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I first met Carroll Behrhorst in January of 1975 when I arrived with a group of 12 American college students in Chimaltenango at the Behrhorst Clinic. At that time I was employed by the Experiment in International Living in Brattleboro Vermont to act as group leader for a program of home stays for American college students with indigenous families in the Guatemalan highlands . The program was unique in that it was the only program that the Experiment in International Living had in the third world. Dr. Behrhorst, who I believe proposed the initial idea to EIL, and his staff were acting as coordinators of the program but I was responsible for its overall execution .

Doc explained it to me he felt the program was all about the future and that the experiences that the students were going to have in Guatemala would one day reap benefits to indigenous people in Guatemala and elsewhere as those students became influential in business and government and perhaps foreign policy decisions.

In retrospect I think that Doc was right . Like seeds some would take; others would not. But the world might be a better place in the future due to the experiences that these young Americans were going to have. While I have not followed them since they left Guatemala, I know that at least one has adopted a little girl from Guatemala and one other, Narra Smith Cox is now a board member of BPD. I myself have long been a financial supporter and booster for its programs to others over the years.

In my case, the 6 months I spent working in Guatemala with the clinic, Doc and the health promoters were a life altering experience. Even though I had been a Peace Corps volunteer in Venezuela in the late 1960's nothing could have prepared me for what I observed in Guatemala in 1975. The richness of the indigenous culture was just amazing as were the problems they were facing (and still do). I remember quite vividly Doc telling me how he believed the culture of the indigenous people of Guatemala was more highly evolved than our Western values and culture. He believed that the values of the Kaqchikel Indians were based on the respect which

was accorded to an individual in his community based not on wealth or political power but on how that individual treated others and if they behaved in an honorable way. A leader was someone who earned the respect of the community. At the time I thought he was overdoing it a bit but now I think he was right – their value systems are superior to our culture of consumption at all cost.

I think that Doc also believed that Indians were psychologically more at peace within themselves because they knew who they were and what life was ultimately all about. My observation and time spent within Indian communities certainly echoes that sentiment completely. I have never been with people more gentle, generous, loving, humorous and hardworking.

As I am sure many will attest when it came to programs and meeting the needs of the Indians, Doc was a consummate pragmatist. Maybe that was his Midwestern background or his medical training. Doc, as others will I am sure will explain better than I, believed in a holistic approach to health care. You can't treat primary diseases without treating their causes. But, at all costs he believed that it was local people who had to be the decision makers, not some outside agency. He believed strongly that some day the clinic and its programs would be run completely by local people and communities. Without that participation he felt any program was doomed to fail. It was the cornerstone of his belief about his work in Guatemala.

In closing I would like to tell a story about Doc which I always have treasured. Often while I was in the clinic waiting to speak with him between his treating patients I would overhear his conversations with the patients since the only thing separating each one was a sheet to curtain off the exam areas. It seemed like more often than not the exam would end with Doc giving a high pitched exclamation "Whooooo, usted tiene una infeccion muy fuerte!! Tenemos que poner una inyeccion!" (Wow, you have a bad infection!!. We have to give you an injection!). I guess you had to be there to appreciate it.