

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

August 17, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question about McCarthyism. In the interview segment, ER speaks with naturalist Ivan T. Sanderson about his travels and explorations.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Ivan Sanderson and Ben Grauer

[ER:] This is Eleanor Roosevelt speaking. Our program is coming to you from my living room here at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. I'm very happy to have this little while with you each day and I hope you'll enjoy the guest we've invited to be with us today. And now, for a moment, I'm going to turn the program over to Elliot

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Have you ever looked a green-cheeked bull-bull or a white tailed gnu in the eye? I guess not many people have, but Ivan T. Sanderson, who is Mrs. Roosevelt's guest today has, and he's with us to tell us of his many exciting adventures on his travels as an explorer and scientist. He claims he's a professional bug hunter turned advertising man. Well we will hear his explanation of that little uh of that, a little later on. After Mrs. Roosevelt and I have discussed a question suggested by a listener. Now, our announcer, who also has a few words for us.

[Break 1:04-1:12]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The letter Mrs. Roosevelt and I will discuss today is from a lady who doesn't want either her uh residence or her name mentioned. She writes, "Dear Mrs. Roosevelt, lest you begin to think I am going to write you every day, I promise to exercise self-restraint, but you will discuss provocative subjects, and ones I seem to be interested in. Today your response to a question many of us have wanted to ask was so em-emphatic, I'm sure your questioner was satisfied. I think she's been wanting to hear some protest over this decision on the Krupp case, as we all have. I'd like to hear you discuss the resulting psychological effects on our own people and particularly the men in Korea of such a decision. From all I hear, the enthusiasm for conducting the Korean War is dragging. It is very different from the time of Pearl Harbor. Maybe the disillusionment of all this has some roots in the Krupp decision and the Ilse Koch uh decision and the Malmedy and other cases but I see another reaction which may be typical and may not. As one who lived uh lived-lives-lived through the Peekskill riots when I saw Jewish and Negro friends subject to attack, who had nothing to do with the concert. Per-persons who had rush forward at the time of Pearl Harbor to serve on our aircraft warning tower and who dragged out the grind of that service two and a half years. I now note uh how volunteering drags. This was our local manifestation of McCarthyism. Since then, all over the country, wild accusations are flying at everyone who has at any time been conspicuous, not only for their physical differences but for their courageous thinking. I believe we have to stop McCarthyism. America, instead of clicking together in a great united effort, is falling apart in all directions. Who contributes to McCarthy and his gang? Can it be that some of the very Krupp fortune is there? What became of Von Ribbentrop and Goring's millions? Nazism could steal defeat us."(3:26)

[ER:] I don't believe that it is Nazism which is inspiring or financing um McCarthy. Um I um think really that it is fear of communism, which um has so entered into the souls of our people that every slur and every word which is said against communism they accept -- whether it makes sense or doesn't make sense. And they think in accepting it that they are being patriotic and that they are doing something to protect their nation from communism whereas they're doing of course just the opposite because they are

hurting our liberties, they're hurting our security and free-thinking and in freedom of action. Um I must say that I can bear with Senator McCarthy until he begins to say the kind of outrageous things, which he has said against such good public servants as General Marshall. I think General Marshall, at his age should not be subjected after years of service to the nation to accusations such as uh Senator McCarthy has allowed himself to make. I think it's beneath any decent person's dignity eh to speak the way he does. And um some people may think that it is done for patriotic purposes, but I personally think that it is maybe done with those intentions but the results are as bad for our country, for its security eh as anything could possibly be. (5:33)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Well, do you feel that uh as this lady seems to feel that the whole country's falling apart and everything uh I don't get that feeling. I feel that the country is--

[ER:] Oh I don't think the country's falling apart. I think she's right in saying that there isn't the same feeling there was after Pearl Harbor but that was quite a different situation. You couldn't feel about the war in Korea the way you felt about Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor was a direct attack upon the United States. Pearl Harbor is um actually a support of a small republic in a far away land that was invaded by an aggressor. Now in--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] You mean Korea?

