

Stephen Emanuel

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As Steve wrote when Frank passed away, “I first met Frank way back in 1968 on the quad at the campus of Cal State San Bernardino ... I was the young hippie riding a skateboard to class and he was, Frank ... in the chair with his pointer and board. We instantly connected and soon were stirring up controversy and trouble in that little pond.”

Steve is now a registered nurse in Oregon. He is also a musician and has played bass with Les Gendarmes du Swing, the Wild Whiskey Boys, The Primal Music Syndicate, Mescal Martini, the DadoSa Band, Jazzmind and many others. He played upright bass with Frank and with Frank’s Cherotic All-Star Band a number of times after catching up with Frank again in 2006, including several performances in Los Angeles when Frank toured there as part of his campaign for President. Steve gave a “fiery passionate introduction speech” for Frank at Il Corral, an underground music club in L.A.

This interview is a look into the history of the 1960s, 1970s, and beyond through Steve’s and Frank’s stories. At the same time, they share an alternate approach to life that endures, and talk about how the small acts we perform in our daily lives and relationships have deep and powerful effects.

Frank: I met this dude 40 years ago in San Bernardino, California. He was barefo ...

Linda: He was barefoot.

Frank: On a s ...

Steve: Skateboard ...

Frank: Throwing a Frisbee. Playing a harmonica.

Linda: All at the same time. (laughs)

Frank: He turned into one of the most important people in my life. What does that say about my life? (laughter) Steve Emanuel!

Linda: Take it, Steve!

Steve: It’s always an honor to be in the presence of Frank, to be perfectly frank, which is something it is impossible for me to be, but anyways. Yeah, Frank and I go back quite a ways and we’ve had some rather amazing and unusual experiences together which we will probably speak about in a little bit.

Frank: He is (Frank sounds) taller than ...

Linda: Taller than you! That’s not talk show etiquette ... the host is taller than the guest. (laughing)

Steve: Well, I've never been much for etiquette! (laughing)

Frank: Do you remember the first time you saw me?

Steve: Oh yeah, man, Cal State, San Bernardino. (Frank sounds) That was just a small campus, there really wasn't much to it at that point.

Frank: And a new campus.

Steve: And a new campus too, and so ... It was only the second year the thing had been there. There weren't even any dorms or anything. So, everybody had to live off campus, which was kind of fun, actually. It was better that way. 'Cause there was this funky neighborhood mostly near by and ... which was a real mixed up neighborhood, that's where we met our mutual friend, Louise, she had this hippie commune down the street from where I lived and so ...

Frank: Really, it was before I met Louise.

Steve: Yeah, right, well I introduced you to Louise 'cause I found Frank on campus and gravitated towards him 'cause he was about the most interesting thing on that campus, you know. There were some pretty girls, I will admit (laughs).

Frank: Why was ...

Linda: Frank interesting?

Steve: Well, look at him ... he's interesting (laughter) period. What the heck, plus I rapidly found out he's a rather outrageous character and you know, that's the part that I liked the best, was the fact that he's just, you know, out there! And I being somewhat out there at the time myself, you know, it was a logical association, shall we say, it fell together pretty easily, and, um ... it was a neat time, you know. It was 1968, things were kind of really hopping, you know in terms of the changes that were happening to the way people thought about things especially in the college situation where people's ... You know, it was just a real new era. I mean, it didn't last very long, but it was a very new era while it lasted for those four or five years that it was like that. It was just really, you know, very expanding to the way people thought and felt, the way they acted. The kind of relationships they had with each other were ... a lot of it was really new ... much of it didn't last! Most people did not have the emotional equipment or the endurance or whatever, to really pull that off, you know. Every once in awhile I'll run into somebody who knew you back then and what happened to poor Frank (Linda laughs) ... well, I'll tell you, bro ... you know, he's not doing quite so bad as you might have expected (laughing).

You know at that time when I first met Frank and we were first palling around with each other, I don't know, it just, it seemed real natural ... you would be you, the way you are and I would be me, the way I was, you know, we're both kind of societal misfits, in our own peculiar way. Maybe I elected to be that way, but I really didn't have any choice either, you know what I mean. I was going to be like that. You know, you grow up like you're going to grow up. And you're raised the way you're raised and I grew up in a bohemian atmosphere. There was always all kinds of people throughout the households that I grew up in. Artists and musicians of all types, and races and ages and all that stuff.



Frank Moore and Stephen Emanuel (video capture)

(Frank sounds)

Frank: I grew up ...

Linda: Military dad, ex-Mormon mom ...

Steve: Yeah, right. He came out of this horribly repressive situation and then that caregiver you had back then was a mother fucker. (Frank sounds)

Linda: The guy who pulled the gun?

Steve: Yeah, right. So you know ...

Frank: I called the Black Panthers ...

Linda: When the guy pulled the gun.

Steve: It was funny, back then, because you know we had our little SDS chapter. They weren't even called the Black Panthers back then, you know, they'd kind of listen to you every once in a while.

Frank: They hid me for two days.

Steve: Yeah, I vaguely remember that whole situation. (Frank sounds)

Frank: And I talked to Moe (Frank sounds). I did not know him ...

Linda: Moe? You talked to him but you didn't know him.

Frank: But I said I need a place to go. He ...

Linda: He was a fellow student at the campus?

Steve: Yeah, right.

Linda: You didn't know him but you told him you needed a place to go. So, he set it up.

Steve: Yeah, right.

Linda: What did he set up?

Frank: A house and his two friends were my attendants.

Linda: So he set all that up. (Frank sounds)

Steve: Right.

