what? People are people.

NOBLE: [00:30:18] That's right.

FERRICK: [00:30:18] And I learned to, and I'll say this very openly, I learned that I could love a man and not confuse that with the whole sexual side of it.

NOBLE: [00:30:30] That's right. That's right. You can, you can feel emotion and caring deeply.

FERRICK: [00:30:34] Exactly. And that was that was probably, I mean, I look at the learnings that you get from an experience like Peace Corps, and those are the types of things that you learn about yourself that carry on forward and impact what you do. And not only then but afterwards and what you do with your children and those things that are just so powerful. And I'm not sure if Peace Corps, I don't know how you do that to people trying to go in now or even afterwards, how you really kind of parlay that kind of information to them, because I think you almost have to experience that yourself.

NOBLE: [00:31:12] I think so.

FERRICK: [00:31:12] And how does that happen to you as an individual? So, it was wonderful.

NOBLE: [00:31:17] More about training. You were living in a dorm in a Catholic secondary school.

FERRICK: [00:31:23] Mm hmm.

NOBLE: [00:31:23] School must have been out of session.

FERRICK: [00:31:26] Right.

NOBLE: [00:31:26] During that time, so they had the space for you.

FERRICK: [00:31:29] Right.

NOBLE: [00:31:29] And, and there would have been classrooms for you to meet in?

FERRICK: [00:31:33] Mm hmm.

NOBLE: [00:31:33] And what's, what sorts of activities went on during training?

FERRICK: [00:31:37] Well, it was, you know, language was a big one, cultural was another one.

NOBLE: [00:31:41] And the language was Sesotho?

FERRICK: [00:31:43] Sesotho, right. So it's a Bantu language. So it's, you know, the country's Lesotho, the people are Basotho, one person is a Mosotho, the language is Sesotho. And you can do all the way up to Uganda now, it's Uganda, Baganda, Moganda, Lugandan. And so there's a lot of similarities as you go through and even some common words. So you know, all of that was happening. We also did teacher training.

NOBLE: [00:32:12] Ah, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:32:13] And Peace Corps hired, hired. It was really hired students to come back where they provided them lunches. So at one point for a couple of weeks, we were in classrooms teaching students that would come back.

NOBLE: [00:32:27] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:32:28] So which was also wonderful because it's pretty intimidating. And it wasn't until later, one of the problems with that is, again, I said we

were in one of the best high schools in the country. They had labs as well-equipped as we had in the United States.

NOBLE: [00:32:45] Now sitting in Lesotho?

FERRICK: [00:32:47] Oh yeah.

NOBLE: [00:32:48] That's good to know.

FERRICK: [00:32:48] And it was all developed by the, the, with the, um, Oblate brothers in the Catholic Church. But it didn't prepare you that well when you went to your own site. Because I went to my own site and I had a beaker and a Bunsen burner that didn't work. That's what I had for equipment.

NOBLE: [00:33:08] Yeah. Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:33:09] So it wasn't, it wasn't a very, um, good job of really preparing most of us for our situation.

NOBLE: [00:33:15] In that way. But it did get you standing in front of a group of kids and talking and trying to figure out how you're going to present an idea.

FERRICK: [00:33:22] Right. And so they would have trainers that were there that would sit in your classroom and. See, part of what, part of the group that we had were teacher trainers. So these were people that already had teaching certificates. So they would help. It was peer to peer in the sense that they would sit in the classroom and talk to you about what you did and help you write, we had to write lesson plans. We had to do all of these things. And so it was, um, it was a great time. And then you had the, all the social other things that went on. There was kind of social activities that they would put together, and then you could play basketball or go for hikes. We went for a beautiful hike. I have a beautiful picture of us in the mountains. You know, one of the things that people don't think about when they think of Africa is a place like Lesotho where it snows. I got snowed in and snowed out of my site.

NOBLE: [00:34:17] Yeah, that's not the image one has of Africa.

FERRICK: [00:34:20] No, not at all. So there was very high mountains. They had a little place you could go skiing. It was in the Drakensberg range of mountains in South Africa. And my, one of the best things I ever got that I really looked at that Peace Corps gave us, and I really heeded it, was a very warm sleeping bag.

NOBLE: [00:34:37] Ah.

FERRICK: [00:34:38] Because it got cold.

NOBLE: [00:34:38] And you brought that over with you?

FERRICK: [00:34:40] I brought that over with me.

NOBLE: [00:34:41] Yeah. You wouldn't have ordinarily thought to put that in a trunk.

FERRICK: [00:34:43] No, I was going to Africa.

NOBLE: [00:34:44] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:34:46] The good thing about that is we didn't have malaria.

NOBLE: [00:34:49] True.

FERRICK: [00:34:49] We had other things that, you know, dysentery, things that you had because of water.

NOBLE: [00:34:54] Were, uh, was part of Peace Corps training getting a big series of vaccinations?

FERRICK: [00:35:00] Yes. Yes.

NOBLE: [00:35:00] And that happened in Lesotho, not here?

FERRICK: [00:35:03] We did before. We had to get some before. But then you also had your gamma globulin shots.

NOBLE: [00:35:07] Ah, yes. Every six months?

FERRICK: [00:35:09] And if you, you know, you were threatened if you didn't come to get that, you were, you could go home. They'd send you home.

NOBLE: [00:35:15] That's a hepatitis, right?

FERRICK: [00:35:17] Right. So which they don't do anymore.

NOBLE: [00:35:20] They don't?

FERRICK: [00:35:21] I don't think or else they have a different way of doing gamma globulin.

NOBLE: [00:35:24] There was a huge shot in the butt.

FERRICK: [00:35:26] It was. Yes. And we always made a big party of it. So everybody had to come down from their sites and you'd have to get your GG shots.

NOBLE: [00:35:33] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:35:35] So that was a great kind of part of it.

NOBLE: [00:35:40] But back to training. So you're learning language. Are they talking, were there classes about the history of Lesotho, the politics?

FERRICK: [00:35:49] Yes. I mean, we had like at that time, the ANC, the African National Congress, was considered a terrorist organization and they were in Lesotho. So they, Peace Corps actually had ANC come and talk to us. And I can remember them saying, you know, thank you for all being, all of you being here. But if you really want to help us, go home. Because you as an American have such more influence if you go home and, you know, look at how you vote and do those things. Now, after having said that, they

said, okay, we understand you're not going to do that. And we also understand you need to educate yourself on what the realities are.

NOBLE: [00:36:28] Right.

FERRICK: [00:36:29] So please keep that in mind when you're in Lesotho where people are free in a sense, um, that just across the border. And South Africa on several occasions shut down Lesotho because the ANC would go do something in South Africa. You know, it was a violent time, bombings and, and they literally shut the border and had jets flying over. They raided Lesotho.

NOBLE: [00:36:54] While you were there?

FERRICK: [00:36:56] Mm hmm. Yeah, we had volunteers in the capital city, several of them, that got caught in between some firefights between the South African Defense Force and the ANC and bombs went off. And, you know, luckily nobody from our group were injured, but were in pretty scary situations.

NOBLE: [00:37:14] Were you instructed by Peace Corps about what stance you were to take or not take vis a vis apartheid?

FERRICK: [00:37:23] Oh, yes. You don't, you know, yes, you can. Taking a stance, and this is the U.S. Government stance, is something they really kind of discouraged you from doing. And to be aware of where you're doing it and who you might be talking to that, you know, that you could put yourself in physical danger. So they really kind of warned you off of that. But it was really difficult to do.

NOBLE: [00:37:46] Mm hmm.

FERRICK: [00:37:46] Because, you know, one, you're young and you're just pretty idealistic about what you think the world should be or can be. And hopefully you don't lose that idealism completely. But at least you haven't tempered it with having more life experiences I think. So it was difficult to do. And we were at a university too, so we would go out and go out to a

bar in the university and be confronted with some pretty severe, you know, kind of perspectives on America. And that's, to me, that's another excellent thing that Peace Corps does. It gives you a view of how Americans are viewed outside. You learn much, much more about, you know, what we are doing.

NOBLE: [00:38:28] Mm hmm.

FERRICK: [00:38:28] And how we impact the world. And I think, you know, Phyllis, and I know if I jump into this now, this is one of the things that I think, that I just think, uh, that I wish more Americans would do Peace Corps. It's not for everybody, but they would, because I get very. For me personally now, when people say, well, why do they hate us? Or we, you know, we should be, you know, we're loved, we're doing all this for them. I just kind of shake my head. And you say, do you realize the history of what we've done and who we've supported?

NOBLE: [00:38:57] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:38:58] And you know, that, that, you know, people aren't going to see everything that we do as being positive and everything that we do isn't in the best interest of the country that we're in. It's for American interests. That's what foreign policy. All these other countries basically do the same thing too. But we've done some horrible, horrible things. So if you don't have that perspective and you're here, it's, you know, you have a lot of the hatred and perspectives that I hear people talk about today. And I look at, you know, what our potential people holding high offices have, their perspectives. And I just kind of shake my head because it's, it's, uh, so narrow and it also doesn't take into consideration so many other things that should be.