[ER:] Korea -- in-in supporting Korea we are defending our own land because if we didn't support Korea then there would be no country anywhere that could be assured against um an aggressive attack and not being left to stand alone. What's happened in Korea is that the United Nations has stood together against aggression and uh we have borne the brunt of it because we had the soldiers in Japan and we were in charge, technically speaking, for the United Nations in Korea at the time that the aggression took place, but um I-I think it's something we should remember that when freedom is attacked anywhere it is attacked everywhere. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] Um but it can't-- naturally, you can't expect the same kind of feeling about the war in Korea that you had after Pearl Harbor which was directed entirely against us and which plunged us into a-a great war with a great well-armed power immediately. (7:41)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well do you think that such actions as uh-uh Congress refusing to continue uh strong control bills and uh-uh the making of speeches against uh our -- everybody making a-a-a great effort and a great sacrifice at this time in order to make our country strong -- do you think those are undermining influences that are sapping uh the enthusiasm of our people to-to unite and to make this nation a strong powerful nation that can re-repel the onslaughts and progress of communism in the world?

[ER:] Of course, I think those are all undermining forces. And of course they're not good things to have happen. Uh they're very bad things. I don't think they will succeed with our people, but um they-they are a very uh unfortunate thing for our leaders in Congress to do. (8:48)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Uh I didn't quite gather what uh the lady meant by uh her reference to the Peekskill riots where-where uh a number of people were hurt uh at the time of a con-uh the concert that was given by Paul Robeson--

[ER:] What she meant was, that of course uh in attacking Paul Robeson and the communist element there, unfortunately, as always happens when mobs get going, um they ceased to discriminate. They attacked anybody eh um that was either colored and happened to be in the neighbored, or that was Jewish because they felt that um the Jews -- they just stated that all Jews were communists-- which is one of those [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] generalities like [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah.] saying that all-all uh colored people are-are-are uh Roman Catholics or what ever you might say, you see. [Elliott Roosevelt: Yeah, yeah.] It's that kind of generality that is utter nonsense, and it resulted in perfectly innocent people having their cars

overtaken. They were just driving through Peekskill and their cars were overturned, and a great many things of that kind, which is what happens when a mob uh stops thinking and just acts from emotions. (10:09)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Well entirely aside from uh the united efforts of our country as a whole uh and touching for a minute on what she referred to in the way of volunteer activities. Uh the defense programs, the civil-civilian defense program that has been started in almost all communities throughout the United States uh seems to have received uh very good volunteer uh response on the part of the people, although I understand it could be greater, it's still for--

[ER:] I think it has received, and I think it will. Uh I think the only reason, really, that holds the response to that back is that people still feel that the chances of attack are slight. Uh that's a pleasant way to feel but perhaps the best way to ward off an attack is to be fully prepared.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Well, do you feel that industry, as such, in this country uh is cooperating, to uh make the country strong at this present time?

[ER]: By and large, yes, there are always some people that fall short.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well that's the way I feel and-and uh while certainly there are always people like McCarthy uh-uh and-and before the last war there were many many people who fought against uh-uh our preparations uh--(11:41)

[ER:] Oh yes, there was America First [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and a lot of people.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] So that in actuality um the picture is not so very discouraging and we in this country have uh something to look forward to as a united people in the event that the situation gets worse.

[ER:] I think so.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well I hope that that answers the lady's letter and uh I see now that we have to go on to another part of our program.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Today we are going to lead a life of adventure through the tales of a well-known author, naturalist, and explorer in the realm of natural science in its widest sense. So as not to delay hearing what he has to say, mother will you introduce your guest now?

[Break: 12:33-12:38]

[ER:] Thank you, Elliott. Mr. Ivan T. Sanderson is my guest. His adventures have taken him to the seven seas, and his life reads like a story out of Jules Verne. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Sanderson.

[Ivan Sanderson:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. It's a very great honor to be here. I so often listen to your charming voice and I never thought I would be sitting before you.

[ER:] Well, that's very kind of you to say, Mr. Sanderson. First I would like to tell our listeners that you have just had a new book published entitled, *How to Know the American Mammals*, of which I have seen an advanced copy, and I found very interesting indeed and fascinating uh not only the reading material but also the illustrations. Um there is a great deal for all of us to learn and I'm hoping that my grandchildren are going to use this book all the time.