Linda: And you knew Moe at that point (to Steve)?

Steve: Yeah, I knew Moe. Well, you know, it's a small college and ... less than a thousand people there.

Frank: In fact, you moved into the house.

Steve: Right. (Frank sounds)

Linda: But you guys already knew each other?

Steve: Yeah, right. (Frank sounds)

Linda: And you moved into the house through Frank?

Steve: Yeah, more or less, yeah (Frank sounds). I had a lot of households back then. (laughs)
(Frank sounds)

Frank: You was the first who dared to help me drop acid.

(Steve laughs, Frank sounds)

Steve: I helped everybody drop acid (laughs) (all laugh). Yeah, you know, I wasn't scared, you know, I give a lot of people acid, and you know, I didn't see why Frank should be any different. (laughs)

Frank: People would give me pot ...

Linda: ... but they wouldn't give you acid.

Steve: Yeah, they wouldn't give him acid. You know, I don't know, LSD was always and probably still is my favorite mind-altering substance and, um ... I was into it back then. I thought it was good for people. I realized it wasn't good for everybody, OK. But for people that I felt had a strong inner character, it was quite a transformative kind of experience. I think more than anything else it really changed people's minds about what was going on at the time. It was like a shortcut to figuring out that there was a whole different way of

perceiving things. And that there was a whole other realm of consciousness beyond ordinary thought and there was a whole different way to interplay with your senses beyond just the usual way you did it. You know. In my personal life, it completely changed the way I looked at things and it affects me today. Not that I have flashbacks all the time ... I wish ... it'd be nice ... it's just a fundamental shift in attitude that happened when at certain significant experiences that I had under psychedelic drugs that really made me lose the distance and separation that I had between my self and the world and myself and other people and kind of ... that has really endured. The fact that it's all one cosmic world and one cosmic cosmos and that our ... what was funny is there's some books now, written by physicists that explore the relationships between ultimate physics and (Frank sounds) transcendental meditation kind of things ... and also, I had this book ... well, the preface is this, you know, one of the first times I took LSD was at this outdoor concert, one of the first big outdoor concerts in the L.A. area. I whacked down some LSD with this friend of mine and we got this revelation about how it really is, how this whole thing works. And it was this whole reality comb theory of existence. We had this comb that funneled down, like all the possibilities and then there was like, your little brain down here that filtered it into this line that was hooked to the reality of the world. Well, a few years ago I found this book on Tai Chi that's actually a really gnarly, very extremely sophisticated book on Tai Chi, and here's this same damn diagram in that book. Basically explaining the same thing from a 2,500-year-old Chinese idea. Which then indicates to me, well then, my idea was not just a psychedelic flash. (Frank sounds) It was actually tapping into a certain version of reality that is shared by a bunch of people. That is a legitimate way to look at things. I mean, obviously, we create this entire reality with our brains. Our brains are completely responsible for all this stuff. You know what I mean? Well, you say, when I die does it all go away? Well for me it does, but still, every single person creates the universe by the act of being here and thinking and experiencing it makes it be what it is. And, if we ... if our senses were tuned slightly differently, it'd be a completely different universe, you know. Which would get to be real interesting with people like synesthesia. People that see, read everything in colors. All the letters have colors, every time they read them. Or when they hear music, it always comes out in colors in their mind. And that one note will have the same color every time for that particular person. Well, on psychedelics you'd experience that every once in a while, you know for two hours or three hours or something like this. Some people have that permanently.

Frank: Especially hiking on someone's shoulders through the woods at Big Bear ...

Steve: Oh, Big Bear?

Frank: In the winter on acid.

(laughter)

Linda: Which was your experience!

(all laugh)

Frank: Or trying to eat dinner ...

Linda: Oh, with your mom feeding you? At the dinner table with your mom and dad and brother (Steve laughs) ... on acid.

Steve: Yeah, I remember one time I had to paint my mother's kitchen on acid. (laughter) I forgot I committed myself to that one. I painted her kitchen electric yellow. (all laugh) It was interesting.

Frank: Hey, so what is wrong with that ...

Linda: Electric yellow? The same colors we painted ...

Steve: Electric yellow is fine. It's just when you open up a can and look at it when you're tripping. I'd taken an extra large dose that day 'cause I was going down (unidentified play) to go play. The amazing part is that she never really figured it out. (laughs) I'm a pretty good painter, even when I'm stoned.

(Frank sounds)

Frank: So, what are other things about what we did?

Steve: Well, other things about what we did. Well, of course I always loved the time we went up to Lama Foundation. That was a gas. Lama Foundation is this place up near Taos, New Mexico. Extremely gorgeous up there. And it's a retreat place. A spiritual retreat. Baba Ram Dass was one of the original founders of this place.

Frank: On a st ...

Steve: Side of a big old mountain, man, I'm telling you, it's steep up there, OK. And you drive up there on this long, windy, dirt road. Taos is down here on the plains and huge mountains that are up behind it, and it's absolutely gorgeous and Lama's Mountain is a little bit north and west of Taos. The actual foundation up there is probably about 9,000 feet where it sits. And Taos is like 7,000. So, you climbed up this funky old dirt road and you finally get back and there's the parking lot. Well, the Lama Foundation is way up here (gesturing). And it's just a dirt trail (sounds and laughing). And I get Frank in his wheelchair and we roll on up, you know. What the hell. We're there to have fun. (laughing) I think it was Chögyam Trungpa that was doing the lecture that day. That Tibetan guy who ...

Linda: Yeah.

Frank: Up was o ...

