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Anna Patterson [00:00:10] Yeah. I worked for the European Exchange Service in Germany. It was on a military base, in a snack bar. There was a short order cook. And there, all my life, when I grew up, I had an experience with. When we were refugees, with American soldiers, giving a Christmas party for the children, that, I was so impressed with that, I want to, always wanted to go to America. So when I worked for the European Exchange Service, I met a guy there, a sergeant, and he said, "I heard you want to go to America." And I said, "Yeah, I always did." And he said, "Well. If you want to, really want to go, I have a sister, in Montana, she has a motel. She could sponsor you, and give you a job." So that's what was required at that time. You had to have a sponsor and a job. So, and I didn't know he was serious, but then I get to know him, and know him about a year, after that, and his sister wrote to me, and, so I decided I would do it. But I had two children, prior to that, so my mother said, "Go, and see how it is. If you like it, if you settle down, then come back and get your kids." So. I went. It took about six months. I went to the American Consulate in Frankfurt, got all the papers, and you have to go through, at that time, that was in '61. At that time, it was very, uh. You have to have a good clean record, no police record, or anything. You have to be healthy. So if they have, we had a physical, and everything. So there were about three hundred applicants, but only 30 visas. And I was lucky enough to have one. So I came to America, landed in New York. My sponsor was supposed to pick me up at six o'clock in the morning, and got there, and I sat at the airport, for 4:00 in the afternoon. Until you finally got there. So. We went from New York, in a Karmann Ghia, in January. All the way to Billings, Montana. And that's a, another, too long a story. But I married the guy. And we went to South Carolina, where he was stationed. I don't know if you know the military base there. Is it Fort Harrison?

Jim Thull [00:02:59] It might be. Off the top, I don't know, yeah.

Anna Patterson [00:03:03] I don't remember. I only was there a year. So then he went back, he went to Korea. And.

Jim Thull [00:03:09] So this would've been the '50s, early '50s?

Anna Patterson [00:03:13] In the '60s.

Jim Thull [00:03:14] Oh this was in the '60s.

Anna Patterson [00:03:16] Yeah. '61.

Jim Thull [00:03:16] OK.

Anna Patterson [00:03:17] So he went to Korea. And I'm sitting there, you know. But his sister called. I've worked in the cafeteria at the time, and this man doesn't, didn't do anything. I mean, I had to work to live. I had no money, nothing. So I decided that wasn't for me, so I went to Billings, and I worked at the motel for another year. For a year. And then, there was no chance to get my children. So I thought, 'No they're my responsibility.' So when she sold the motel, that was his sister, when she sold the motel, we moved, she moved to Livingston. Her husband had the Golden Pheasant Saloon, there. And in the back, was a cafe. So I worked in the cafe. In the meantime I put in for a divorce, I divorced him. And there I met my husband. My second husband. And I worked at the cafe for a while, and then I got married again, after divorce, then that's it. I stayed here, in Livingston. And I stayed home with my children. He sent me back, right away. We were married three