[Ivan Sanderson:] (Ivan Sanderson laughs) I hope so, too.

[ER:] Well, I think they certainly would learn a great deal from it. I read, Mr. Sanderson, that you started your life of travel and nature study at the age of five. Isn't that a little young? Most children only explore their back yards at that age!

(13:53)

[Ivan Sanderson:] Well I'm a Scot an- and I think we're all rovers, Mrs. Roosevelt, because we come from a small poor country, and uh therefore we have to rely very much upon ourselves and my whole family has been traveling since ever. I think my mother had never been in any place for more than three months until the last war when she was confined to the southern part of our island, which is inhabited by the Sassenach you know -- that's what we Scots call the English [Ivan Sanderson laughs]. We all travel all the time and I was traveling with, of course with my parents, from the age of five and I used to always been intensely interested in all kinds of natural history and animal life. In fact, I started collecting moths, my old nanny told me, when I was five years old, a rather primitive method.

[ER:] Well you certainly did start young on your scientific career! Um well then, were you born in--

[Ivan Sanderson:] I was born in-in Edinburgh in Scotland.

[ER:] In where?

[Ivan Sanderson:] Edinburgh, Scotland, yes.

[ER:] So you were born in the-- [ER laughs]

[Ivan Sanderson:] Although I am a highlander, as a matter of fact.

[ER:] You're a highlander?

[Ivan Sanderson:] Yes, my family comes from the west coast. We are Picts, not Scots -- the old people who were there since the Stone Age-- the boating people.

(14:58)

[ER:] Well, I-I know a little bit about the highlands. Perhaps you know some very old friends of ours, or at least know of them. Uh the Fergusons, who have lived, of course, uh Ronald Ferguson, lived outside of Edinburgh-- [unclear term], but up then, up in the north he came from a place called Novar, and I remember going up there to stay and being very much amused because here he had been uh the Governor General of Canada and privy seal and all the other things, but up there they just called him The Novar -- they gave him no other title of any kind! [ER laughs]

[Ivan Sanderson:] We are very direct people. [ER laughs] Also, you'll find up in the highlands, until quite recently, that they didn't have any-any names -- not sort of double names like we have. My name means the descendant of the descendant of a rather phony kind of-of sea king. Uh we took those names from the North because we didn't have uh names amongst the Picts. We were simply be John or Peter or Peter the boat-boating man, or Peter the fisherman, or something like that. So that's why they still stick to that old business of calling them, The-- I don't know uh that place.

[ER:] Don't know that name? Well its um it just happened to be a family that my family has known a very long time and I thought that you might possibly have come across them somewhere. But, Scotland is uh a place where I think that people know just the people around them -- you're-you're very clannish in Scotland! [ER laughs]

[Ivan Sanderson:] Very tribalized!

[ER:] Now tell us a little bit about your schooling because if you traveled all the time, you couldn't have had much formal schooling.

[Ivan Sanderson:] Yes I did -- I had the very formal English schooling. Uh--

[ER:] Oh you did? (16:44)

[Ivan Sanderson:] Yes, I used to be sent back to England always to uh school. As a matter of fact, I used to go with a label on my wrist because uh my mother and I traveled extensively on a-on a privately owned boat with my godfather and my mother brought up his children along with myself because his wife had died. And he had his whole business aboard this yacht -- it was more than a yacht because it was almost a floating uh lab. He was a great friend of [Guglielmo] Marconi's he invented, my godfather James McKelvie, he invented the electric pickup for the first uh electric pickup for a phonograph. And uh he used to go out into the mid-Atlantic and test all the early radio. I believe that General [David] Sarnoff uh was in touch with him from Nantucket island at the time, and they used to be dotted about the Atlantic. Whenever there was a bad storm we'd go out and wallow around, and then of course the boat would to the nearest piece of land where he had other business interests. Then I had to go back to school and nobody could take me so they used to be uh a label on me um with my name on it and the name of the school -- or vice versa if I was going to meet the boat somewhere it would be "Ivan Sanderson Bergen, Norway via Newcastle" and I used to go up and flap this at uh the porters and people to find my way but I did manage to get formal schooling which ended up with Eaton and then at Cambridge University. [Ivan Sanderson laughs]

[ER:] Well you certainly did do the formal schooling of an English schoolboy then! [ER laughs]

[Ivan Sanderson]: I hardly dare mention that in America. [Ivan Sanderson laughs]

[ER:] But I think that the uh I-I think the combination, probably, of um a uh scientific uh floating uh laboratory [Ivan Sanderson laughs] and uh going to all sorts of places um must have been a most interesting mixture. You must have had times when you hardly uh knew what uh what you were really attached to.