NOBLE: [00:39:45] Yeah, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:39:45] So that's a one, I mean, that's what, that's what that training did. You get very close to a, to a group of people and we were pretty close as a group. There's actually five or six of us that got very close. And we still,

every other year, we're going this year, have rented a beach house in North Carolina.

NOBLE: [00:40:03] No kidding. You get together?

FERRICK: [00:40:04] There's a woman from Alaska that comes, a couple from, um, Bill from San Francisco and his partner, a couple from upstate New York, the only married couple in the group, upstate New York. We come from Wisconsin. And there's somebody that comes from Washington, D.C., and Colorado.

NOBLE: [00:40:21] And these are all people who were in your training group?

FERRICK: [00:40:24] Yeah.

NOBLE: [00:40:24] When you all you went through that one week together and then you went through training in Lesotho together.

FERRICK: [00:40:30] And then we went off and did. But we stayed, we stayed really, really close.

NOBLE: [00:40:35] Wonderful.

FERRICK: [00:40:35] So it's just incredible.

NOBLE: [00:40:37] How long did that training last in Lesotho?

FERRICK: [00:40:40] That training was, what was it? Eight weeks, it was almost two months.

NOBLE: [00:40:44] Okay. That's a good chunk of time.

FERRICK: [00:40:45] And, you know, you're 24 hours, you're together.

NOBLE: [00:40:49] Yeah, yeah. And then at the end of that, was there a swearing in ceremony?

FERRICK: [00:40:55] Well, the big thing I can remember at the end of the training is we got together and they had balloons up. They had a big map of Lesotho and they had balloons up.

NOBLE: [00:41:03] Oh wow.

FERRICK: [00:41:03] And we took turns throwing a dart at a balloon and it would pop and there would be somebody's name so we could go up and read the place and the name. And that's how people found out.

NOBLE: [00:41:15] So until that moment, you didn't know where in Lesotho you were going to be assigned?

FERRICK: [00:41:19] Right. They talked, they talked to us about, you know, and they did make an assessment I think right. Because so many people that go in, they think that they want to be out in the remotest place.

NOBLE: [00:41:28] Mm hmm.

FERRICK: [00:41:29] And after you've got, you've been there and you really kind of understand what you're getting yourself into, that changes, which is a good thing. They need to do that. And I knew I wanted to be up in the mountains and I got that, but others didn't. So it was, it was wonderful. And so that was a, I mean, it was such a celebratory time and place. It was just pretty amazing to kind of go through that and be a part of that. And then we did have, yes, we went to the ambassador's residence and had a swearing in ceremony. It was a fantastic ceremony. Plus we had the swimming pool at the ambassador's.

NOBLE: [00:42:12] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:42:12] And when I was in Peace Corps, and this again, this is a difference than being overseas with the new, you know, FaceTime and Skype and all of this. We were really discouraged from calling home, using any kind of two-way radio or any of that, because there was also the association with Americans and CIA.

NOBLE: [00:42:31] Oh, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:42:32] Especially in South Africa and Southern Africa, what was going on.

NOBLE: [00:42:36] So if the people would see you on the phone?

FERRICK: [00:42:37] Right, right. So we were discouraged, so we wrote.

NOBLE: [00:42:41] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:42:42] You know, when I. The other big thing I can remember about after that was going up to my site because that was, you know, you'd been intensely in this kind of environment, experiences, training. And then the next day I, there was a, Musan Deely, who was the driver for Peace Corps. He and I going up the mountain road.

NOBLE: [00:43:03] Just the two of you?

FERRICK: [00:43:04] Just the two of us going up the mountain road to my site, which the mountain road ended up, you know, most of it was dirt. And it was, it was pretty, you know, you're down steep.

NOBLE: [00:43:15] On the edge of a cliff.

FERRICK: [00:43:16] Edge of a cliff, and you're going up to this school. And he took me up there and.

NOBLE: [00:43:21] And how long, how long a drive is this?

FERRICK: [00:43:24] It was about four hours.

NOBLE: [00:43:27] From the capital city?

FERRICK: [00:43:28] Yeah, because the road bent and you're going up.

NOBLE: [00:43:29] Right, right.

FERRICK: [00:43:30] You're going up. And so he dropped me off and it was holiday time still. So there wasn't. He dropped me off and he left and I'm kind of.

NOBLE: [00:43:41] You're standing there with your suitcase?

FERRICK: [00:43:42] And so I end up going over to the, to the priest's home.

NOBLE: [00:43:46] Oh, it's a Catholic school?

FERRICK: [00:43:47] It's a Catholic school.

NOBLE: [00:43:48] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:43:49] The priest's home. Because, well, when he first drove in, there was the school on the side of the mountain, which was out in the middle of nowhere. And then he kept driving. And he came around this, back in this cliff to this mountain was this beautiful, beautiful mission, just gorgeous. And so.

NOBLE: [00:44:03] But we're not in the village, there's not a town?

FERRICK: [00:44:05] The village is down. I could see the village, but it was down the valley, down. But there was a river in the valley and the village Marakabeis was the name of it. It was down by the river.

NOBLE: [00:44:14] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:44:14] And the mission was up on top. So I eventually. And they were supposed to be meeting us there. But, you know, of course communications and things were a lot different. But eventually they came out and they put me in this, it was an old convent, this one room. It was an old convent, and it ended up being that's where I stayed. This guy from Sri Lanka, Guy Amar, was there. And then there was.

NOBLE: [00:44:38] He was a faculty, another faculty member?

FERRICK: [00:44:42] Right. And then there was a, there was a, uh, Lesotho couple who became, Indotti Majody became one of my, and Me Mama Jody became some of my best friends and their, their children. I can remember them, the youngest ones there. So we had this little. And we had a beautiful porch that I had a rocking chair that we could sit and rock and look off down the valley. And we would sit at, you know, you didn't have television, you had radio. You could get radio, South African radio mainly, but you'd have tea at night and coffee and just sit and talk, you know, and that electricity would stay on. There was a generator. The electricity would stay on till I think it was 9:00.

NOBLE: [00:45:23] Ah.

FERRICK: [00:45:23] And then the electricity would go off and then you had, you know, paraffin and kerosene lamps and things.

NOBLE: [00:45:29] But you had people to talk to.

FERRICK: [00:45:31] Yeah, it was wonderful.

NOBLE: [00:45:31] In the dark. Sit out there.

FERRICK: [00:45:33] You could just sit out there and talk. And it was just, it was one, I, you know, if anything, you know, when I think back in memory, I treasure those times of just kind of the simplicity of it all. And you had more chance to just talk.

NOBLE: [00:45:47] So when you first got there, you were taken to the, you had a room in what had been a convent?

FERRICK: [00:45:55] Mm hmm.

NOBLE: [00:45:55] And was that where you stayed for your whole two years as a volunteer?

FERRICK: [00:45:57] No.

NOBLE: [00:45:58] Or did you move into something a little?

FERRICK: [00:45:59] Well, they ended up building houses over by the school.

NOBLE: [00:46:06] Mm hmm.

FERRICK: [00:46:06] And so about a little into my second year, they moved us over there. And I really wish they wouldn't have because it was just more isolated, because it was just, there wasn't more of the mission things that were going on. And there was a primary school at the mission. So there was always kids around.

NOBLE: [00:46:23] Little kids around. Yeah, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:46:25] And at night we're over at the school where we were, there was no electricity. There was no running water.

NOBLE: [00:46:33] Oh, not even something that would end at 9:00, there wasn't?

FERRICK: [00:46:37] No, there was no.

NOBLE: [00:46:38] And no running water?

FERRICK: [00:46:39] No running water. So we had to go down. There's just a little ways down the valley. But to get water and carry that up.

NOBLE: [00:46:47] In a bucket.

FERRICK: [00:46:48] In a bucket. And then we'd fill. During the school, when school was on, they had kids do that, that would go down and fill it into a bigger bucket.

NOBLE: [00:46:58] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:46:59] So we had this outside, this bigger bucket.

NOBLE: [00:47:01] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:47:02] And that's, but it was a nice house, but.

NOBLE: [00:47:06] So let's go back to the room in the convent first and then I want to hear more about the, the nicer house without the amenities. Are we okay time wise?

FERRICK: [00:47:21] We're fine.

NOBLE: [00:47:21] Okay. Um. In your, uh. My mind just went blank. At the, when you lived in the, in the convent was there some community? All you, you were just in a room so where did you cook or how did, how did you eat?

FERRICK: [00:47:40] We got, um, we often ate together, all of us. But I had a little gas cylinder with a little gas stove. And so that's what, we'd cook things on the little gas stove.

NOBLE: [00:47:53] Outside?

FERRICK: [00:47:54] No, it was inside the room. There was another little room that off of that that we could put the gas cooker on.

NOBLE: [00:47:59] Okay. So each of you had a little gas cooker?

FERRICK: [00:48:03] Right. That was right there.

NOBLE: [00:48:04] And that was provided for you? Did Peace Corps issue that to you?