months. He said, "You, go get your children." And he was father. He just took 'em, like his own children. That was very, very lucky to meet him. He was the best man I ever, you have to know, my upbringing, and everything. To know that I had a hard childhood. Because I lived through a war, abusive father. And we have bombs, every day, air raids. We all lived, practically lived in bomb shelters. We had to wear a gas mask around our necks, when we were little. And when I met Bill, that. It was a different life, different life. He was very kind man. So I stayed home ten years, and took care of my children, and did other things. Volunteer works, and, you know, got involved in Scouts, and all this stuff, children go through. So then, somebody said, "You know, why don't you apply at the fly shop?" She worked there. She said, "It's a real fun thing." And I'd never heard of a fly, before. So I went down there, and I talked to Louise Monaco. Who was the manager, at the time. Her husband, Rhett Monaco, was part owner, with Dan Bailey. So I went down, and I had a take a test, and I did, and I passed it. And so I tied, start tying flys, for 22 years. And it was the most wonderful experience. There were 25 women, but I cannot tell you. We were all friends. There was never disagreements, major disagreements, we disagreed here and there, but never any major disagreements between us. And we enjoyed our job, and everybody had a list that we tied. I tied dry flies, which was caddis' and wulffs, all the wulff patterns. And trudes, and sofa pillows, and things like that. And another one had all the muddlers, and the streamers. I could never spin hair. Never was my thing. So, yeah, I did that for 22 years, and then, towards... When Dan died, John started importing. So I started dying material, and packaging material, and we met a lot of people. We even made a movie, in 1974 there was a movie, with Jeff Bridges and Sam Waterston, and, I think Elizabeth Astrid was in there too. And that was an experience, we didn't know what kind of movie it was, because all, they just came in the fly shop, you know, came in as it, was a, not a very nice. Was not a very nice movie. But anyway, it was exciting, at the time. So that was one experience, and then, my sister died, and I went to Germany, and John Bailey called me, and he said, "Anna, I didn't want you to come back, I want you to know, I had let everybody go." Because, there wasn't enough work for us to do. And I had an idea, because there wasn't. I started cleaning, and did other odd jobs there. So I knew it was happen, but he was very kind to me. He'd give me vacation pay, and everything. So, I'm very grateful to him. He was very good to me. So. And then... My husband died. And, I have... Bill and I had a son, we have a son, that was diagnosed with schizophrenia. And I battled that.... And I can't even explain, I still got holes in my doors here, where his fist went in. He never raised his hand against me. Never. But he would destroy my property, and I had to call the police, many, many times. And they put him on a medication, called Adderall, which was very, very bad. And I couldn't get him off. You know, when when you have... He wasn't a child, he was in his 20s, when it start, really started going. You know, I knew there was something wrong when he was 10, but when he was 20, he was real bad. So I couldn't get him off, because I'm the mother, and I didn't have any say, in his life. He was an adult. And there was mental health, until, this is years, I don't know what is set, what you want to know. Kinda. So he met a girl. She was bipolar. So the two got married, and he was OK for a while. He went off the Adderall, but then he went on a different kind of medication, and I can't tell you what it is. I don't know. Then that was bad. He got paranoid and things like that. Then they were married three years and they had a baby. And they weren't allowed to raise her. They brought her here, and I had here, and, you know, I didn't even know if my landlord would allow it. They had two dogs, they had him and her and the baby. So I had this baby. I had this baby for 14 months. When she started walking, they said I couldn't keep her anymore, because I was too old. And I would've tried. But I realized that I was too old, for a little child, it starts running and you have to be there every second. And because I raised three children, so I know. And then the my daughter-in-law's mother, who lives in Washington. She's only 62 years old. So they said, well she's young enough to do it in. But Washington has a different law

there. So they tried, she tried it, and they turned her down. After she went through all fingerprinting, and I went through all that too, I went to Bozeman every night, for school, you know, to be a foster parent. And then they told me I was too old, like they didn't know that before. But anyway, they turned Judy down. Then Bethany's sister-- she was going to go in foster care--and I pray. Believe me, I'm a believer in God. I prayed and I said, "God please. I don't know what to do. Please take over." And he did. Bethany's sister, who's my daughter-in-law, but her sister said, "I'll take her." She lives in Billings. She's only 36 years old. And so they allowed her to take her. And in the last year, she put in the papers, and she is now adopted by her aunt.

Jim Thull [00:12:58] Well, that's wonderful.

Anna Patterson [00:12:59] So she's away from the state. She's in the family. And I tell you what, this little girl brought this whole family together, who didn't talk to each other, before. They're all supportive.

Jim Thull [00:13:16] Well, that's lovely.

Anna Patterson [00:13:17] Yeah. They're all, you know, together.

Jim Thull [00:13:19] That's great.

Anna Patterson [00:13:26] No, not much.

Jim Thull [00:13:27] You must have been quite young.

Anna Patterson [00:13:29] Not much, because I was, yeah ,very little. But I remember going to school, and the middle of the school we were trained, we were trained. Air raid. You can hear it. You know, the sirens went off, all over town. You stood up, you take your gas mask, which was in the desk, hang it around your neck. Step out. Go down to the bomb shelter. And there, we continued our lesson, until the air raid was over. Then we went upstairs to school. We were at home at night, when the air raid was at night. We had training suits, it's like, dropping suit, training suits, we use for pajamas. Because we didn't have time. Out of the bed. Little suitcase. There was a blanket in there, and my doll, had to take my doll. And were out on the street, the bus, sit there. All the villagers, that was our little village in, we were in Austria. Vienna, outside of Vienna. Vina Neudorf. All on the bus, took us to the mountain, and there was a cave, huge cave. And we were all in there, until the air raid was over. And you could hear... I can still hear it. When a bomb come down, it whistles. It goes *whistles.* And then it's quiet. Just a few seconds before it hits. And it's quiet, and then it hits, and you get boom, you know? After that, my brother and I went out and picked up shrapnel. That's what we played with. Shrapnel from the bomb. Was silver, and then heat shaped it and, you know, children imagine things, like that, yeah. But that wasn't the worst of it. In 1945, we had to leave. We had to leave Austria.