[Ivan Sanderson:] Mrs. Roosevelt, I always felt that my real education began when I uh walked out of the doors of the school and went back to the life that uh I've always lived -- first with my parents, and then alone. Because uh after all, there's nothing that broadens a persons opinions of other people and makes you respect them more than traveling and seeing how they live and what their problems are and also studying wild life, as I do, and getting around, generally, outside your own little orbit. Which we are very bad -- you're so right -- the Scots are very, very provincial! It is a good thing for them, I think, to get out and get around the world. So that-that in my opinion, is that my real education began then. It was a little stuffy, the British uh formal education but it does, I must say, teach you something

[ER:] One thing I think the British formal education does do, it gives you tools, which, if you have a chance to then stretch your imagination and your experience, you still have those basic tools that you can

use to meet your needs. And I-I would say that that was perhaps better done in some of the English education than it is in the United States at times. (19:50)

[Ivan Sanderson:] I do feel that-I feel that the people here have such brilliant, live brains, but they're given so many facts and they're not taught how to think. Our education in England you're not taught any facts -- you have to find them yourselves -- But at least-- eventually, it's usually spanked into the other end of your -- you've got to learn what brain you have, even if you haven't got any. I find now that when a problem is difficult, the easiest thing to do is to sit down and try and puzzle it out. We've tried everything. First of all copying it from someone else and cheating in one way or another, and then pretending you were ill or something. Finally, you found after you've been spanked for each thing, the easiest thing to do is to sit down and try and figure it out. I think it stands on good stead.

[ER:] I-I think that's uh I-I think that's very true. I was just uh talking um about education the other day with some of the educators and I find that all of them are worried at the wide field today of knowledge that is open which you can't possibly cover in the formal years of education and no one person can cover all the fields of knowledge, possibly. Therefore, it seems to me that the only thing that you can hope to do in education in the future is to open windows so as to acquaint people with the fact that there are things [Ivan Sanderson: Mhm.] that you can look into if you care about them [Ivan Sanderson: Sure.] and then give them tools with which they can approach whatever they're really interested in.

Ivan Sanderson:] That's what my job-- I'm trying to do now, and my small contribution to America that I'm trying to bring with me uh to open such windows on the world of natural science -- which has been sort of neglected where we've been opening up a vast new continent and building a vast new industry and a mutation of industry, a new method. I think there's a rather gentler side of our planet that's been left on the side. I'm trying to open those windows so that people who are interested -- and there are many -- can see what goes on in right in their own back yards.

[ER:] I-I think it's something which enriches the whole of one's life, no matter where one lives, if one really opens one's eyes, to one's surroundings -- and that's what you're trying to do.

[Ivan Sanderson:] I mean, exactly. What's the good of taking a drive in the country with your car on a Saturday afternoon if you haven't got an objective? Now a board game is a fine objective, but also sometimes you want to get right away and get amongst the green things -- especially for us city dwellers. It's nice to be able to go to a [unclear term] farm or uh see where the first American was buried five-hundred years before Columbus sailed and things like that. It gives you an incentive, and the things are right there -- they're priceless possessions. (22:22)

[ER:] My husband used to be oh uh willing to get up at dawn in order to go and watch uh what certain little groups of birds would be doing in different places--

[Ivan Sanderson:] Really?

[ER:] --and uh I-I think it gave him more relaxation and more change of thought -- he did it even when he was President when we'd go back to Hyde Park. He would go and look at certainly places where he knew uh where the birds would be at certain times, and watch what they were doing. I think that's a wonderful thing to-to acquire a close touch with nature and I always remember a lady that we used to have in our neighborhood who drove every afternoon and always said that she recited all the presidents of the United States forwards and backwards with their dates and all the kings of England and of France, forward and backwards with their dates, and of course she never saw anything at all [ER laughs] in her drive!