Steve: Up was OK, yes, going up was OK! (all laughing) Then we went up there and we heard this lecture, and it was really fun. Very interesting, this guy Chögyam Trungpa. That was who it was, wasn't it. (Frank sounds) Yeah. Chögyam Trungpa was one of the first Tibetan lamas who really brought a lot of Tibetan Buddhism to the West in a very deliberate manner. I mean, he came here. It was so funny. We go up to see this guy ... and everybody's like ... oh, the holy man is going to come out ... and everybody's expecting some guy in some lemon saffron robes. He comes out he looks just like a Navajo. He's got a cowboy hat on, he's got cowboy boots on. He's got a quart of Miller's. (all laughing) (Steve makes a can popping sound) He opens up the Miller's chug chug and then proceeds to give this really wonderful spiritual discourse, right.

Frank: Every holy man you've ever met was a dirty old man.

Steve: Well, you know, come on, you're coming from the highlands of Tibet, then you come here and there's all these cute little California girls, (laughing) come on. That's why I've decided, you know, once I get finished doing all this work, I'm going to start a new religion and it'll appeal to college girls, I'm sure! (laughing)

Frank: Hey, I ...

Linda: Frank did start a religion!

Steve: Well, I'll be a high priest or something. Anyway! I'll be a priest that's high. Anyway. So, we're up there and we watch this whole thing and it's very nice in this absolutely lovely place, like I say. Then we decide to come back down. And of course, me being in the sort of hell raiser category decided that, well, Frank doesn't ever get to do anything fun, everybody treats Frank nice and never like risks his life in anything interesting, so I just hop on the back of the wheelchair (Linda says, oooooohhhh!) and we go down the trail. (laughing) Well, we rapidly pick up a lot of speed. And when we hit that third boulder, I guess it was, man, we wiped out good, man. (laughing) Bent his chair beyond recognition. We both went ass over tea kettle down the hill. (Steve makes crashing sounds) I mean, his wheelchair was totally bent. They had to give you a whole new wheelchair, right? (laughing)

Frank: Not for eight ...

Linda: Weeks?

Steve: Oh yeah, that's right. It took eight weeks to get the ...

Frank: Whole months ...

Linda: Eight whole months! You were without a chair?

Steve: Scott fixed it together, man. A Scottish guy we used to call Scott. I think he was the one that pounded that thing back together if I don't miss my guess. (laughing)

Frank: Tell Steve about Ram Dass.

Linda: Oh, when we met him. We went to ... there was a thing about psychedelics at a big hotel here, the Claremont. (Frank sounds) This was in the late '80s. And it was Leary and Ram Dass and ... oh man, there was a bunch of them.

Frank: L ...

Linda: The widow of Huxley.

Steve: Huxley's widow. Laura Huxley or whatever her name is.

Linda: Yeah, and um .. So you want to talk about Ram Dass in particular? Well first of all, we go into this hotel, and Leary spots us and comes running up to us. There were at the time ... Frank brought all of his students. It was kind of a class project. (Steve laughs, Frank sounds) It was Frank and I, and Mikee was there, Alexi, and maybe 2 or 3 other people, so there was a bunch of us. And we were looking the way we look now. But he ... we've never met him before ... he spots us and comes running up to us like we were his long lost friends, hugging everybody, hi, it's so great to see you and stuff. And it's like, whoa, it's starting to have that

kind of “acidy” feeling. (Steve laughs) And it just kept happening. Ram Dass did the same thing. Came up to us like old lost friends. Huxley did the same thing. It was all scattered throughout the night.

Frank: Then ...

Linda: Oh, you and Leary? And then, Frank and Leary were playing. There was like an intermission and we were just cruising around the halls, and he was sitting there with these two young, very earnest guys and they were hanging on his every word. (Steve laughs) And we're wheeling by and as Frank wheels up next to him Frank is flailing his arms around, and Leary, boom, picks up on it right away and in the middle of talking to these guys he ...

Steve: Starts to moving around ... (laughing)

Linda: Starts moving his arms around. And so there the two of them are, doing this little dance together, and the two earnest ones are looking like they're trying to figure out what's going on. (Steve laughing)

Steve: That's like those Zen stories of this guy who goes to visit the master, and the master's out in the middle of the forest and he's raking leaves in the middle of the wild forest. And the guy is like, let me take that rake from you. He's raking away industriously and suddenly realizes what the fuck am I doing? Can you imagine, what are you doing? Raking leaves in the forest. Why are you raking leaves in the forest? I know why I was doing it, but why are you doing it? (laughing) Similar kind of moment for those guys.

Frank: You dropped me off at the community in Massachusetts? Oh no, at Louise's ... at the crash pad in Santa Fe.

Steve: Oh yeah!

Linda: Tell about that?

Steve: You mean the old crisis center thing?

Frank: Yes. You left.

Linda: You dropped Frank off and left.

Steve: I had to go down to Albuquerque or some place. I can't remember.

Frank: Back to San Bernardino.

Steve: Oh, I had to go back to San Berdoo. We took you out here and stuff you there. I remember that. Once again, it was under the whole idea of, Frank never gets to do anything. So, let's get him out to do something, you know. So a bunch of us got together and dragged his funky ass out here. That was an epic little voyage in that Nissan Centro or whatever the hell it was. With Marty, remember Marty? A young guy named Marty.

Frank: Yes.

Steve: Yeah, he drove all the way. (Steve laughing)

Linda: Frank tells the story of about how he was at the crisis center, 'cause Louise was supposed

to come out shortly, but it took her a whole lot longer.

Steve: It took her a whole lot longer (laughing) yeah, yeah, yeah.

Linda: So he was there with no money or anything.

Steve: Oh, yeah.