Jim Thull [00:15:32] And this would've been British or American bombers?

Anna Patterson [00:15:37] I think it was American. I wrote a story, and it was published.

Jim Thull [00:15:42] Oh, wow.

Anna Patterson [00:15:42] If you wanna see that.

Jim Thull [00:15:43] Thank you.

Anna Patterson [00:15:45] In the good old days. That kind of tells you what happens, after we had to leave.

Jim Thull [00:15:56] Oh, the Russians were coming?

Anna Patterson [00:15:58] Yeah. Yeah. So we had to leave, and join the whole. There were hundreds of people. We could take nothing. They told us, you can't take it. I, at the time I had TB. I was very ill, and I was in a little wooden wagon. I remember that my sister Paolo pulled it. And the doctor-- we'd stayed at barns and stuff, overnight. It was in March, it was cold--The doctor told my mother, "You keep back. Don't tell anybody she has TB. Because, tell 'em there she has pneumonia. Because then you quarantine, and you can't continue with people." So I was. I remember that part, that I was very sick, but I didn't know what I, that I ever had TB. I didn't know that. You know how I found out? When here in America, I went to the doctor for a physical. I had a, I don't want to say whooping... Bronchitis. Bronchitis. And I was X-rayed and stuff. And my doctor told me, he said. "Did you ever have TB?" And I said, "I don't know. You know, when I was, I remember I was very sick when we were on the road. From Austria to Bavaria." So I called my mother, and she said yes. But she never told me, you know, it wasn't important to know afterwards, anyway. So I don't, I can't tell you how I got over it. But we went to Bavaria, and right away, when we arrived there, we were checked in a hospital. Because we were on the road for three weeks, and no washing. We had same clothes, for three weeks. And there was hardly enough water to drink on the way. You know, we, there were station, Red Cross stations, that had soup. If you were lucky, you were one of the first ones, because they kept watering it down to, so you had something warm. It was in March. It was, and I remember that when we got to Bavaria they opened all the schools. They put cots in every classroom, because, so the people could have a roof over their head. You know, it was cold at the time, in Bavaria. And I remember, like I can see it in my mind, when the soldiers came. American soldiers came in. And they threw gum at us. I never. And I couldn't understand why we couldn't chew that, we chewed on it and chewed on it, why, why. And I finally swallowed it. We didn't know you're not supposed to do that. But that was my first gum. My experience with gum. But after that, there was nothing to eat. They couldn't feed all the people. So my little brother and I, we went from farm to farm, begging for food. And sometimes it took some 6 in the morning, and we got home at midnight. And I was only 10. 10 or 11 years old, and he was 8. He was just a little stick in the. There was nothing on him, and we begging for food, and then we went to the base, military bases. And stood outside the mess hall. And when the soldiers come out, what they had left on their mess kit, we scraped it, we had a bucket, we scrape it. And that's what we lived on. And also, in September, and things, when, when the harvest came, you picked up apples, and we went in the fields, to dig up potatoes. It didn't have machines then, you know, we'd dig, dig deep. And we went along the railroad tracks to pick up coal that fell off the coal train. So my brother wasn't allowed on the tracks, because he was too little. So he pulled the wagon, and I picked up, and put in the bucket, and then put it in the wagon, until we had enough, and then the thing was, we had to bring something home. We were beaten up every day. I can still can remember when I tried to scream. My two older sisters, left early, they got married, to get out of that house. But my brother and I, we were stuck. We were little. So we tried very hard to get, you know, bring something home so he, our father was happy with it, and that's how we grew up. And I have to tell you a terrible thing. When he died, I was hired out as a slave. It was a slave. At a restaurant, a bed and breakfast, and I did all the work, I was the only. I was 16 years old. And I worked from 6:00 in the morning till 10:00 at night. And, when he died... My brother told me this, about six years ago. He

said, "I have to tell you something." I said, "What?" And he said, "I went to the funeral home, and I made sure he was dead." And that was the awful thing, you know. I said, "You touched him?" And he said, "Yes, I did. I want to make sure he was dead." That's how bad it was.