[Ivan Sanderson:] In her drive. I wonder if I can recollect the uh the Chinese proverb, very gently put, by that wonderful Oriental who has been writing in the Occident I think he says that, "Only the greatest of men have time to observe the birds and the mountains." -- which I always thought was rather charming.

[ER:] That's a very nice proverb! I think some of the Chinese proverbs, every now and then, Dr. P.C. Chang in the Human Right's Commission will quote Chinese proverbs to us and I always love them -- they're very wise sayings!

[Ivan Sanderson:] Brings everybody down to earth. [Ivan Sanderson laughs]

[ER:] Now I see that our announcer must have a word to say and then we'll come right back to our interview

[Break: 24:12-24:20]

[ER:] Now we are coming back to our interview with Mr. Ivan Sanderson who has just published a new book on the American mammals, which is very interesting and very well illustrated. But um instead of talking about that for a minute, Mr. Sanderson, I understand that at one point in your exciting career you were with British Naval Intelligence and I think our audience would like to hear a little something about that.

[Ivan Sanderson:] Well, uh Mrs. Roosevelt uh I'll tell you what happened. Before the war, all the zoologists and collectors of animals and such like who went around the world collecting for the museums were getting to places that ordinary people didn't go, not even businessmen. And the British, and I know that also in America, decided that these people might be able to give valuable information to our services as to the activities of potential enemies. I had traveled extensively in Latin America and had my own little schooner down in the Caribbean. And they believed that I might be able to tell them where quite large numbers of Germans, as it was then, who had migrated from Germany and had gone and settled down, sometimes even taking Latin American names and married into the families of Latin American people, and they had disappeared and everything was all right. I am perfectly convinced in my own mind that ninety percent of them genuinely wished to immigrate and settle down and make a new life for themselves after the first World War. Of course, when that little gutter snipe Hitler came along, he did this revolting thing of taking the remaining families in Germany and putting the screws on them, as we say, to join the Auslander Organisation. In other words, he simply bullied them into doing spy work and subversive activities on behalf of the Nazis and they-they thought that I might, the British thought that we might be able to give them some information. Also there is another much more practical aspect of it in a way. Everybody thinks that intelligence is sort of heroic and the whole heroic age of spying, but this is something rather more complacent I might say, and that was that a lot of the charts were completely wrong and they just didn't know how to get in and out of some quite well-known ports and they thought that me, mucking around collecting my small insects and so on, might be able to take some soundings in such ports and find out where it reached the ground and one thing and another-- and of course there were many other aspects of the thing. We did that for a considerable amount of time until Pearl Harbor and then I was transferred to another organization and for a time it seems to me that myself and my wife, armed with two sporting rifles, and a-a radio receiving set, which very often went on the blink, seemed to represent the Allied forces in the Caribbean uh during the time that I am told that there were two hundred German submarines operating there! (27:11)

[ER:] Oh that must have been unpleasant!

[Ivan Sanderson:] Yes, in a way, except that we were all painted up like a yacht with a large number on the side and we ran about looking in a ridiculous manner in the middle of the war. But the idea was that

we could go to places and try and find out where they were getting fresh vegetables and where the crews were getting exercise at night because their submarines were big enough to come from Europe and go back again without refueling -- but we believe that there was refueling going on.

[ER:] Did you actually find out?

[Ivan Sanderson:] Well, uh that is a rather sore subject. We found a great deal of information we turned over to appropriate departments and it was then taken out of our hands. But I do understand that from the time uh cleanup was made -- I believe under the direct orders of your late husband -- that the sinkings dropped from four hundred American cargo vessels in the Caribbean to-- which had taken place in a matter of two or three months-- four months. From the time that they operated on ours and other peoples -- mind you I was only a very small cog in the wheel, from the headquarters in Panama operated, there were only seven sinkings thereafter. So somewhere in the net we caught the really bad boys.