Linda: Hoping that every morning there'd be somebody that would feed him and dress him and stuff. (Steve laughing)

Steve: Well that made you develop your skills better now, didn't it? (Frank sounds)

Frank: It took you a while to move out to Santa Fe.

Steve: Yeah, what hung me up that time ... I went back and forth between Berdoo and Santa Fe so many times, man. I know that road completely. I could drive it with my eyes closed backwards, I'll tell you! We thought nothing of commuting back and forth.

(Frank sounds)

Frank: We again lived together ...

Linda: ... in Santa Fe ...

Steve: Yeah, we had several pads in Santa Fe actually. Our mutual friend, Louise, was kind of at the center of a lot of those pads. And she became a very important caregiver, and her whole ... she had a whole family, kids and all that kind of stuff ... it was a natural thing. I'd known Louise for a really long ... you know, I met her when I first moved to San Bernardino. Like I said, there was this community close by there, Muscoy. And just about everybody in the world lived in Muscoy. Man, you had bikers living next to evangelical Christians. Some people actually had money there. Most people were pretty poor. And she had this commune down the block and that's where the whole connection to Santa Fe came in. Because some of those people started drifting up to Santa Fe and then dragged us all out there eventually, basically. So we had quite a few households out there. And then I drifted down to college in Albuquerque.

(Frank sounds)

Frank: I went to Massachusetts.

Steve: Right. And that was an amazing little thing right there because ... we were hanging out at this crisis center ... I worked there and Frank hung out there. And we were all sort of involved in this thing. It was the first crisis center in Santa Fe. So Frank used to hang out there, and people would come by, and it was kind of like a place that people traveling through would kind of tend to breeze through to see what was going on. There were posters up about what was going on around town, etc. So, you met these people that came through from this commune in Massachusetts. There was some guy that was the head dude and a big house, you know, the whole nine yards back East, you know. (Frank sounds) So, Frank says to them, I'll come out and visit!

Frank: Three ...



Stephen Emanuel (video capture)

Linda: 300, there were 300 people.

Steve: Yeah.

Frank: Not to visit ...

Linda: You said you wanted to move there. (Frank sounds)

Steve: Yeah, right. You had me put up a card on the ride board: I need a ride to Massachusetts. (laughing) Whatever, Frank, you know. (laughing) So you know, I put up a card: I need a ride to Massachusetts. And then these two kids come and give him a ride! (Frank sounds) What they're like 16 and 17, a brother and sister!

Frank: B ...

Linda: Yeah, a brother and sister.

Steve: A brother and sister! And, well, ...

(Frank starts spelling ... d ...)

Steve: This is how you do it, you know ... this is all the equipment and you're going to have to like do it all, you know! How did they do? (Frank sounds)

(Frank makes sounds)

Linda: They were alright.

Steve: They were alright, yeah! They were OK! I had a feeling. They seemed like good kids, you know.

Frank: But they ...

Linda: Just dropped him at the community, and left ...

Steve: Yeah, 3 in the morning or something like that, right?

Frank: No, after ...

Linda: In the afternoon?

Frank: But I ...

Linda: He beat the people there that he had met, so no one knew that he was coming.

Steve: Right! Yeah, so here he just shows up. Here's this guy sitting out there in a wheelchair in front of the place, right: Hi, I'm moving here! (laughs)

Frank: People ...

Linda: ... freaked out.

Steve: Well geez, I know (laughing) like I say, most people just don't have the emotional equipment to handle this kind of thing. (laughing)

Frank: But the ...

Linda: ... leader of the group?

Frank: Walked by ...

Linda: ... walked by, as they were freaking out and trying to figure out what to do with you.

Frank: And said, "He stays!" (Frank screams, Linda laughs)

Steve: That's what I'm saying, you develop skills after a while. (Frank sounds, laughing) Yeah, so that's how Frank got out of Santa Fe for a while. It's pretty funny. Then we got a phone call that he had gotten married. We were like, OK ... we gotta meet this girl (laughing).

Frank: That is the 3 a.m. ...

Linda: That's the 3 a.m. call.

Steve: Oh yeah, right. (laughing)

Frank: We (Frank sounds) tried San Francisco ...

Linda: You and Debbie tried to move to San Francisco.

Frank: Moe gave us some money ...

Linda: So that you could get a place. (Frank sounds)

Frank: But we were kicked out of four places in four days, four nights.

Steve: That gets a little boring.

Frank: (Frank sounds) This was before ...

Linda: ... disabled rights.

Steve: Yeah, well, had a lot of work to do back then.

(Frank sounds)

Frank: So I took a bus to ...

Linda: ... to Albuqu ... to Santa Fe. (Frank sounds) And that was the 3 a.m. call?

Frank: And Belle was just driving by.

Steve: Oh, Belle Carpenter. Belle Carpenter was a friend that we had out there. She was actually a somewhat wealthy woman. A just absolutely lovely, gracious creature. I mean, if there ever was a woman to be named Belle, she was it. And she was even from the South. And she was just absolutely wonderful, compassionate, gorgeous human being. (Frank sounds) And you know, she just showed up right at the right time, you know. (Frank sounds) I loved Belle, she was wonderful.

Frank: And called Louise. (Frank sounds)

Steve: Right. (Frank sounds)

Frank: Guess who is in town? (laughing)

Steve: Who is back in town! (laughing)

Linda: That's when you found out that Frank was married?

Steve: No, we got a phone call right after he got married. And we were just going like, whoa, we got to see this girl. And then he shows up and like, wow ... almighty Frank! (Frank sounds) So then we all kind of regathered the entourage together for awhile. (laughing) (Frank sounds)

Frank: Stayed with you.