Jim Thull [00:22:26] Yeah.

Anna Patterson [00:22:27] So there's an idea.

Anna Patterson [00:22:33] Yeah. You know something, I was very religious when I was little. I had the stories of Jesus. Can I show you something?

Jim Thull [00:22:44] Certainly.

Anna Patterson [00:22:45] Yeah. I had the story of Jesus, it did little books, and I could read when I was five years old, and I... And my mother, had told, had told me that Jesus loves the children, and he takes care of them. And I believed that. And I was never afraid because I said, "Jesus takes care of me, so nothing will happen to me." But [unintelligible].

Jim Thull [00:23:18] So you weren't afraid about the U.S. soldiers coming in?

Anna Patterson [00:23:20] No. No. You know, at that time, I found out that they were giving a Christmas party for the German children. I took my brother and we went there. It's in the, in the, I wrote this story that.

Jim Thull [00:23:35] I'll read that, yeah, that looks intersting.

Anna Patterson [00:23:38] That impressed me so much. But we went. And we didn't know Santa Claus, in Germany there is Christkind, Christkind. And there is an angel with long blonde hair, and she gives you a present but it comes from the Christ child. The Christkind. So we didn't know about Santa Claus. But when he came, there was kind of scary, you know. But he opened this big sack, he had there, and each got a brown paper bag. And there was the idea, late, at the time we didn't think about that, but later on, I thought the idea of these soldiers putting together all the cookies and the candy, to be that kind to the children, because they realized, you know, the children had nothing to do with that war. We didn't know what was going on anyway. So we had a bad time growing up, but they didn't have to do that. But they did. You know? We had. And this, a pencil with the eraser on it. We never seen one before. And I cannot tell you, that I think that was the best gift in all my life, that I ever got. Was this pencil, with the eraser on it. As a child. Now, here is a picture of when I was little, a year and a half.

Jim Thull [00:25:21] Oh, yeah, look at that.

Anna Patterson [00:25:22] And that's my two sisters, with the big propeller on their head, and my mother my father. And there's two ladies that were feeding the swan, so I don't know who they are.

Jim Thull [00:25:31] Oh, lovely.

Anna Patterson [00:25:34] And this my first communion.

Jim Thull [00:25:41] Oh yeah, you must have been about six or seven I guess?

Anna Patterson [00:25:45] I was only six.

Jim Thull [00:25:46] Okay.

Anna Patterson [00:25:47] I went to the priest, and I said, "I want to receive Jesus in my heart." I told him, my mother told me, and this my first communion. I had a sponsor.

Jim Thull [00:26:00] Well that is lovely, yeah.

Jim Thull [00:26:02] And I was 12 at the time.

Jim Thull [00:26:06] Well, that's great. Those are great pictures.

Anna Patterson [00:26:08] So that helped, that help, my religion helped me, through a lot of things. Especially with my son. You know, I prayed and God took care of it. He's okay now.

Jim Thull [00:26:21] Good.

Anna Patterson [00:26:22] He's okay now, and he gets along with his wife. And actually this Saturday, we go and see... We get to see her once a month.

Jim Thull [00:26:30] The daugh- your granddaughter?

Anna Patterson [00:26:32] Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:26:32] Lovely.

Anna Patterson [00:26:33] Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:26:33] Well, that's wonderful.

Anna Patterson [00:26:34] And she knows us. And she doesn't cry anymore. She never. Because she knows we're coming back, and she knows her aunt loves her, her aunt loves her. So it's okay if we take her, and ok we bring her back. She's just happy. Happy little girl.

Jim Thull [00:26:51] Well, that's all you can ask for.

Anna Patterson [00:26:52] Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:26:54] That's wonderful.

Anna Patterson [00:26:55] I said, I can die in peace. I won't worry about her. Because, I wrote a journal for her. My life story for her, and put all the pictures I had. Unfortunately, I had a picture of the pope that I took, Pope John Paul. And I put it all in her memory box, her aunt has it. And I had pictures of my great-grandparents, and my grandparents, and my mother. I didn't have a picture of my father, but my mother. And also my, my husband, my brother, his family. My sisters and their families. And my nephews and nieces, and their families. And my two sons and their families. And I had a grandchild, my first grandchild I got when I was 39 years old. And her parents got married when they were

teenagers. They're still married. They're 44 years now, married. He went to Saudi Arabia for 35 years.

Jim Thull [00:28:02] Wow.