FERRICK: [00:48:06] No, we had to get it.

NOBLE: [00:48:07] You had to go buy it?

FERRICK: [00:48:09] We had to go buy it. We had to, that was part of our settling in allowance that we got from Peace Corps. And to get gas, we had to go down to the town in the valley, which, it was a long way. So often we would get a horse, strap it to it, or else we could. If at my first year, if the

priest was going down, he'd give us a ride in the vehicle. And we could get our gas cylinders and bring those back up. Um, there was no heating.

NOBLE: [00:48:39] Oh.

FERRICK: [00:48:39] I mean, a lot of them, they had these paraffin heaters, but I didn't like it because I didn't like the smell. So I just wore more clothes.

NOBLE: [00:48:46] You're talking about a place where it snowed.

FERRICK: [00:48:50] It was cold. And taking, you know, taking a bath. It was cold. It was cold. And, you know, you had mice and, you know, those types of things in the building. So I would ball up my socks at night and I'd hear the scratching and I'd take my flashlight, the torch, and turn it on and fire my socks. So it's just such great, great, wonderful memories.

NOBLE: [00:49:17] But, um, you were eating, who cooked? You cooked for yourselves? It wasn't like a cook for the mission.

FERRICK: [00:49:27] No, it's, you know. The priests and the nuns lived very well. They had a huge garden and they weren't very accommodating and sharing.

NOBLE: [00:49:40] Oh. They didn't invite you all over?

FERRICK: [00:49:42] No. And I, you know, this kind of shows you. You know, I grew up Catholic, but I didn't consider myself religious, and still don't. But I would go to church because it was a part of the community. And I stopped going when the priest admonished the community for not putting more of their money into the`. And I just said, I can't. This is just, these people, these are subsistence farmers. They're barely getting by.

NOBLE: [00:50:07] And meanwhile, the people running the mission are living quite comfortably.

FERRICK: [00:50:10] They, the priests and the nuns lived very well.

NOBLE: [00:50:16] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:50:17] Vehicles, tractors that they did for their mission land. And so they lived, had a two, it was the only two story building around. The new convent they built was two stories, was very nice. I think I was invited to dinner once, um. So, and I can, I'll go into something else a little bit later in terms of the teaching that became what I consider the best thing I ever did as a Peace Corps volunteer, which, which really put me at odds with the priest of the mission.

NOBLE: [00:50:48] Let's save that for a minute, because I just want to get straight about your living situation, and then we'll go on to the classroom.

FERRICK: [00:50:57] Okay.

NOBLE: [00:50:57] When I'm thinking about your health and how much control you had over what you were eating. And so were you able to get vegetables and protein? And was the water potable? What did you have to do to keep healthy?

FERRICK: [00:51:14] Getting the right kind of vegetables, it all depended on what time of the month it was and what year. At the beginning of the month after we got paid, then you could get things, you can buy things.

NOBLE: [00:51:25] So there's a market in that little village down there?

FERRICK: [00:51:28] And it was wonderful because, you know, bartering is a part of the, kind of the, I would say, even I'll generalize, the African kind of spirit so.

NOBLE: [00:51:36] And I'm thinking that maybe the market people didn't speak English.

FERRICK: [00:51:40] No. They didn't speak any English.

NOBLE: [00:51:42] Right. So you got to use whatever you learned in training.

FERRICK: [00:51:47] Right.

NOBLE: [00:51:47] At least in the market bargaining.

FERRICK: [00:51:50] That and going out to the bars, that's where, that's when you get to know many of the men. Because in those rural areas, women didn't go out. The only time a woman would go out would be they would basically be a prostitute, especially in the rural areas, because you just didn't, you went out to what they called the *shebeen*, which was a local place. And they may have regular beer that we know or they had local beer. It was a great place to go and meet men and talk to them.

NOBLE: [00:52:16] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:52:16] And find out what was going on.

NOBLE: [00:52:17] But now I'm feeling very sorry for the woman Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho.

FERRICK: [00:52:20] It was.

NOBLE: [00:52:21] Who was way out in the country. They'd be very isolated.

FERRICK: [00:52:25] It was a challenge. I mean, in most places I've been in the world, it feels women have unique challenges with that. I mean, most places I've been are very, very male dominated. And that's, that wasn't the exception in Lesotho. It was very much the norm. So, yeah, it was much more of a challenge. But they also were in women's groups. You know, people were very good at finding their kind of niches and things so.

NOBLE: [00:52:51] So you went to the market and you could buy vegetables or you could buy whatever was in season at that time.

FERRICK: [00:52:57] And they had a, they had a shop down there too. There was a very large, you know, and this just shows you my memory. I forget the name of it, but it was a large South African kind of firm that had a shop

there. So you could get tinned things, tinned meat. You could get soap, you could get things like that.

NOBLE: [00:53:17] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:53:18] You couldn't barter in there.

NOBLE: [00:53:19] No.

FERRICK: [00:53:20] With the market you could. And so a lot of times I would barter with, the women at first knew. You know, didn't know who I was, but I would barter with them. And then I would usually, because they'd always ask for more money, because I was this white guy that was there.

NOBLE: [00:53:35] Oh, sure.

FERRICK: [00:53:36] This foreigner, I should say more, because it happened no matter what you were.

NOBLE: [00:53:40] So how would it work? They would say, um, what's? What's the currency in Lesotho?

FERRICK: [00:53:47] Maloti.

NOBLE: [00:53:47] Maloti.

FERRICK: [00:53:48] Yes.

NOBLE: [00:53:49] So suppose they would say, um, you want to buy this, what? What, a loaf of bread. I'm making this up.

FERRICK: [00:53:57] Right.

NOBLE: [00:53:58] I don't know if they had bread. They have bread?

FERRICK: [00:54:00] Oh, yeah.

NOBLE: [00:54:00] Okay. You want to buy a loaf of bread and it's going to be 10 maloti.

FERRICK: [00:54:04] Right.

NOBLE: [00:54:04] And then you would counter with?

FERRICK: [00:54:06] They'd ask for 20, let's say. If it was supposed to be 10 there, they'd ask for 20 from me.

NOBLE: [00:54:10] Okay, so when they asked for 20, then you knew it was supposed to be 10.

FERRICK: [00:54:14] So I would barter them down. I'd say no, I'd say eight. And they would say, no, no, all this time. And they go up to, you know, 15. Then we get down. And eventually I'd get them down to 10 or eight.

NOBLE: [00:54:28] Yeah.

FERRICK: [00:54:28] And then I'd pay them 15. And after a while.

NOBLE: [00:54:33] And you just enjoyed, they enjoyed.

FERRICK: [00:54:35] Well, it was kind of an insult if you didn't do that.

NOBLE: [00:54:38] Oh, sure.

FERRICK: [00:54:38] It was part of that. So and after a while they knew me and they, they, they'd ask for 50, you know, because they knew we'd go back and do all of this stuff. And I got to know them. I got invited to their houses. Many of their kids were, were students at the school. So I got to know the parents. And so that was a wonderful, that whole part of it was wonderful.

NOBLE: [00:55:02] That's terrific.

FERRICK: [00:55:03] And, you know, I'd ride horses. The, the Lesotho, they had, matter of fact, the big Irish group that I told about earlier were trying to

revitalize the Basotho [or Basuto] pony. So main transportation in the mountains was in, was on a small horse.

NOBLE: [00:55:21] Uh huh. And you had one or access to one?

FERRICK: [00:55:24] Access one that I could ride. So I would ride. The teachers, the teacher trainers actually, many of them had horses or motorcycles. They were the only ones.

NOBLE: [00:55:32] Because they'd have to go from village to village.

FERRICK: [00:55:33] They'd go to different schools. So, um, they were the only ones that could have motorcycles also. It was forbidden for anybody else. You weren't even supposed to ride on a motorcycle. So it was wonderful.

NOBLE: [00:55:49] But what were you eating? Was there, were there, was there animals? Was there meat?

FERRICK: [00:55:56] Yeah, you could get meat. But so at the beginning of the month, I may get meat. At the end, I didn't have enough money because I'd spent stuff. But you could, you know, we'd get sacks of potatoes and get them. So we ate a lot of potato soup we made. Greens, you could get greens and have kind of *moroho*. And the staple in Lesotho like a lot of east and southern Africa is maize meal.

NOBLE: [00:56:18] Ah.

FERRICK: [00:56:19] So you'd make what they call *papa*.

NOBLE: [00:56:20] That's interesting.

FERRICK: [00:56:22] Or pap. And so you'd have, you'd make maize meal up and you could, if you could have some kind of a gravy, and you could get those Knorr's gravy mixes.

NOBLE: [00:56:31] Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

FERRICK: [00:56:33] And then they had, uh, for breakfast and things, they had what they call jungle oats, which was oatmeal. So you had oatmeal and things like that. You could get eggs. We could buy eggs from people around.

NOBLE: [00:56:45] Yeah. Yeah. So not too bad.