Linda: You and Debbie stayed with Steve.

Steve: Yeah, I was down at my place in Albuquerque, right? Yeah. I had kind of gone back to college. I was going to college at the University of New Mexico. I had a pad down there. So, it was like, come on down baby! And that's where those first workshops started developing. I actually went to some of those. (Frank sounds) Did I go to the first one ... was I in the first one? (Frank sounds)

Frank: Yes.

Steve: I thought so! (laughs)

Frank: Not the workshop, but the all-night performance.

Steve: Yeah, yeah. (Frank sounds) I remember that quite well! (Frank laughing and sounds) (Steve laughing)

Steve: The foundation for what's happening these days, right?

(Frank sounds)

Linda: Yes.

Frank: Is it not amazing how it developed?

Steve: It is amazing how it develops. The music sure is a good part of it. I like that part! And a ... yeah, it's a neat thing and yeah, it was pretty much part of the times, too, back when those types of performance things at that point ... certainly nobody was doing it in Albuquerque, you know, besides (laughs) ... But you know ...

Frank: Hey, I tried to in S-a ...

Steve: Oh, in Santa Fe.

Frank: San Bernardino.

Steve: Oh, in San Bernardino, yeah, right, well ah. (laughs) Never ... what was that girl's name you painted that night? Jackie, yeah right, Jackie. He painted her. (laughs)

Frank: I saw her ...

Steve: You saw Jackie?

Linda: Oh, was she the one that Louise didn't ... oh no, that's a different one.

Frank: I saw her 15 ...

Linda: 15 years ago.

Steve: Yeah. She was kind of ...

Frank: O ...

Linda: Old. She seemed old.

Steve: Well, I'm not surprised. She was a lovely young thing back then, but I think she had a serious bi-polar disorder, or something like that. She was actually kind of unhinged. She was probably one of those people that psychedelic drugs were not too good for.

Frank: How could you tell ... ?

Steve: How could I tell?

Frank: ... back then ...

Linda: Who was unhinged and who wasn't? (laughs)

Steve: (laughing, and Frank sounds) It's kind of a relative thing but ... (all laugh and Frank sounds) that was one of the things about hippies man, like hippies didn't care if you were unhinged. I had so many unhinged people around in my life, I swear to God ...

Frank: Exactly. It is only in the last twenty years ... (Frank sounds)

Linda: That what? (Frank sounds) Unhinged is a negative?

Steve: Oh, yeah, right (laughs) I don't know, I still like being unhinged myself, but ...

Linda: He means in the big picture.

Steve: There was a short period of time, like I say, when there was sort of a fringy thing, especially out here on the west coast where, you know, people accepted people for being almost anything, or any kind of way, you know. And the fact you were basically bi-polar and psychotic could be sort of charming for a while, but then, you know, then when people seriously started disfunctioning that's when you decided, yeah, well ... I mean, I've sent at least three people to the psych hospitals out of my households. It's like, you know, when they start doing really self-destructive things, or just really acting completely, you know, wrong, then you got to do something. Anyway, she struck me as somebody ... I knew that she had some real personality frailties, shall we say, and just didn't, you know, she was care-worn, shall we say ...

Frank: Well, painting her whole ...

Steve: Oh, her whole body, yeah ...

Frank: Did not help ...

Steve: Did not help, yeah. She kind of got a little funky after a while, 'cause you know, if you paint too much of a person's body, the skin can't breath, and they get kind of funky, so we had to take quick photographs and wash it off.

Frank: We did not (laughs) ...

Linda: ... know any of that at the time. What did you paint her with?

Steve: I think it was acrylics. (laughing)

Linda: It wasn't body paint!

Frank: That would do it!

Steve: That would do it, yeah! I can't take full responsibility for driving her nuts, but I'll take some. (laughing)

(Frank sounds)

Steve: You get better color out of acrylics, come on, man. (laughing)

Frank: I have done a lot of research on body ...

Steve: Body paint.

Linda: Body paint. Well, because we've been painting bodies ever since, I guess. And have a lot of different kinds of ... we found some good body paints.

Steve: There are kinder paints. Yeah, there are kinder paints. There are paints that do allow your pores to breath a little bit. There are many theatrical paints. The Star Wars guys, they get kind of gooped up. (laughs, Frank sounds)

Frank: What do you ...

Linda: What do I want to know? Well, the part that I was most interested in is when you

were talking about the context ... the time that you guys met each other. The way you said Frank seemed like an interesting character, and you were that way and that it was a time of possibilities ... I don't know, that sort of thing was of interest to me. Like maybe talking about the kinds of things that ... what it was like ... what you ...

Steve: Yeah, they study us in history class and it really cracks me up.

Linda: Yeah, (laughs) or maybe how it's different now than then.

Frank: This was San Bernardino.

Linda: Yes.

Frank: There was about 5 ... (Frank sounds)

Linda: 5,000? 500?

Frank: 50 radicals in ...

Steve: ... in the whole Tri-County area (Frank sounds). Yeah, it certainly was a hot bed of political tension, for sure. Yeah. Well, that's the other part of that time, too, is the political thing was somewhat similar to this time. But what was so fundamentally different about that time is we'd come from this whole point ... our society had come from this whole point of ... everybody was really trying to be pretty much the same, you know. The ideals of our parents were to get ahead, succeed, and they'd really done well with it, you know. And these guys came back from the war and they were just like really ready to forget all that misery and horrible shit they'd gone through. Raise some families. Make some money. And, by the way, we'll build this country great while we do it, you know. (Frank sounds) And, God bless their souls, in many ways that they did what they did, even though they totally fucked us later. (Frank giggles) It was ... there was a lot of that. Certainly the post-depression kind of mind-set that their parents had gone through and all that stuff, just made it very industrious, and that's why we created this giant prosperity, right? But, people had their minds very focused in on just that and there was no other real imagination. There was always the beatnik element and various jazz musicians and people like that...

