

*Dewey Livingston:* Now when you first dived did you think like Dr. Schmieder did that you were the first ones to be diving there? Or had that already been proven false?

*Don Dvorak:* Well I missed my chance to be on the first team. I was in the Grand Canyon – those guys were really envious of me.

*Elaine Dvorak:* Are you referring to the holes?

*Dewey Livingston:* Yes.

*Sue Estey:* I think we both went diving before they found the holes

*Don Dvorak:* Yeah, I just wasn't there. But my dive, again, was on the third year, and when I went down I didn't get down to the bottom for the first time and sit there and reflect, "I am here. I am here where few people have been." That didn't even cross my mind. My mind was pre-programmed: take pictures, watch your narcosis, stay alive, come back. And that was, again, the most important thing to me. Later on I had time to reflect, I've been there. Only a few divers have been there, and I had an opportunity that most don't have. But again, being the first was not the most important thing for me, it was my opportunity to help describe Cordell Bank.

*Elaine Dvorak:* I think when they found the holes it was a surprise, that obviously somebody had been there with some more advanced equipment that *Cordell Explorer* had. That was before *Cordell Explorer* even. And Bob went to the Navy something or other – he went somewhere and tried to find out about that and then that door closed. And they weren't saying anything. But apparently it had something to do with submarines and being able

[1:25:00]

to – they didn't want the Soviets to be able to have a submarine out there. And so they had some kind of equipment that they had bored into the rocks there. That's the best we know. And I don't know what is known about that now, whether they've ever come clean and said, "Yeah, we did this." But that was a big surprise to find that. Evidently the Navy had been there.

*Jennifer Stock:* They probably weren't looking at it like you were, though.

*Sue Estey:* No, they probably had a more practical point of view.

*Don Dvorak:* National defense.