Anna Patterson [00:28:03] And he just got a government job, doing the same thing he did in Saudi. Electricity. Is there a Douglas dam, in Washington? Do you know?

Jim Thull [00:28:14] I'm not sure. It sounds familiar.

Anna Patterson [00:28:16] The biggest dam in America.

Jim Thull [00:28:19] OK.

Anna Patterson [00:28:20] Yeah. He works. He got a job. Sixty two years old, he got a job. That's wonderful. But my little girl, I had her when she was little, because they were kids, they didn't know what to do. But I had her until she was what 6 years old? And she died, two years ago, of breast cancer and it spread. She was in remission. She was sick for three years. So. And I wanted to be with her, she was in Bremerton, Washington. But I couldn't. If I'd have left, they would have taken Anastasia, and put it her foster care, because I had to be here. She couldn't be with her parents. You know. One of her parent always here, always. But. So I know she, she died in peace. She told her dad, "Don't cry for me. I." She, you know, "I had a good life, so far." And she had hair down to here. And she had it cut, and gave it to Locks of Love.

Jim Thull [00:29:27] Well, that's lovely.

Anna Patterson [00:29:29] Beautiful hair. Yeah. So I had, you know, I had a good time with her. And the good thing was, two years ago, before she died in December, and we were in Germany, in August. She insisted she wanted to go with her mother, we were in Washington, so I got to see her one more time.

Jim Thull [00:29:53] Wonderful.

Anna Patterson [00:29:54] So, and I got to hug her. You know?

Jim Thull [00:29:57] Well, that's always. That's good. That's good that you had that.

Anna Patterson [00:29:58] Yeah. So I have peace with her, too.

Anna Patterson [00:30:07] The Royal Wulf, I tie a dozen an hour. 12 flies an hour.

Jim Thull [00:30:13] So about six minutes, a fly, roughly? Five minutes a fly?

Anna Patterson [00:30:17] Yeah. About. Yeah. Five minutes.

Jim Thull [00:30:22] Ok.

Anna Patterson [00:30:22] Yeah. when you when you do it every day, so you know about this, Graydon Hilyard, that's writing the book?

Jim Thull [00:30:30] No.

Anna Patterson [00:30:31] No?

Jim Thull [00:30:32] That doesn't ring a bell. No. Oh, somebody who's writing a book on. Oh, OK. Maybe I had heard of him, yeah.

Anna Patterson [00:30:37] That was in the article.

Jim Thull [00:30:38] OK. Yeah. Yeah, I did read that. Yep.

Anna Patterson [00:30:40] Yeah. He wanted me that tie him six Royal Trudes. I don't have my, my tools anymore. So Jay Keefer, who works in the museum, he call me ,he say, "Anna, the hatch finder out there." On the highway, you know. He said, and I knew him, he used to come in and watch me tie flies. In the '70s. So he has his own shop, now. And, actually, he gave it over to his daughter, because he's not very well. So he said, "He'll set up for you, so you can tie the six flies." So I went, I went out there, and tied six trudes. And the tying went fine. You know I still, still could do it. But I couldn't see the end of it! When I put the cement on, finish it off, and the cement. I couldn't see it, so I had to use a magnifier. That's the problem now. My eyesight isn't what it was 20 years ago.

Jim Thull [00:31:51] But you still got the motions down.

Anna Patterson [00:31:52] Yes. But I still could tie it. And I knew what, exactly what goes on it. So I, I send it to him, and I apologized, and he sent me this letter. If you wanna read that, what he thought of the flies.

Jim Thull [00:32:09] Oh, sure.

Anna Patterson [00:32:11] Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:32:11] So, did you have a favorite fly to tie?

Anna Patterson [00:32:14] The Royal Wulff.

Jim Thull [00:32:15] That was your favorite?

Anna Patterson [00:32:16] Yes.

Anna Patterson [00:32:18] It was beautiful. And I'm sure the fish didn't care, but the fisherman did.

Anna Patterson [00:32:30] It was.

Jim Thull [00:32:31] Yeah?

Anna Patterson [00:32:31] Yes. You know, we got our. We tied flies all year round. In the wintertime, we got our list. And there were hundreds, hundreds of, dozens of flies. So we were busy all winter. You had over 200 dozen or something, 300 dozen. And then in between, we have like, Bud Lilly store? We tied for his store. And then there was another one, I can't remember his name. Somebody asked me about that, I just can't remember it.