Frank: On purpose ...

Linda: On purpose.

Steve: Yeah, people kept themselves locked in on purpose, is that what you're saying? Yeah, because that's how ... they created the system, like corporate America ... it works because everybody thinks the same (Frank sounds), you know. And if you're really an individual in that, you screw the whole thing up and they throw you out. That's why I never lasted very long working for a hospital. I'm too individual and iconoclastic to stay in a big institution. So anyways, my little point being that when we became more or less of age, you know, like late teenagers, the Vietnam war was beginning to go sour, and people were beginning to take psychedelic drugs. And all of a sudden there was this whole idea that you didn't have to do what your daddy did. You could actually do something completely different. In fact, you could entertain a fantasy of just not even being part of this society at all. You could drop out and live in a tepee up in Taos, New Mexico and eat peyote and roll around in the dirt. And

you could do that for years at an end, and actually travel all over the country and just do that. You know, rather than going and getting a job, finishing your education and getting a job, (clapping to make his points) getting a car, getting married and having ten kids. You could just ... explore things in just an open manner, and there was no fixed agenda, there was no idea exactly about what you were doing except that you were going to go have some fun, you know. And a lot of people wanted to just go have some fun. It wasn't like all that many people, but it was a significant amount. (Frank sounds)

Linda: But, that period ... that feeling of all possibilities, that's what's not now ...

Steve: All of a sudden that opened up. We had opened it up in a very short amount of time, in other words, you know, between '66 and '69, this thing just exploded. Especially up here in the Bay Area, and, all of a sudden everybody's going, God, you're my brother, we can ... together we can bring peace to the world, we can feed the hungry, we can do all this stuff. And people were really excited about it, because they never even really thought about it. Their parents hadn't even ... I mean, always somebody has, you know. But as a movement it didn't really ... it wasn't like that. And it was a marvelously completely anarchistically non-structured movement, you know. But at the same time a whole political agenda was beginning to emerge. The whole thing about the war and corporate institutions and how the world was getting poisoned by the policies and the mind-sets of the people that were running these corporations began to really sink in. Not only was it because of people's awareness but also science was beginning to catch up to that. Science was beginning to realize, hey, there's cadmium in the water and all the fish are going belly up! And that science had not really happened that much before. You see, I also studied science, that's what I studied when I went to college. I ended up with a degree in biochemistry (Frank sounds). I think about things scientifically and that ...

Frank: Which is news ...

Linda: News to you? (laughs, Frank sounds) Frank didn't know that!

Steve: Yeah, well that's what I ended up with at the university ... I went to U.N.M. (University of New Mexico) to study art and music, OK, and I ended up with a degree in biochemistry. Go figure! Anyway, yeah, so. The political thing started to come in and a lot of people got politically active. I mean, this horrible war was happening. We had the awareness that you didn't have to go to war. You could burn your draft card. Hey buddy we burned ...

Linda: You guys did that!

Steve: We burned our draft cards. Went and hassled the Marines and ...

Frank: I got other guys to burn theirs too ...

Linda: With you.

Steve: Yeah. Here we are out in this little funky little campus, in the middle of nowhere. Redneck filled to the max. And we're still up there burning our cards. You know, we had our little SDS group. And we had a little political thing. They even tried to infiltrate us. It was hysterical. You know, there's five of us, you know. And some other guy comes and he's like (Linda laughing) hey, what's happening? You going to bomb the world? Yeah man, we're

going for it, yeah.

Frank: They tapped ...

Linda: Tapped your phones?

Steve: Yeah, I know, it's just like, you guys ... and you know, that's one thing that's funny, actually, it's funny, sad. These days they're going right back to that. They want to tap everybody's phone, you know. And the thing is is that, what we talked about is it's just stupid, you know, there's really nothing there and yet, that's part of the dichotomy that started happening then. A small amount of people that think in a very holistic way. They thought the world is all one thing. The people are all one people, and that you could create some sort of harmony within that situation. It's not an old concept, but it was new to have it as a primary focus for your life ... for Americans at least, OK. And that's what most people could not maintain ... was that truly holistic attitude. (Frank sounds) It stayed ... a lot of the people ended up having, maybe not even through a choice of their own, had to leave it behind. Because they ended up getting jobs in corporate America, and threw the surfboard into the garage. And now, drive a car, and run around and go ... man, we had some fun back then, but boy, I'll tell you, my kids are going to college. So, you know, it's easy and that's what happened is that ... to the movement in general. You get co-opted by economic pressures and the force of, you know, the actual force of civilization.

Frank: Louise linked us to an extended family of changers that go way back.

Linda: Changers? An extended family of changers. (Frank sounds)

Steve: Yeah, Father George, remember him ... he was our ... the local priest. (Frank sounds) (Steve laughs) Of course, he was a gay priest ... he picked on guys, not boys. (laughing)

Frank: Don't tell the women who gave him money that ...

Linda: That he was gay!

(Steve laughs)

Steve: Yeah, he was a handsome devil. (laughing) (Frank sounds)

Linda: Do I have anything else I want to know? Nothing's coming to me. Mikee ... Erika?

Mikee: You could tell the story of the Marines, because people may not have heard that one. That's a good one.