FERRICK: [00:56:46] No, it wasn't too bad. It wasn't too bad at all.

NOBLE: [00:56:48] I'm thinking about the maize meal. That's corn.

FERRICK: [00:56:52] Mm hmm.

NOBLE: [00:56:53] And of course, corn originated here in the Americas.

FERRICK: [00:56:58] Right.

NOBLE: [00:56:59] So before the 1500s, people in south Africa would not have had, there must have been some other?

FERRICK: [00:57:06] It would have been millet.

NOBLE: [00:57:07] Millet?

FERRICK: [00:57:08] Yeah. There would be a millet or a sorghum, you know, which is millet, that would have been their.

NOBLE: [00:57:12] Some other kind of grain.

FERRICK: [00:57:13] Yeah, that would have been their staple.

NOBLE: [00:57:15] And what about water?

FERRICK: [00:57:17] It was, you know, it was. We're up in the mountains, so it's spring fed. It's pretty clean.

NOBLE: [00:57:23] There's no factory up above you dumping?

FERRICK: [00:57:25] No factory above us. It was pretty clean. You had to be careful just because of cows. And so we always boiled our water.

NOBLE: [00:57:32] You did? Okay.

FERRICK: [00:57:32] Yeah. Because you didn't know what animals, sheep. You know, they had sheep and goats and cattle and horses. So you didn't know where they were. They didn't usually have protected places, so you just didn't know what could be in your water. I actually got amoebic dysentery. I'd never been sicker in my life at my site and trying to get down to the capital city was, was, I mean, it's, right now it's kind of a fond memory. It was, it was such an experience and there's some funny parts of it. But at the time I was just really, really sick. And that's because, you know, sometimes you can't, if somebody offers you some tea or something.

NOBLE: [00:58:08] That's just it, when you're a guest in somebody's home, you have to accept it.

FERRICK: [00:58:11] You accept it, you know, and somebody cooks you something. You don't know how clean their hands are, but you're not going to question that.

NOBLE: [00:58:20] No. And you survived this.

FERRICK: [00:58:21] I survived it and I have great stories with some of that. So.

NOBLE: [00:58:25] So we're talking about water. Um, what about water for bathing and toilets? What did you do for bathrooms?

FERRICK: [00:58:34] You just, you had a bucket and there was a toilet like in both houses. They had a toilet, but you had to fill up a bucket.

NOBLE: [00:58:41] Oh, and put it in the tank.

FERRICK: [00:58:42] Yeah, well, not in the tank. The one didn't even have a tank. You just poured it in.

NOBLE: [00:58:46] Into the toilet?

FERRICK: [00:58:46] Yeah.

NOBLE: [00:58:47] It'd go down.

FERRICK: [00:58:48] To flush. Right. So that wasn't, those things weren't bad.

NOBLE: [00:58:51] Where did it go then?

FERRICK: [00:58:53] There was a cistern or, not a cistern. Uh. Septic.

NOBLE: [00:58:58] Septic tank?

FERRICK: [00:58:59] Tank under there that they would do. And, you know, I never even thought about pumping those things out or what they'd do with them or anything like that. But that would have been an issue at some point. Um. But it was, you know, it's just, I just have such incredible, incredible, fond memories of that. And I realize that, you know, electricity I could really do without. I wasn't, that wasn't that big a deal. Not having running water that, you just realize how much time it takes to do anything, to wash dishes. You got to heat things up, to wash dishes, to take a bath. You know, we would heat water to take a, it was just too darn cold.

NOBLE: [00:59:35] Cold, yes.

FERRICK: [00:59:35] To take a sponge bath. And you learn how to take a, you know, use a minimal amount of water and take a sponge bath.

NOBLE: [00:59:41] That's right.

FERRICK: [00:59:42] Washing clothes, it was terrible.

NOBLE: [00:59:44] You had so little water, which you had to carry, drop of which you had had to carry up.

FERRICK: [00:59:50] And I, you know, my first year I did my own. And then Dodi Majori just said, John, when are you going to stop that? You realize, you know, you give somebody employment here.

NOBLE: [01:00:02] Ah.

FERRICK: [01:00:02] And we talked about it and he said, listen, you don't, you can, you don't have to treat them as if you're a servant. You treat them as an employee, that you're employing them, you treat them fair. That's, there's nothing wrong with that. But having, especially because of, you know, being white there. You know, I asked my students one time, am I better than you because of who I am? And they said yes.

NOBLE: [01:00:26] Oh, it's so ingrained.

FERRICK: [01:00:27] It's so ingrained. So I was so sensitive to that and didn't want, you know, I'm not, you know, people would call me master and do all that. I mean, it was just what they did. Because if South Africans were visiting up in the mountains, that's what they expected.

NOBLE: [01:00:42] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:00:44] But the second year I ended up hiring this woman to do my laundry because it was just, it was. What a relief.

NOBLE: [01:00:51] Oh, sure. Your primary reason for being there was to be a teacher?

FERRICK: [01:00:56] Right.

NOBLE: [01:00:57] And that to be a good teacher, you need time to prepare and think things through.

FERRICK: [01:01:02] Right. And, you know, so that turned out fine. It turned out wonderful.

NOBLE: [01:01:07] Good. Let's go into a classroom.

FERRICK: [01:01:13] Uh huh.

NOBLE: [01:01:14] For the two years you taught in that same school the whole time?

FERRICK: [01:01:17] I did.

NOBLE: [01:01:17] Okay. What was the name of the school?

FERRICK: [01:01:19] It was Saint John the Baptist Catholic Mission.

NOBLE: [01:01:23] Okay.

FERRICK: [01:01:24] Marakabei. That's the village it was in. Saint John the Baptist.

NOBLE: [01:01:29] When you see me writing things down, it's because later on I'm going to ask you how to spell them.

FERRICK: [01:01:34] Okay.

NOBLE: [01:01:36] Okay.

FERRICK: [01:01:37] And I remember my first class that I had. They had, they're in the British system.

NOBLE: [01:01:41] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:01:41] So at the time, actually there was form A, B, C, and D. So ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th grade. Form A was ninth grade. Students were supposed to take an exam to get into ninth grade. And then after their sophomore year, they took another exam to go up to senior second, to go to junior and senior year. Well, this is a small, a small mountain school. So many of the kids coming in, their English was terrible because they were out in these primary schools.

NOBLE: [01:02:19] Right, right.

FERRICK: [01:02:20] They didn't have teachers that really knew English to teach. They'd come in, but all of a sudden, the curriculum is all in English. And as a matter of fact, after that second year, the exam that you took was marked down in the capital city. And then the one that was done at the end of your senior year, and I was in. The British system has ordinary levels and advanced levels.

NOBLE: [01:02:41] A-levels, yeah.

FERRICK: [01:02:42] So my school is only an ordinary.

NOBLE: [01:02:45] If somebody wanted to go for the A-level, they would have to?

FERRICK: [01:02:48] Go someplace else.

NOBLE: [01:02:49] Go someplace else.

FERRICK: [01:02:50] But they had to pass this test at the ordinary level. And at that time those tests were taken and then they were sent back to England.

NOBLE: [01:02:56] England.

FERRICK: [01:02:57] For marking. In the history of the school, there had never been anybody that passed O-levels.

NOBLE: [01:03:02] Nobody?

FERRICK: [01:03:04] Nobody.

NOBLE: [01:03:04] Oh, how discouraging.

FERRICK: [01:03:06] Because it was just, well, it was where they were coming from. It's just such a poor base.

NOBLE: [01:03:11] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:03:11] And that leads me to the story. Let me come back to the minute. My first encounter in the classroom, I walked into an A-level math class.

NOBLE: [01:03:21] An A-level?

FERRICK: [01:03:22] Yeah. For freshman year.

NOBLE: [01:03:24] Oh, that's right. We're not talking about the A-level exams. We're talking about.

FERRICK: [01:03:27] The A-level.

NOBLE: [01:03:29] Form A

FERRICK: [01:03:30] Form A. 110 kids.

NOBLE: [01:03:32] Oh, my gosh.

FERRICK: [01:03:33] In a classroom probably as big as this room.

NOBLE: [01:03:36] Which is smaller than a standard classroom.

FERRICK: [01:03:40] It was 110 kids all on the floor.

NOBLE: [01:03:42] On the floor?

FERRICK: [01:03:42] Sitting on the floor.

NOBLE: [01:03:44] There weren't desks?

FERRICK: [01:03:45] There's desks, not for the A-level, because there's too many kids. When I got to, um, to the higher level, I was actually ended up being the class teacher. I only had 15 students. So that was wonderful.

NOBLE: [01:04:03] But that shows about the attrition.

FERRICK: [01:04:05] Yeah, the attrition was just incredible.

NOBLE: [01:04:06] Kids didn't make it through to those higher levels.

FERRICK: [01:04:08] So I just, and kind of my, kind of one of the things that I do when I teach is I like to walk around and be able to.

NOBLE: [01:04:16] Well, how could you? There's no aisles.

