

Janis Kozlowski: So did you spend a whole 10 months in that...?

Walter Andersen: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Wow.

Walter Andersen: We had six guys there and there was never a harsh word spoken. There was never any hard feelings, it was just a great bunch of guys. We all got along well.

Janis Kozlowski: That's pretty incredible, don't you think? A bunch of young guys, sort of isolated like that?

Walter Andersen: Yes. In fact, they told us that the Coast Guard when they have isolated duty like that they don't keep you more than six months. [laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: Yes, that's a long time to throw a bunch of people together.

Walter Andersen: Yes, especially a small group like that. But we got along just fine.

Janis Kozlowski: Were you all about the same age?

Walter Andersen: Yes. 19 to 20s, 21 maybe, I think, the radio tech was 21 maybe.

Janis Kozlowski: He was the old man, huh? [both laughing] So, what did you guys do to pass the time when you weren't working?

Walter Andersen: Oh, we did a lot of nutty things. [laughing]

One time, a piece of plywood came in on the beach, there was snow on the ground then, and we thought we could make a toboggan out of that thing. So we ... that night the moon was ... it was clear and the moon came out and the mountain was beautiful. So we ... there was three of us went up there and we started down. We got the toboggan – this piece of plywood – up on the side of the mountain and we started going down, we jumped on this thing and started going down. We were going 100 miles an hour. [both laughing] The thing tipped over and we knocked this one guy ... we just punched him into the snow and we went further and we tipped over and fell. And we looked back, we couldn't see this other guy – I can't remember his name.

But anyway, the corpsman was with us, it was myself and that other guy. We went back up there and he says, "I think my leg's broken." This other corpsman looks at him and he says, "Your legs not broken. We're gonna tie you to the plywood board and get you down the mountain." We tied him on [laughing] and we got down.

Right in back of the huts was a cliff like going up. So we had to get him over the cliff, that 50 foot drop. We got a piece of rope and hung it up there. We started letting him over the side [laughing] and the knot came untied [laughing]. You could hear this guy screaming going down [both laughing]. He was tied to the board, he couldn't get off.

Janis Kozlowski: So if he wasn't hurt before then he probably was after that drop, eh?

Walter Andersen: [laughing] He was so angry. We were afraid to untie him. [both laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: Until he cooled off!

Walter Andersen: Yes, it was all crazy things like that.

Janis Kozlowski: Just young guy stuff, huh?

Walter Andersen: Yes.