

Bremer Family Interview Clip Transcript

Malena, Didi, and Fred Bremer

MB: Okay, you were going to talk about the causeway. That was the other thing.

DB: Oh, yes.

FB: That was another thing that we did.

MB: Best make out place in the world, best in the world. [Laughter]

DB: Yes. Contractor's Hill was also a good one.

FB: Yeah. With little to do down there, one of the activities was going out to what we called the causeway. It joined the mainland to three little islands. One of those islands is where the beach was; a very, very small beach.

DB: Which is still there.

FB: With a shark net, and yeah, you just cruise out to the causeway and just hang out. If you were over eighteen, you drank beer out there. You go out at nighttime to make out or whatever. [Laughter]

DB: They had a gorgeous view of the city over there. MB: Oh, it's beautiful. It's very romantic. There was the city across the bay; the beautiful water, the moon out, the city lights.

DB: What more could you want? It's fabulous. It's all coming to an end.

FB: I want to know—what I don't understand, if the causeway was part of Fort Amador, how did civilians get out there? Could they . . . would the military police at the gate of Fort Amador allow..?

DB: Well, we had access to the Army-Navy Club which was in Amador.

FB: Yeah, but I'm talking about civilians from the Panama Canal.

DB: Oh. I don't know.

FB: How did Panama Canal civilians...

MB: I don't know. They must have allowed them.

FB: I guess, okay. MB: Maybe you had an ID card.

DB: There was a checkpoint; a military, like a guard gate, a guard post.

FB: To every base.

DB: But I think all they had to do was say, we're going out to the causeway, and they had to show an ID, possibly. As long as they weren't Panamanian—looking back on it, that was very unjust.

FB: Some Panamanians got through. Tio . . .

DB: Tio Eduardo. FB: Tio Eduardo made it out to Panama Beach all the time to do his exercises.

DB: That's right.

FB: Loli's father, Juenal, would go out to Fort Amador and walk. So, there were a few that had some privileges—

MB: Pull.

DB: Yeah, they had some pull. They had clout.

FB: To be allowed on the base, to get out to the beach, yeah. What else were the activities? Monday night's spaghetti night at Fort Amador's officers club.

DB: All you can eat for fifty cents. [Laughter]

FB: Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, iced tea.

DB: I would drive my father crazy because I didn't like spaghetti. I always had to order the seventy-five cent triple-decker, what do you call it?

MB: Club sandwich.

FB: Club sandwich. [Laughter]

MB: Unbelievable.

FB: Bingo. My mom won a lot of bingo. She had a lot of luck.

DB: Lottery.

FB: That was also something at the officers club.

DB: Amazing.