FERRICK: [01:04:18] And the students are very, very trained that the teacher goes up, writes everything on the board, sits down, and then, and then the students copy it. And I, that was, I wasn't going to teach that way. I ended up doing more of it at the form A level because it was so hard to do anything else with a hundred. And just the noise was just incredible. At that higher level, I could do more.

NOBLE: [01:04:44] And you were teaching math and science?

FERRICK: [01:04:46] Math and science. I ended up teaching English. I ended up teaching, tried to teach religion, that's all another story.

NOBLE: [01:04:53] Oh.

FERRICK: [01:04:54] I taught geography, human and social biology, and math. Um, chemistry. And then they switched my second year from human and social biology to physics, which was just another horrible thing in terms of preparation for those students and what they didn't have in terms of background. So as an incredible, that was my first experience. You know, corporal punishment.

NOBLE: [01:05:25] Were you expected to mete out?

FERRICK: [01:05:26] Oh, yeah, I was.

NOBLE: [01:05:27] Really?

FERRICK: [01:05:28] I, I. When they did that one time, I went in to the headmaster and said, I think that's totally inappropriate. I will not do this. And so they would do it behind my back.

NOBLE: [01:05:39] Okay. So you would report a student who.

FERRICK: [01:05:42] I never reported students.

NOBLE: [01:05:44] No?

FERRICK: [01:05:44] No, because I knew they would, they'd go get whipped.

NOBLE: [01:05:46] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:05:47] They would get whipped with a plastic that they called it a *shambock*, a plastic whip.

NOBLE: [01:05:52] Oh.

FERRICK: [01:05:52] You talk about hurt.

NOBLE: [01:05:53] No kidding.

FERRICK: [01:05:54] Yeah. And there was a lot of improprieties in the school with teachers and students and things like that. And you just kind of, you just said, jeez, what do I do about this? I've got to teach my things. And, you know, I don't know. They learned also not to show me things because they knew my reaction, what my reaction would be. So I lived with that. Not my good, my good friends, we talked about it. Ntate Motjoli and Me Ma Motjoli, both teachers. We talked a lot about it and said it's such a horrible situation.

NOBLE: [01:06:24] Now, these people you just mentioned, they're the, um?

FERRICK: [01:06:27] They were Lesotho and they were teachers.

NOBLE: [01:06:29] Lesotho people, okay. What were their names again?

FERRICK: [01:06:32] M. M-O-T-J-O-L-I. And L-I is pronounced like a D. So Motjoli is the name, was their name. And one of them is Ntate means like father, but that's N-T-A-T-E. Ntate. And then Me, which is just M-E, is, is for, like a woman.

NOBLE: [01:07:00] Okay.

FERRICK: [01:07:00] So it's a respectful way to say, so Ntate Motjoli and Me Ma Motjoli. And Ma is like a mother. Me Ma Motjoli. They were good friends. And then Guy Amar, also, who is a Sri Lankan, became a very good friend. And then my second year, and actually another American, he wasn't a Peace Corps volunteer. He was an Oblate volunteer, a Catholic volunteer.

NOBLE: [01:07:25] Oh, okay. I've heard of Maryknoll volunteers but there's some difference here.

FERRICK: [01:07:29] Yeah, he was an Oblate volunteer. Joe D'Andrea, still a very good friend today. He lives in Boston, teaches philosophy at a small college in Boston. Wonderful guy. Just wonderful guy. And then there was a South African, a woman who wanted to get out of apartheid and came up to the mountains. And I learned so much about South Africa. And she was from Cape Town.

NOBLE: [01:07:50] Uh huh. And she was as against apartheid as you were?

FERRICK: [01:07:56] Mm hmm.

NOBLE: [01:07:56] Well, how refreshing to know that it's not a monoculture there.

FERRICK: [01:08:00] Yes.

NOBLE: [01:08:01] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:08:02] So.

NOBLE: [01:08:02] But you're the only Peace Corps volunteer.

FERRICK: [01:08:04] I was the only Peace Corps volunteer.

NOBLE: [01:08:05] For the whole two years?

FERRICK: [01:08:06] Yes. Yeah. There wasn't another Peace Corps volunteer. There was another volunteer about an hour and a half away by motorcycle. Walking it would have been down in the valley, a long walk. And we did walk it actually.

NOBLE: [01:08:19] So your first experience was stepping into a classroom with 110 kids. Were they the same age that we would expect ninth graders to be? Or were they older?

FERRICK: [01:08:30] They were both, many of them were older.

NOBLE: [01:08:32] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:08:32] Because they sent out herd boys, you know, the tending the cattle or the sheep.

NOBLE: [01:08:37] Right.

FERRICK: [01:08:38] The girls had to stay at home and do things.

NOBLE: [01:08:42] So this was both boys and girls?

FERRICK: [01:08:44] Right.

NOBLE: [01:08:44] Okay. So they're bigger bodies. They're not the bodies of a 13 year old.

FERRICK: [01:08:49] Well, you may have smaller ones.

NOBLE: [01:08:49] Yeah. You've got some, you've got a mixture. They're all crammed together, sitting on the floor. Did you ever have, did the school ever supply textbooks?

FERRICK: [01:09:00] Um, no. Well, we had some textbooks, but not nearly, not for everybody.

NOBLE: [01:09:04] Not, not enough for everybody to have a book.

FERRICK: [01:09:07] At that level. When I was in my, my upper level, they would have a science book.

NOBLE: [01:09:14] Okay.

FERRICK: [01:09:14] Some of the books I got, actually, one of my secondary projects was helping to build a library.

NOBLE: [01:09:19] Oh, good. Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:09:19] So got some books for the library and got some science equipment, but not very much.

NOBLE: [01:09:25] How difficult to have to prepare people or to try to prepare people to pass an exam which is going to be in English when you don't, when the students don't even have textbooks written in English. That's, that's.

FERRICK: [01:09:38] Well, and that's why.

NOBLE: [01:09:39] It's so self-defeating.

FERRICK: [01:09:41] This. I'll tell this story because it is, it's probably, I'm most proud of it. It just kind of makes me kind of cry in some ways too. It's probably the best thing I ever did in being as a Peace Corps volunteer was not teaching anything. It was getting a student out of our school into the school in Roma, which caused tremendous problems. Matter of fact, the priest of the mission never talked to me again. He would pass me on the

road when I was hitchhiking, trying to get out of the mountains because he was so.

NOBLE: [01:10:10] Because you had arranged for one of his students to go to school where he could actually learn.

FERRICK: [01:10:13] It was the potential for him being the first student to ever pass the O-exam. But Morosi Moshoeshoe was his name. Moshoeshoe is a, is actually a, uh, and it's M-O.

NOBLE: [01:10:25] That's okay.

FERRICK: [01:10:27] M-O-shoe-shoe. But that was, that's very royal. The kings of Lesotho are Moshoeshoes. So Morosi Moshoeshoe had some relative. But he was from way up in the mountains. He came in to me and he said, Ntate John, can you talk to me? Can you tell me what?

NOBLE: [01:10:44] Oh, so that Ntate was applied to you too?

FERRICK: [01:10:47] Oh, yeah.

NOBLE: [01:10:47] You were Ntate John.

FERRICK: [01:10:48] Ntate John. Can you tell talk to me about the Falkland Islands and I went, what? Yeah, what, what was, what's happening with the Falkland Islands? You know, why are the British there? And so I just, I. Morosi was just in an, I mean, a brilliant student. And I talked to the priest of the mission and said, you know, Ntate, he really shouldn't be here. He needs to be someplace where he can really take advantage of the education.

NOBLE: [01:11:19] Yeah, yeah.

FERRICK: [01:11:19] We don't, I don't have a beaker for science. How am I going to really teach him science? And the priest of the mission said, no, he's going to stay here.

NOBLE: [01:11:27] Well, they were getting his tuition.

FERRICK: [01:11:29] Right. Well, and he. Part of it I understood, he could have been the potential to be the first person to pass, but that was sacrificing him. So I went down. I got to know during training the brothers at, at Christ the King, which was the school in Roma, where we did our training.

NOBLE: [01:11:47] Which is 4 hours away.

FERRICK: [01:11:49] Yes.

NOBLE: [01:11:49] Yeah. So it'd be a boarding school.

FERRICK: [01:11:51] It's a boarding school. I went down. Our school is a boarding school.

NOBLE: [01:11:55] Ah.

FERRICK: [01:11:56] Yeah. We had.

NOBLE: [01:11:57] So people came in from the outlying villages, which were even more remote.

FERRICK: [01:12:01] Oh, exactly. So I ended up talking to the brother down at Christ the King, and he had a, saw his exams and then said, oh yeah, we'll get him in here. So I got Morosi out of there, down to Christ the King. Long story short, he ended up graduating from the National University, has been very successful. Just incredible.

NOBLE: [01:12:26] What's he doing now?

FERRICK: [01:12:27] He is, he's got two businesses, three businesses that he's doing.

NOBLE: [01:12:32] Still in Lesotho?

FERRICK: [01:12:33] Oh, yeah.