[ER:] That must have been a great satisfaction because that really means that you accomplished something, which had a great effect upon the war. Now you spoke about being in the Caribbean and South America. What uh-uh other countries have you been in in your travels? (28:40)

[Ivan Sanderson:] I think its sixty-four. My wife and I--

[ER:] Sixty-four!?

[Ivan Sanderson:] I think my wife and I have had homes in twenty-one, I think now.

[ER:] You've had homes in twenty-one of them?

[Ivan Sanderson:] Not just staying in a hotel but it's nice to settle down for a few--

[ER:] And live there

[Ivan Sanderson:] a few months in each one because one has to do that to carry on the work I was doing then which was collecting live animals and dead animals preserved for the museums, and the zoos, and scientific specialists both in this country and in Europe, so that took us all over the place. I had been-- I was in the Orient when I was a kid, seventeen years old; I took a trip around the world. My mother said only two things: I'll give you some money, which I had inherited from a small inheritance. And said if you go left you've got to come back from the right and if you go right you've got to come back from the left. And England is right off of the international dateline in the Pacific. She said if you get past the dateline, whichever way you go, and don't have any money, I'll send you enough money to come back steerage class, directly to England. Well I had a perfectly wonderful year. I went to stay with a Japanese godfather I have [unclear term (29:37)]. I wandered about the Dutch East Indies collecting rats. I got across the dateline and I landed up in San Francisco owing a Japanese steward three dollars and fifty cents. Actually, I had to borrow to get to the hotel where I took a large suite -- I always believe in starting at the top instead of the bottom. I sent the telegram with my three-fifty to my mother and she sent me the money to get back to England.

[ER:] Steerage? (30:00)

[Ivan Sanderson:] Steerage, and it was just enough to buy a car which I drove it through about twenty-eight of the forty-eight states and then sold it in New York and got back to England very happy and went to Cambridge.

[ER:] [ER laughs] Oh how successful! Wonderful! Well you certainly knew how to manage even when you were seventeen and eighteen, as I suppose you were at that time. Um are there any really very exciting uh things, because you must have encountered a good deal of danger on these trips. Are there some things that stand out in your mind as especially exciting moments.

[Ivan Sanderson:] Practically none. Uh doing that kind of work is much less dangerous than crossing Fifth Avenue here in the rush hour. [ER laughs] I must admit when I think now of having seen one or two of the great cats uh it makes me well surprised at my actions at the time that I did see them. But there's nothing to be alarmed about at all -- especially when you're away from human beings, they're the dangerous creatures -- and you get into the jungle and get with animals, they don't molest you. If you actually tread on a crocodile, they move so fast that they might bite-bite your leg off and drag you into the ground. If you wander about where there are lions at night -- they're a hunting animal at night -- and they may uh jump on you in mistake for a zebra or just because they're hunting. In the daytime they're completely docile. My father had a farm in East Africa before he died, and he was the first man I viewed to touch a wild lion. He walked right up to them and took photographs of them. They just turn over and purred because in the daytime they're not vicious. Similarly with all other things, as long as you keep your head, and organize your expedition well, there's no need to run into danger. That's, in my opinion, a sign of inefficiency on a collecting trip. (31:42)

[ER:] A sign of not understanding animals. Uh I uh I know that you went down into our own swamps and looked for dinosaurs. And uh we happen to have working with us today, one of the NBC uh people who went with you and he's shaking his head at me at this moment and saying that this is all nonsense that you're saying about there being no danger.

[Ivan Sanderson:] [Ivan Sanderson laughs] Poor Hal, I'm afraid I put him through a rather a grim time down there. Would you like to hear what, in a nutshell, what happened?

[ER:] Yes, I would!