Anna Patterson [00:33:11] Yes. Yeah. We did. Also, Mr. Wulff, I remember.

Jim Thull [00:33:21] Oh, Lee Wulff.

Anna Patterson [00:33:22] Pardon?

Jim Thull [00:33:23] Lee Wulff.

Anna Patterson [00:33:24] Yeah, Lee, Lee Wulff! Yeah, I met him. And he, that really tickled me. He was very impressed with how I tied a Wulff. So that made me really happy.

Anna Patterson [00:33:40] The size 20. Try to get all this stuff on the hook, that is about. You can't see it, about that little. That was hard. And that took longer. It took longer. Because you have to have the tail. Then you put peacock all on it, and then the floss and the peacock herl, and then the calftail, and you'd have to stand it up, and and tie it so it won't, you can't have it bending down. And then you put the hackle on front, hackle. And find hackle that's small. So we had special chicken feathers, some, the capes were good for small flies, because they had this long hackle, and I could tie four flies, little flies, with that. My favorite size was about twelve. Size twelve.

Anna Patterson [00:34:42] We had grizzly. Ok. We had grizzly fur. We had peacock herl, of course, and pheasant. Golden pheasant. And chick- different chicken feathers. You know? They were. And we had, the white chickens I dyed in any color. The same with calf tail I tied, I dyed. The hardest color to dye, the color was chartreuse. That's a mixture of green and yellow. But they get one can of dye from England. And that was just perfect. It was just perfect. Cause you didn't have to come out, and, but we, for a while, we had polar bear. But they were, they couldn't get them anymore. That was, you know, forbidden. But we had elk hair, moose hair, deer hair. Hair mask. Squirrel tails, calf tails, buck tails, moose hair.

Jim Thull [00:35:57] You preferred flying with, tying with feathers over hair?

Anna Patterson [00:36:00] Yes. Feathers and hair. Yeah, all kinds of animal hair.

Jim Thull [00:36:08] You didn't like using the hair as much, though? You preferred the feathers? Is that right?

Anna Patterson [00:36:12] No, the feathers is only for the hackle.

Jim Thull [00:36:15] Oh, OK.

Anna Patterson [00:36:16] That's only goes in the front, on the hackle. And it spreads out, you know, when you, so it looks like a wing. But the body is made with hair. And peacock, and floss, and all kinds. We had a fly tyer, Lita O'Connor. She could tie anything on a hook. She could spin the hair, which I could never do. I don't know why. I just didn't have the knack. You have to have a knack to do some things. And then she cut them, you know, with the scissors. And made shapes out of them, into she tied a, tied a mouse. Which, Dean's daughter, out of the Hatch Finder, she ties, no. He does. He does. He ties mice.

Jim Thull [00:37:04] Good Golly.

Anna Patterson [00:37:06] And they look like a real mouse. I mean, it's unbelievable. Yeah.

Anna Patterson [00:37:17] Well. I really don't know, because I use the same materials, so it just. Came up, you know, and. I don't know. But they had. She had mink. She tied with mink. So.

Anna Patterson [00:37:39] No.

Jim Thull [00:37:41] So you've never actually thrown one of your own flies in the water?

Anna Patterson [00:37:44] No.

Jim Thull [00:37:45] Huh. Did your husband, or children?

Anna Patterson [00:37:47] My husband, yeah. My children, no. Not that I know of. But. We had this guy come in one time, and he was interviewing me, and I didn't know where he was from. I was in the front row, so they always came, you know. So he sit next to me, and he said, "Have you ever use one of your fly to fish?" And I said, "Oh, no. No. I couldn't kill a fish. I could not." I'm a hypocrite. I eat them. I love fish. But I couldn't kill them. Guess what? It was in the National Geographics.

Jim Thull [00:38:22] Oh, really?

Anna Patterson [00:38:22] In 1981. In August.

Jim Thull [00:38:25] Huh.

Anna Patterson [00:38:26] Yeah. There was my name in there. Yeah, that is what I told him, I, no never fished.

Anna Patterson [00:38:39] [phone ringing] Yeah, he did.

Jim Thull [00:38:40] Very nice.

Anna Patterson [00:38:41] He did.

Jim Thull [00:38:43] And did you save any, to, to give to family, or children or grandchildren?

Anna Patterson [00:38:47] No. [phone rings, vocal caller ID sound] No I never did.

Anna Patterson [00:38:54] I should have put that...