NOBLE: [01:12:33] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:12:34] Yeah, he's still in Lesotho.

NOBLE: [01:12:35] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:12:36] I just heard from him.

NOBLE: [01:12:37] Ah, no kidding. Are you in touch?

FERRICK: [01:12:39] Just recently. And but the priest of the mission never really talked to me again, you know? But, you know, I said, you know, if that's, if I look back, I still say that's the best thing I ever did as a Peace Corps volunteer.

NOBLE: [01:12:55] You saved a life.

FERRICK: [01:12:56] Yeah. And if, you know, as I've gotten older, the idea of how we change the world or changing the world has changed. And it's, to me it's one person at a time. And if I can make a difference in one person's life. And that's how, that's what Peace Corps taught me, but also being in the development world all these years has really taught me. You know, you look at all these big development projects and everything going on and, um, so often they make very little difference. And so often it's because they don't get down to the personal level there. And I think, you know, when I, when I really look at. People will often complain about Peace Corps. Peace Corps volunteers, they don't have technical skills. We need more people with technical skills over that. And I, at one point I even agreed with that. Not anymore at all.

FERRICK: [01:13:45] I think taking young people, educating them, having them educate others in that country, trying to be really culturally sensitive, trying to teach that. That makes them so much more of an impact than any huge dollar development project that you're going to bring in. Because most of the time those huge dollar ones, like I said, are going to miss the people at that level.

NOBLE: [01:14:08] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:14:08] And I think it's what we do in terms of changing ourselves does make a big difference. I even look at myself in terms of the career that I ended up taking, you know, training young kids at university and doing some development work in terms of projects on the ground. What I do with my kids, talking to them about voting, talking them about participating in your community, what community's about, you know. Boy, what an impact. And that really, I really attribute that to Peace Corps.

NOBLE: [01:14:43] Let's go back to you being a Peace Corps volunteer. Yes, let's take a break. We're back from a short break. Um, after your first year of teaching, which seems to me incredibly difficult. Did you have a break? Was there, you started at the beginning of a school year, right?

FERRICK: [01:15:08] Right. Yeah. You know, as a Peace Corps volunteer, you accumulate leave time. They do really encourage you to do a secondary project, especially as a teacher, which I did.

NOBLE: [01:15:18] You mentioned the library.

FERRICK: [01:15:19] The library and trying to get science equipment and just kind of working in the community and doing some things.

NOBLE: [01:15:26] How did you, how did you do that? Did you have to do some fundraising back home or how did you get the money to get books, to get the science equipment?

FERRICK: [01:15:35] Right. All of that. I wrote to people not only in the U.S. but in Europe, anyplace I could find, you know, where were there pots of money that you might be able to get? And I got some support. I can't even remember what the foundation was. Peace Corps would give us, here's some potential opportunities for funding. And I can't remember. I just remember writing and getting some money. And then I got the Catholic Church to get some money for the library at the school.

NOBLE: [01:16:03] Oh, good.

FERRICK: [01:16:04] So it turned out to be wonderful. It turned out to be really incredible. Um. Never enough books, never enough things for them, but more equipment. But it was better than what we had. The sad part of that, I'll just jump ahead a little bit, is I did end up going back to Lesotho ten years after I, no, 20 years after I left.

NOBLE: [01:16:26] Wow.

FERRICK: [01:16:27] In the early nineties. And the school is in much worse shape than it was when I was there.

NOBLE: [01:16:32] Oh, that makes you feel bad.

FERRICK: [01:16:35] Yeah, it was just. But at the time it was just, yeah, it was just amazing. It was. But it was just like one schoolhouse and no windows or no glass in the windows. And when it rained, you had to stop because it was just a tin roof.

NOBLE: [01:16:49] The noise.

FERRICK: [01:16:49] The noise was so intense. And lightning, you know, you're in the mountains and people would get killed often by being struck by lightning because there was no, Lesotho doesn't have any trees or almost no trees. So it's these bare mountains. And so if you're out walking, it was pretty intense. And so, and students knew that. So when it was lightning, people would dive under desks. And it was pretty, pretty kind of a scary time. And lightning struck close to the houses that we were in on several occasions. So it was, it was, it was just such a great environment. So, so very amazing.

NOBLE: [01:17:32] Did you take a break ever?

FERRICK: [01:17:34] Yeah.

NOBLE: [01:17:34] Did you get some vacation? You said it accumulated.

FERRICK: [01:17:38] We did. We went, I actually had one of the most incredible vacations I've ever had in my life where we hitchhiked to what they called the Wild Coast. You know, at the time, politically, South Africa was making these, these homelands and saying that they're independent countries. And the only, I think the only country that recognized them in independent countries was Israel.

NOBLE: [01:18:04] Oh. And we're not talking about Swaziland and Lesotho?

FERRICK: [01:18:07] No, no, no. We're talking about the Transkei and the Ciskei, all of these that were in South Africa that they made into supposedly independent countries. So there was one called the Transkei, which is along the eastern border of South Africa, absolutely beautiful. So we hitchhiked to the, Durban is the big city kind of in the north. We hitchhiked to Durban and then went down the, went to a place where the road was. And by the way, there was a Holiday Inn with a casino. So if you're in South Africa, it was illegal for gambling. Prostitution was illegal. But they put prostitution and gambling in Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana.

NOBLE: [01:18:50] Oh, and so the South Africans would come in

FERRICK: [01:18:52] In these homelands. Right. So Sun City is one that people have often heard of up by Johannesburg, which was this big playground for South Africans that was in, I forget which homeland it was in. And these homelands were like islands. They weren't necessarily contiguous, they were broken up in some cases. So we went to this Holiday Inn, and from there on there were no more roads down the coast. So we walked down the coast for ten days to a place called Port Saint John's.

NOBLE: [01:19:25] Wow, you walked for ten days?

FERRICK: [01:19:27] And it was just incredible because you'd have these white sandy beaches and the way that the, um, Ndebele they're called, where they live. And that's where Nelson Mandela was from. They didn't live right on the coast. They lived inland. So the coast itself was pretty deserted. And there was actually a, um, game preserve right on the coast that we

had to swim across the river to get to. And then there was people with guns on one side saying, what are you doing here?

NOBLE: [01:19:59] Oh my goodness.

FERRICK: [01:19:59] And we told them, that they took us across the game reserve. So we saw, it was the first time I saw giraffe and some other big game. And then we walked down the coast to this place called Port St. John's. And so it was, and we were out, there was three of us that did it. And it was just magical because you have no electricity, you're right on the coast. We'd go out and wade in and get mussels off the rocks and have steamed mussels and we got bread. There were some villages we could walk inland a little bit and buy bread and peanut butter.

NOBLE: [01:20:34] We you're saying, who's with you?

FERRICK: [01:20:38] Guy by the name of Dave Roush. Dave is now a math professor at the University of Denver and, and Deb McDuffie. And Deb is, uh, she works in. I've lost touch with Deb. She's in upstate New York and had just lost touch with. So three of us in our group along the coast.

NOBLE: [01:20:55] Terrific.

FERRICK: [01:20:56] And it was just, yeah, it was just absolutely amazing.

NOBLE: [01:20:58] Was this sort of at the halfway point?

FERRICK: [01:21:01] Yeah.

NOBLE: [01:21:01] When your school would have, the students would have had a break of a couple of weeks?

FERRICK: [01:21:05] Correct. Yeah. And one of the, another time I want during the school we did it, is that we actually took the kids to Durbin.

NOBLE: [01:21:16] Took your students?

FERRICK: [01:21:17] Took group students to Durbin. Got money from the mission and from the, to take them there.

NOBLE: [01:21:23] Now was that?

FERRICK: [01:21:23] They'd never been out of the mountains. Some of these kids had never been in the lowlands of Lesotho.

NOBLE: [01:21:27] Oh.

FERRICK: [01:21:27] First time some of them have ever seen more than a two story building. When they went through at the border, I had to get out because it was illegal for me to ride with the students because they were Black.

NOBLE: [01:21:38] Once you're in South Africa.

FERRICK: [01:21:39] Once you're in South Africa. So they got out in the bus and I hitchhiked to, there was a lot of hitchhiking at that time. I hitchhiked to Durban.

NOBLE: [01:21:48] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:21:48] And then at the beaches in Durban, it was.

NOBLE: [01:21:51] Then you met up with the students.

FERRICK: [01:21:52] Right. I couldn't stay with them. It was illegal. And I wasn't actually supposed to be on the beach with them. They had Black white beaches.

NOBLE: [01:21:59] Were you the only, um, staff person from the school?

FERRICK: [01:22:02] No. There was a couple other teachers that went.

NOBLE: [01:22:04] Okay, that helped.

FERRICK: [01:22:05] That went with them, that they could stay because they were Basotho. They were Black.

NOBLE: [01:22:09] Right. They were Black so they could be on the bus with the kids. Okay, that's good, I was worried about.