Steve: Yeah, that was back in San Bernardino, back on campus there, and the Marine recruiters were there ... had their little place on campus, so then of course, I had to wheel Frank in there. He says, I want to sign up! And they're like, yeah, right! And the guy was getting all insulted, huffy.

Frank: I (Frank sounds) want to do my part! (Frank screams)

(laughing)

Steve: Yeah, that was funny. (Linda laughing) This guy was just having such a hard time with the whole process! (Frank screaming and laughing. Linda laughing) Talking to Frank is like

... you know, talking to Frank! And he just, you know, this guy was just not ready for this yet at all.

Frank: Don't you want me?

Steve: Yeah, and he's just (makes sounds). (laughing) So finally this guy just like spits out, but what can you do?!

Linda: That's what the guy said to Frank?

Steve: Yeah, what can you do? You know.

Frank: I can ...

Linda: (laughing) Push the button.

Steve: Push the button. (laughing) The guy just like ... ah, get out of here. (laughing) He didn't like that one at all. And of course, laughing hysterically.

Linda: You're just standing there ... you're making him spell Frank out and everything?

Steve: Oh yeah, make it as hard as possible! (laughing)

Frank: I ran for president ...

Steve: Of the college? Yeah. What I liked was like, Frank would be sitting there and a sorority girl kind of girl, she would come and she'd be like, oh poor Frank, and she'd feel obliged to sit and chat and he'd just get his hand ... (gestures) (laughing, Steve makes a screeching sound) she can't slap him, it was great.

Linda: You're watching all this?

Steve: I'm rolling on the floor, laughing is what I'm doing. (laughs)

Linda: So, tell us more of what you thought of Frank.

Steve: Well you know, I've always ... I thought Frank was just a thoroughly interesting character. I started talking to him and I realized he had a real great wit, you know, he was really humorous and I like humorous people. Also, he was genuinely searching. He had some really burning questions in his mind about what it was and what it wasn't and why it is and why it wasn't. I guess that's one of the things that most attracted me to you (Frank sound) was the fact that you just really really wanted to know, you know. And it was really ... and had this real hunger for experience of all kinds. That's why I took him out and crashed and burned him on the side of the mountain. (laughing) Come on, man, you want to try something? I did this all the time, but, you know, you might as well too, just to see what it's like. And so, I got interested in that project, you know. So that's why I psychedelized him and things like that. The other thing I like about Frank was that here's this guy with disabilities and what not and he just didn't make a big deal out of it, you know. What it taught me was, you are who you are and what you got is what you got. We used to boogie to the song, one thing you can't hide is when you're crippled inside. You know what I mean? It's like OK, look at you now. And, our mutual friend, Jackie, say twenty years ago she looked old. Well, she was crippled inside and I knew it back then. I could just tell, this poor girl ... and I'm sure she looks old



Frank Moore and Stephen Emanuel (video capture)

'cause she's care-worn. She just worried herself ... she probably worried herself to death by now. Some people just got worry in the brain, it's a biochemical abnormality or something. And you're like Alfred E. Neuman, what me worry?! What the hell, you know. (laughing)

Frank: Why?

Steve: Why? Yeah, I'll tell you what. Very little I find important enough to really get worried about. (laughing)

Frank: Hey, it is fun!

Steve: Fun is what it's all about. And that's the thing, I think a lot of people, and certainly our parents didn't have enough fun. And I think a lot of kids these days aren't having enough fun. The kind of fun they're having is really limited.

Frank: Did you read about Ramen?

Linda: Oh, did you read the thing Frank sent out about what happened ...

Steve: (laughing) Oh yeah ...

Linda: About those kids running home to their parents ...

Steve: Yeah, well, that's what I mean, you know. OK. These kids have spent ... they're like what 18 ...

Linda: Well, the one kid was a senior in high school, the others were like in their early twenties!
(Frank sounds)

Steve: OK, but, still, so alright ...

Linda: They're not that young!

Steve: They're not that young, but still, the world they've grown up in ... what they've seen ... they probably watched on television, twenty thousand people get shot with hand guns. But on television they probably ... maybe they saw Janet Jackson's breast, OK? But, it's so funny that our culture is so obsessed with sex and violence, (Frank sounds) but violence anybody can see. But sex is something is that just ... and nudity ... a naked breast! Oh my God! When you girls walk down the street with your shirt off, cars crash into each other, because everybody is like, oh my God, there's tits on the street (laughing) ... to me, it's just like ... I like to read anthropology. I was staying at my aunt's house and she's got this marvelous library full of all kinds of real books. And I've been reading about these people in the Amazon, a tribe in the Amazon, from anthropologists they are seeing these people in the '20s and '30s. So these are unspoiled natives, they haven't been co-opted by civilization... these are the first white cats to see these people. Their take on sexuality and their take on how kids experience sexuality ... this one tribe, you know (Frank sounds), if a kid by age fourteen, if a young man by fourteen hasn't bonked somebody yet he is just ruthlessly teased by his father and his uncles and everybody else and all the other girls and everybody else. Like, come on! They live in one hut, and they sleep in the same hammocks and the kids are used to their parents making love all the time. Or they'll be walking through the forest and there is Uncle Joe doing his third wife, you know. (laughing) They do it underneath the trees because (Frank sounds) they feel that if you have sex underneath the fruit trees the fruit's better, you know? (Frank sounds, laughing)

Linda: Wow.

Steve: Our society is like ... you look at advertising ... There's three quarters of a tit everywhere but you can't see that nipple, by God, and if you do, you better run out the door and go tell mommy because that's bad for you.

Frank: And no one asked, why?