Jim Thull [00:38:57] [phone rings] Well, that's okay. If you need to take that, you can.

Anna Patterson [00:39:05] [on phone] Hello? I can't talk to you right now. Can you call me back in about five minutes? Five minutes, 10 minutes. OK, thank you. OK. Bye. Oh this was, this is, can I say that?

Jim Thull [00:39:24] Absolutely.

Anna Patterson [00:39:24] This is a friend I had, because I got involved in theater.

Jim Thull [00:39:29] Ah!

Anna Patterson [00:39:29] I was in several plays, and musicals, and stuff. And he is actually a learned actor. And a long time ago, about 10, 15, 20 years ago. No. Yeah. Around there. I brought him. Can I get up, here?

Jim Thull [00:39:52] Certainly.

Anna Patterson [00:39:52] I brought him lederhosen, and a hat, and a shirt. And he gained so much weight. So, he knows that I'm going to Germany. So he said, "I'll send you some money, would you please bring me a pair of lederhosen, but bigger? Two sizes bigger."

Jim Thull [00:40:13] Oh, look at that. Very nice.

Anna Patterson [00:40:14] So I told him I would. So he said he'd send the money on Tuesday.

Anna Patterson [00:40:25] I met Sandra Day O'Connor.

Jim Thull [00:40:27] Oh really? Ihear she's an avid angler.

Anna Patterson [00:40:30] Yeah and.

Jim Thull [00:40:49] Oh yeah, look at that. Very nice.

Anna Patterson [00:40:53] Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:40:57] That's excellent.

Anna Patterson [00:40:58] She was sworn in, in '81. September 25. And she's the nicest, nicest person.

Jim Thull [00:41:08] Yeah?

Anna Patterson [00:41:09] You know, very friendly, and talked. She wrote to me about four times. And the letters are in my, my son's safe. First she said Mrs. Patterson, then Anna [unintelligible]. And then her daughter, her granddaughter, wrote a book. My Grandma The Justice. And with a ghostwriter, because she's a little girl, she was was, a long time ago. And she wrote in the book, "To the best fly tyer, Anna Patterson." Then she signed it, Sandra Day O'Connor.

Jim Thull [00:41:48] Oh, very nice.

Anna Patterson [00:41:49] And my son has that too.

Jim Thull [00:41:51] That's lovely.

Anna Patterson [00:41:52] Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:41:52] That's lovely, huh.

Anna Patterson [00:41:54] And I'm sure I met a lot of people from New York, and from Sweden, from Norway, from all kinds of places. Yeah. So.

Jim Thull [00:42:06] Well that's wonderful. That sounds great. And well, it sounds like you enjoyed your work there, and got.

Anna Patterson [00:42:14] We did. Yes. We did. And we were friends, right. The ones that have I survived, many, many have died, since. Because they were, when I started there, I was thirty nine, and there were older ladies there, 40s, and because he started that in the '40s.

Jim Thull [00:42:32] Sure.

Anna Patterson [00:42:33] You know? And so they're all gone now. There's about five, that I know of, that are still there.

Jim Thull [00:42:42] Do you ever, do you still stay in touch with some of them?

Anna Patterson [00:42:45] Pardon?

Jim Thull [00:42:45] Do you still stay in touch with anyone?

Anna Patterson [00:42:47] Oh, Yes. Yeah. One in particular, two. Because the other [unintelligible] she's another with Senior Companions. They're the only two in town.

Jim Thull [00:43:00] Ah.

Anna Patterson [00:43:01] That we have. Between us, we have about 10 people who take care of older people. And you know something? That is something that I cherish, because. When I go to bed at night, I reflect on my day, and I think I did something worthwhile. I didn't waste the day.

Jim Thull [00:43:25] Sure. Well that's great.

Anna Patterson [00:43:27] Yeah. Because this person, most of my four, the four of, they're almost blind. One is legally blind, actually. But the three other ones are, have low vision, they can't see. So you go to the grocery store with them. You pick out their groceries, and read the labels to them, and then you take the groceries in the house, and, you know, and. Or they have doctor's appointments, hair appointments. Or just want to go to lunch. Or coffee, breakfast, whatever they want to do.

Jim Thull [00:44:01] Sure.

Anna Patterson [00:44:02] They get. You know, it's a free service.

Jim Thull [00:44:07] Well that's great.

Anna Patterson [00:44:09] And it comes out of Helena. Yeah.