FERRICK: [01:22:13] But that was an incredible experience. Just another eye opener about what that was like. Just, just incredible. And you got, actually on the way back from Port St. John's to Lesotho to come back, I don't know why Dave wasn't with us at this point, but Deb and I split off to come back and we were hitchhiking and got into a, inevitably what happened when you got picked up by a South African, especially a farmer. She'd get around to conversation and eventually they'd say, well, what do you think about our Blacks?

NOBLE: [01:22:44] So of course, when you say a South African farmer, this is a white guy.

FERRICK: [01:22:49] Yeah, this is a white guy, an Afrikaner.

NOBLE: [01:22:50] So he'd get around to asking you, what do you think?

FERRICK: [01:22:52] What do you think about our Black guys? And they would say that, what do you think about our Blacks? They're not like your Blacks. They were. And you know, most.

NOBLE: [01:23:01] How do they know, what's their conception of an American black person?

FERRICK: [01:23:04] Well, much more smarter, uh, much more, um, kind of knowing their own skills and things, where their Blacks were lazy and, and, you know, couldn't trust them. They'd steal, all of this stuff. So most of the time you did, you'd say, do I say something? I'm out in the middle of nowhere. Do I say something? You say, well, you know, we all have our own, you know, we all have our own way of looking at things. And, and, you know, what you do in your own country is different than what we do in our country. So you do something political. You kind of lost a little bit of your

soul, I think, every time you did that. But you did wear your, well, this time I didn't. This is an old farmer and I was just fed up with it. And I just said, I think it's absolutely atrocious about how Blacks are treated. And the people I know are incredibly bright.

NOBLE: [01:24:03] Yes.

FERRICK: [01:24:03] And we're out in the middle of what's called the Karoo. We're in the middle of, you're, in parts of South Africa, you're out in the middle of nowhere. There's nothing around. Probably the closest town was, it was, it was Bloemfontein, it was 50 miles away. He let us off, goes well I think it's time for the two of you to get out.

NOBLE: [01:24:18] And there you are, fifty, five-oh?

FERRICK: [01:24:21] Five-oh.

NOBLE: [01:24:22] 50 miles away from the nearest city.

FERRICK: [01:24:24] Right. And we're out in the middle of nowhere. And of course Deb's going to me, what did you do? Well, we were out, and it was, I remember it was dark and there was a big truck. You know, most people would pass you by. You're out in the middle of it. And because a lot of the drivers were Black and they'd never pick up a white.

NOBLE: [01:24:47] They wouldn't?

FERRICK: [01:24:48] No, because you'd get, they'd get in trouble.

NOBLE: [01:24:49] Oh, my goodness.

FERRICK: [01:24:50] They could get in trouble. But a truck came and we were hitchhiking and a truck stopped. And when he saw us, afterwards he goes, if I would have known you were white, I never would have picked you up. But he ended up.

NOBLE: [01:25:04] But he was a Black Lesotho?

FERRICK: [01:25:06] He was. He was, no, he was actually colored. See.

NOBLE: [01:25:11] Oh, yeah, okay, there's this.

FERRICK: [01:25:12] He was Cape Coloureds, which, which you had different, you know. The lowest on the totem pole were Africans.

NOBLE: [01:25:18] Right.

FERRICK: [01:25:19] You know, complete African descent. Then you had coloreds, Cape Coloureds, which was a combination, could be a combination of whites and Malay and.

NOBLE: [01:25:30] Indian maybe.

FERRICK: [01:25:31] Indian maybe. But then you had Indians.

NOBLE: [01:25:33] Oh, yeah.

FERRICK: [01:25:34] And Indians, but some of these, like to go across the Orange Free State, an Indian had to get a special permit. And then you had whites, but then you had two classes of whites, you had the English whites and you had the Afrikaans. And so it was such. And there was a big, you know, in World War II, the British put Afrikaans in concentration camps. Many Afrikaans died if you look at the history of World War II, because they supported Hitler.

NOBLE: [01:26:01] Oh.

FERRICK: [01:26:02] Because they thought if they defeat the British, we can get rid of the British.

NOBLE: [01:26:06] Out of South Africa.

FERRICK: [01:26:06] Out of South Africa. So there was all this tension that goes on. So eventually we got a ride in and got back. But it's, you know, you confronted that all the time.

NOBLE: [01:26:19] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:26:20] The apartheid was just, it was an amazing, amazingly effective system for what they wanted to have done. Completely dehumanizing.

NOBLE: [01:26:30] Yes.

FERRICK: [01:26:32] And it always, you know, when people say that, even like whites that have been overseas and especially where I was, and they say they know what it's like to be in a minority. You don't. You're in a minority in a very privileged sense.

NOBLE: [01:26:45] Oh, yes.

FERRICK: [01:26:45] You have no idea what it's like when it would be flipped. I have no idea. In almost any place I've been in the world, that's the case. Yes, I might be the only white person, but I'm also seen at a, you know, a higher level.

NOBLE: [01:26:59] Yes, yes, exactly. When somebody in the African bush reaches out to touch your hair, it's not the same as a white person assuming that privilege with a Black person.

FERRICK: [01:27:16] Right, not at all.

NOBLE: [01:27:16] It's a very different thing.

FERRICK: [01:27:18] Completely different.

NOBLE: [01:27:18] So, um, you're having these extraordinary experiences. You're learning so much. You've got family back here in Madison. Well, your mom is back here in Madison.

FERRICK: [01:27:30] Right, and my brother.

NOBLE: [01:27:30] And your brother. And the only way to communicate with them is writing letters. Did you have those blue air letters?

FERRICK: [01:27:39] Air grams.

NOBLE: [01:27:40] Right. That's right.

FERRICK: [01:27:40] You'd write those and for, what would happen for us is that the mail truck would come up and drop the mail down in at the, um, shop down in the valley, and then we'd be sitting at our, on our porch and we could watch the mail coming up by horse. So they would bring the mail up by horse and you could watch. And it was, and then there was a little post.

NOBLE: [01:28:05] They'd bring it up to you at the mission?

FERRICK: [01:28:07] Well, no. At the mission, right, there was a post office on the mission that people. So you could, but you could. It was delivered by horse. And you know, the communication, it would take, it would take a month to two months for the letter to, you know, if you gave it, who knows how long it takes to get back to the U.S.

NOBLE: [01:28:24] It might be a month or two months before your mother would get a letter that you had posted.

FERRICK: [01:28:28] Right, and I'd seen one.

NOBLE: [01:28:29] Coming back?

FERRICK: [01:28:30] One time I think we went four or five months without hearing from each other. And so she's wondering what the heck's going on. I'm wondering what the heck's going on. I did, during that time, I did call home because I was really worried.

NOBLE: [01:28:44] Uh huh.

FERRICK: [01:28:44] I could book, when I went down to the capital city, you could book a call at the post office. Was that the post office? I can't, I can't remember now. You could book a call into and you could also go into a, you know, we had in the capital city of Maseru, you had a Holiday Inn with the casino. You had a Hilton with a casino, beautiful hotel.

NOBLE: [01:29:07] And those hotels had phones?

FERRICK: [01:29:09] They had phones.

NOBLE: [01:29:10] Right. Yes, right. That was my experience. I had to go to a fancy hotel.

FERRICK: [01:29:13] Yeah. They were, they were definitely, you know, you didn't stay in those. They were more expensive.

NOBLE: [01:29:18] But you went into their lobby, maybe use the bathroom and make a phone call.

FERRICK: [01:29:22] We actually did stay there one time, and this is kind of a funny story. I told you about the ANC in South Africa. Well, the ANC had a raid in South Africa. South Africa closed the borders, actually flew jets over and said they were, because that the Lesotho army captured some South African military. And they said, South Africa said, if you don't return our military, we're going to bomb your capital. So they flew everybody over and there was all this tension. And Peace Corps in its ultimate wisdom, I say that tongue in cheek, brought all the volunteers out of their sites to the capital city, which was exactly where.

NOBLE: [01:29:59] Which was the place that would be bombed.

FERRICK: [01:30:01] Right. Well, the funny part of it is, so they put us up in the Holiday Inn.

NOBLE: [01:30:06] Which is also a casino.

FERRICK: [01:30:08] And they were having the Miss Nude South Africa contest. So there are all these volunteers coming in and there were all these women, you know, and they were white women, sitting around with no tops on and they're sunbathing and it's the Miss Nude. And you had all these Afrikaan men and all these. It was, like.

NOBLE: [01:30:30] Surreal.

FERRICK: [01:30:31] It was surreal. It was so bizarre. It was so bizarre. And we had some volunteers that lost all their, because there was a casino, there wasn't really anything to do. So they lost all their, their monthly allowance and barely limped back up to their site once they let us go after a couple of days of wisdom saying, well, maybe this isn't the best place for all these volunteers to be. It was just kind of crazy, kind of crazy stuff.

NOBLE: [01:31:02] Well, it sounds like you had a very full two years as a volunteer.

FERRICK: [01:31:06] I did. It was absolutely wonderful.

NOBLE: [01:31:08] Is there anything else about that happened during those two years that you want to make sure?