Linda: No one asked why ... why we were doing what we were doing ... ? No ...

Frank: None asked why ...

Linda: Oh, in our culture? (Frank sounds)

Frank: A ...

Linda: You can't see a nipple? (Frank sounds) Nobody asks why, everybody just accepts that.

Steve: Right, nobody asks why, everybody just accepts it. If you go to, like Europe or Sweden or southern France, all women sunbathe without their tops on. It's no big deal. Guys don't stub their toes walking down the sand just because some broad shows her breast (laughing) ... never happened to me.

Linda: So people don't even question that. Everybody just accepts that that's the way it is.

Steve: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. The American culture is so funny that way. Because we're so obsessed with sex and yet, if the real thing comes along, most people cannot handle that. Especially in the wrong context, you know. In a theater, a lot of people just can't handle it!

Frank: They ran ...

Linda: Yeah, they ran, literally, they literally ran, literally run. (laughing) (Frank sounds)

Steve: And if you're Ozzy Osbourne and you're biting the head off a bat on stage, they probably would have stayed.

Linda: Right, yeah, that's right. (Frank sounds)

Steve: So, it's just like, OK!

Frank: I never got the lines ...

Linda: You never got the lines, between what's OK and what's not OK. (Frank sounds)

Steve: Yeah, well I never got the lines either. And what was fun about back then (Frank sounds) ... I don't want to wax nostalgic or anything but ... (laughing) ... the lines were a lot looser. The lines were a lot further apart. People for a brief period were very experimental with their sexuality and relationships and you could just boff somebody in a night, just be friends the next day, and a bowl of granola ... and maybe you see them again a few weeks later, maybe you boff them again or not, but it was a free and easy kind of thing. And there was not a big, heavy, emotional overlay to a lot of the sexuality. But like I say, most people just couldn't maintain that kind of sense of freedom and got locked into thinking ... you start having kids and you need a job and lalala ... and it wears people down. And most people, fundamentally weren't that changed. (Frank sounds) They really went back to what they'd known before. Then there's the lunatic fringe of us that still seem to like ... fringe around ... (laughing)

Linda: That kept going from there.

Steve: Yeah, right. I think of myself, you know, OK, well what am I like now? Am I much different than that? Well, OK, I work harder now. I got a steadier job. But, it's the same kind of job (laughs). And I basically feel the same way about things. OK, I got a steady girlfriend, and I don't boff every girl I meet, but I might still want to, you know. (laughing) (Frank sounds) But, intrinsically I feel that people should be open and I feel that people should embrace different kinds of expressions of sexuality and different ways of living. And I think, up here in Berkeley you guys got a nice little bubble going here and you can do all kinds of things in Berkeley that you can't do in Ohio.

Frank: Not really.

Linda: I mean it's conservative here too, compared to what it used to be.

Steve: Yeah, I know, but still ...

Linda: He's comparing it to other places ... (Frank sounds)

Steve: Like, I mean there's a lot of openly lesbian couples, or openly gay couples, that live and own homes and have jobs and pick each other up and have their kids and take them to

school and all that kind of stuff (Frank sounds, Linda saying “yeah”) and they’re not getting beat up on the way. You try that in Laramie, Wyoming and it just doesn’t quite play as well.

Linda: Right, right ... (Frank sounds)

Steve: Despite *Brokeback Mountain*.

(laughing)

Linda: What? Well, I guess there were things that popped into my head. The idea of the freedom and the possibilities and stuff and, oh fear! That was the word that popped into my head! ‘Cause it seems like there’s a lot of fear now (Frank sounds) and that was something that was not there.

Steve: Well, OK, yeah, the fear thing ...

Frank: Like I could hitchhike across ...

Linda: ... the country.

Steve: Yeah, people were certainly ... there was a lot more trust and there was more opportunities to trust and people got away with it a lot more. And you could trust people and they usually didn’t fuck you over so much.

Linda: Right.

Steve: And, certainly, I hitchhiked up and down this coast and all over the place all the time ...

Linda: I did too, by myself, all the time.

Steve: Most of it was a really, really wonderful experience. Certainly society these days is ... the increasing polarization that’s happened now in these thirty, forty years, and the huge gap that’s now stretched between the rich and poor. And the incredible difference of what’s real opportunity and what isn’t. The desperation that has become standard for so many people, has just changed that whole equation completely. And when I look at ... I hang out with a lot of young people in their twenties and thirties ... are some of the people I hang around the most these days (Frank sounds) and they didn’t get to have this kind of fun. Many of them are really, really, very nice sweet people with their heads screwed on really nicely. And the college kids, college kids will always be college kids, thank God. (laughing) But, they never got to have the innocence and love and peace and freedom situation that we had there for four or five years, where everything was just like, wow, it’s so nice!

(Frank sounds)

Linda: Yeah, OK, so ... it’s time for the jam!

Frank: We could do this again sometime.

Steve: Yeah, I think so. I’m interested in it. And I’m going to be a grandpa in like August. And I think about grandkids and the kind of world that they’re coming up in. It’s up to us to try and make it nice, you know. (Frank sounds) Forces of evil, the Axis of Evil are working overtime, but the thing is the microcosms that we create is what really makes it all happen.

Linda: Absolutely.

Steve: Everything reflects out of that. And if you got enough little tiny groovy bubbles, they get to be bigger and bigger groovy bubbles.

Frank: Yes, that is how we see it.

Linda: That's totally how we see it. We have to live the kind of life that we want things to be and that's affecting everything else.

Frank: Piss and jam! (laughing)

Linda: OK, don't go anywhere! We're going to piss and jam! (laughing)