FERRICK: [01:31:13] Well, I just think the, the, to really kind of focus. The depth of friendships that you get there can change you for a lifetime. You know, it's not just the friendships of other Americans, other volunteers, it's the whole host of things that you learn about. So sitting around and having, talking about, you know, what's going on in Ireland and Northern Ireland and that at the time and their perspectives on that, and talking about all these other things happening in sub-Saharan Africa. You know, that's just, I mean, that's an education that you can't duplicate in any place.

NOBLE: [01:31:49] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:31:49] And then like I said, Phyllis, I think the biggest thing, and I do. I do. I wish more Americans would do that. You know, then learning about your own role in this world and what can you do or can't do or what do you want to try to, to accomplish? I think it's just. I just think it's invaluable. To

me it changed my life. I think it changed the life of my wife. I think it like changed the life of my kids.

NOBLE: [01:32:13] Was your wife in the Peace Corps, too?

FERRICK: [01:32:15] She wasn't, but she always wishes she was.

NOBLE: [01:32:17] Okay, yeah. When you finished your two years, was there some kind of debriefing in maybe Maseru?

FERRICK: [01:32:31] Yeah, we had. We had, we had those COS conferences, close.

NOBLE: [01:32:34] COS being closing of service.

FERRICK: [01:32:36] Conferences. And so we had a close of service conference and debriefing. And I ended up staying a little bit longer because I ended up doing, helping with training and doing some other things with Peace Corps volunteers coming in.

NOBLE: [01:32:49] Uh huh.

FERRICK: [01:32:50] So my total time was about three years almost in Lesotho. So yeah, it was just an incredible, incredible experience. I still look back on that as, you know, if I, and my wife and I talk about this, about the potential of doing Peace Corps again.

NOBLE: [01:33:04] Do you, do you? And you'd do it together?

FERRICK: [01:33:07] Yeah, we'd do it together.

NOBLE: [01:33:08] Yeah.

FERRICK: [01:33:08] Yeah. And I don't know if that will happen or not. It depends on our health and things like that. But we'll see because I think it still is an incredible experience. So I would, you know, I, again, I come back to I really do think that having young people do it and learn about this and people learn about them and etcetera is just so incredibly valuable. And

man, don't we need it more today than any other time when there's so many tensions and people?

NOBLE: [01:33:39] Yes.

FERRICK: [01:33:39] Things that they're saying about other cultures and things, I just.

NOBLE: [01:33:43] People are grouping together with like-minded groups.

FERRICK: [01:33:47] Yes. Nationalist tendencies that's happening.

NOBLE: [01:33:49] Yes. After you left Lesotho, you went on to have a very international life. You were, you were Peace Corps staff in Papua New Guinea as associate director for a couple of years or a year maybe. And then you went on to be associate director and then acting country director in Fiji.

FERRICK: [01:34:15] Right.

NOBLE: [01:34:16] I would think that you'd be the best kind of Peace Corps director because you had been a volunteer yourself and you could, um.

FERRICK: [01:34:25] I think it's, to me it was just, it was absolutely wonderful being able to develop projects. One of the things I always emphasize to volunteers at that time too was don't get so hung up on your job. Your job is, yes, you want to try to do some things, but you can't do your job until you really get to know people and understand people. And, and we as Americans, we just want to get in and do stuff.

NOBLE: [01:34:48] Yes. Yes.

FERRICK: [01:34:50] Positive or negative in a sense, we just want to see ourselves doing stuff. And that's, that still happens with all these development projects I see today. You know, we want to just do stuff. Well, doing stuff might not be the right thing. We want to try to do the right things. And we can't do stuff for people. People have to do stuff for themselves. We can

try to facilitate and help out. And that, that's a long-term commitment. It's not going to happen in a couple of years. So it was always fun kind of talking to people and, you know, that works and doesn't work. And part of that is just learning through experience about that because, you know, you, and the more technical you get.

FERRICK: [01:35:27] We had, when I was in Fiji, we had a lot of senior volunteers because it's a, it was a safe country. There wasn't, very little, you know, disease. Beautiful. So we had a lot of retired people that were very successful bankers and, you know, people that were very successful in businesses. And getting them to say, you're not transplanting an America to these places. You've got to figure out how you take the skills that you have but do it within that context. It was extremely difficult. I mean, we had just too many older volunteers that would just say, well, this is the way to do it. If they want to be successful, they need to do it this way.

NOBLE: [01:36:06] Yeah, slow down there. Um, some. Uh. Did you go back to school?

FERRICK: [01:36:15] I did. I went back.

NOBLE: [01:36:16] At some point?

FERRICK: [01:36:16] Yes, I did in between, after the Peace Corps. So that time when I was doing the trainings, I was in school. I was in graduate school.

NOBLE: [01:36:22] Okay, here at UW?

FERRICK: [01:36:24] In Madison. I ended up going to Madison because it was just cheaper for me to stay in state and go here.

NOBLE: [01:36:29] Sure. And so what were you studying?

FERRICK: [01:36:31] I was doing agricultural extension, so I really wanted to work with agricultural extension agents internationally. I had planned to stay overseas the rest of my life working on projects and things. And then I met my wife.

NOBLE: [01:36:43] Oh yeah.

FERRICK: [01:36:43] And we did go overseas to, but my daughter was born and my.

NOBLE: [01:36:50] Your wife went with you to Papua New Guinea?

FERRICK: [01:36:53] She was supposed to, that's a whole story where that became. Papua New Guinea is a very, culturally it's the most incredible place I've ever been, but it's also has a lot of security issues. There's a lot of things culturally that happen. So if you do something, if you're a male and you do something to me, I get back at you by doing something to your wife.

NOBLE: [01:37:13] Oh.

FERRICK: [01:37:14] So it became, it became really. And some things happened that, you know, where some people tried to take my counterpart in the Ministry of Education by gunpoint. And I ended up getting out of this situation, um, and they smashed my window with a shotgun. And I said, my wife can't come.

NOBLE: [01:37:36] No.

FERRICK: [01:37:36] We had a small, our daughter was just small. So then we went to Fiji and they were in Fiji for two years with us. But then my mother started having health problems, Linda. We said, do we want grandparents as a part of our kids lives? We wanted, we knew we wanted at least one more child. And so that's when we decided to come back and see what happens. And so we came back and, you know, I had been offered a job in Washington, D.C., but I said, I don't, I want to, you know, if we're going to do this, let's have them as a part of their lives. So we ended up settling in Madison. I ended up working at the, where I am now in the College of Ag and Life Sciences in their international programs office, working on international projects all over the world and trying to teach and do some things using my experiences and had some wonderful bosses there.

NOBLE: [01:38:26] You spoke of Uganda.

FERRICK: [01:38:29] Mm hmm.

NOBLE: [01:38:29] And I know that, uh, I think a colleague of yours, Dr. Cindy Haq?

FERRICK: [01:38:34] Oh yeah.

NOBLE: [01:38:34] Has been doing, from the University of Wisconsin Global Health Institute, has also been doing projects in Uganda.

FERRICK: [01:38:41] Well, we actually helped Cindy start the medical schools program in Uganda. I do this with a colleague, James Ntambi. James is a professor of biochemistry and nutritional sciences here. He's Ugandan. And James and I started this program. This will be our 15th year taking. We teach a course in the fall on international health and nutrition and then take students over winter break to Uganda, where we go to hospitals and clinics and villages. We're based in a village, doing some incredible work in this village, we're really kind of a place based approach over the last four years.

FERRICK: [01:39:17] Um, but have worked with Cindy. Cindy did her, part of her residency there back in the eighties, right when the current President Museveni was coming into power. Her daughter is now married to a Ugandan, and Chris and, they have a daughter. And I just saw them last year when I was there because her daughter graduated from medical school here, is doing her residency down at Baylor University in Texas. And they have a big program in Uganda. So Heather had gone back. And so, yeah, Cindy's, Cindy's wonderful.

NOBLE: [01:39:48] So you're still at it. You're very much internationally involved.

FERRICK: [01:39:54] I am. And I am still, you know, I still try to do as much with Peace Corps. I was in charge for a while here when the Peace Corps recruiter was based out of our office. So I would help with the recruiter, and I still do whenever I can, I, I try to help out because it's such an

incredible experience. I'd like to get back involved with kind of the Peace Corps group, the returned Peace Corps volunteer group. It's just time.

NOBLE: [01:40:23] Time, yeah.

FERRICK: [01:40:24] I think I will do that again at some point.

NOBLE: [01:40:29] Is there anything else that we need to touch on?

FERRICK: [01:40:32] I don't think so. I just, you know, it's, it's just such an incredible experience. And as I said and I, I wish everybody could do it. It's not for everybody. But I, I just wish people could have that experience of seeing themselves in a different culture and seeing that culture, how that, that experience changes them.

NOBLE: [01:40:52] That's right.

FERRICK: [01:40:53] Yeah. Yeah. Thanks, Phyllis.

NOBLE: [01:40:55] Thank you, John.

FERRICK: [01:40:56] This was wonderful.

[END OF INTERVIEW]