[Ivan Sanderson:] Whenever I hear of anything peculiar that seems either inexplicable or which uh seem to need explanation rather rapidly in my field, I go off to have a look at it-- such things as sea monsters and so on. We had constant reports of vast, eighteen inch uh three-toed foot tracks, turning up fresh over night on sand beaches in various parts of the world. And they cropped up in Florida in 1948 -- very extensively, miles of them, night after night. The whole place was in an uproar about it. Finally they cropped up about forty miles up the Suwannee River, in Dixie County. So NBC thought -- at that time I had my own radio morning program -- they thought it would be rather interesting if I went down and recorded just exactly what went on. Naturally, we thought it was a hoax but we would like to find out how anybody could be so extremely clever. So we went down and we did a great deal of investigation and Hal came along with me. It turned out that it was right in middle of the Cypress swamps down there which were cut over for wood about fifty years ago, but it's a real jungle -- it's a good of a jungle as the Congo. I had poor Hal slushing around in the mud and taking recordings of animal sounds at night, which we put together in a little story. Then we went on down the river to see if we could find any more of these tracks. By that time I was beginning to think that there was something in it -- I think even more so now. I really do believe I -- think we proved rather conclusively and I've published it in an article in *True Magazine*, it came out a month ago, our final findings. I-I'll put it this way: it can be only one of two things -- either a hoax or an animal. I think we've-we've shown, based on the evidence that it could not be made by a man or a machine -- or a man using a machine. Therefore, the only alternative is an animal. In my opinion the only animal which has such a three-toed, rather flighty idiotic looking foot, which seems to be useless for walking through water, uh are the penguins. The penguins are extremely primitive birds. It's rather interesting, perhaps for listeners too, to hear that a five and half foot penguin, a skeleton, has been found fossilized in New Zealand. Now, five and a half foot is getting kind of a big.

Animals can grow to a very large size in water because the water holds them up. So if you can get to, say, a six foot penguin, then there is no reason you shouldn't have a fifteen foot one. By that time, penguins being very heavy animals, the flesh being very dense, the thing would weigh almost enough to imprint those tracks that we saw into the swamplands down in Florida.

(34:45)

[ER:] That's very interesting. That's really -- and yet you haven't yet proved it. Now, you've made many valuable contributions to museums throughout the country and I think that this um uh would be one of the most valuable!

[Ivan Sanderson:] There's only one way, Mrs. Roosevelt, to put it, and that is we've got to get the animal. I believe that as many as fifty people have admitted to the same murder when only one could have done it. So um the only way to prove that it was an animal is to find one. If we do I think we'll be sort of top boy for some time. A lot of peoples' faces are going to be very red! [Ivan Sanderson laughs]

[ER:] Now we have very little time but I would like to know how you got into television, because you said you had your own program, and it seems difficult to be in television and yet travel all the time!

[Ivan Sanderson:] Well very briefly um-very briefly, it started with Tony Provost who was then a manager of WNBC and uh he listened to me one weekend when I was on another program and he invited me to start a radio strip which I started the following Thursday. Then we went down to Florida and everybody there said, "Look you must have a television show about your person." I said, "No, I haven't but I'll write you." To-- I think it would be good to try and popularize conservation; uh that those are the windows that you were mentioning before, opening into things that people may not have seen. The next thing I knew, I was doing two of them a week! I got into it!

[ER:] Well, I can't think of anything um that is better for-for telling people about this particular interest, and I also think that on July 17th, when your new book comes out, that all people who are interested in the out-of-doors will find a great deal of pleasure in reading the handbook of North American mammals because we don't know very much about our own surroundings, most of us. And I think it will be a very great help to us.

Now I see our time has come to an end and I must say thank you for your being here today and tell you how much I've enjoyed talking with you.

[Ivan Sanderson:] Thank you for the honor.

[Break: 37:01-37:12]

[Ben Grauer:] This has been the Eleanor Roosevelt Program. Recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room in the Park Sheraton Hotel on the corner of 55th Street and 7th Avenue in New York City. Today Mrs. Roosevelt's guest was the well-known explorer, artist and naturalist, Ivan Sanderson. I'm going to take a look at the guest list for next week before we say 'goodbye.' The guy that's heading on Monday August 20th is the names of Quentin Reynolds and Jack Garfein. Mr. Reynolds of course is the famous journalist, author, lecturer and radio commentator and now editor in chief of the popular monthly magazine, *United Nations World*. Mr. Reynolds is going to be chatting with Mrs. Roosevelt and Jack Garfein, a refugee helped by the United Jewish Appeal. On Tuesday, Dr. Hortense Powdermaker chats with Mrs. Roosevelt. Dr. Powdermaker is the chairman of anthropology and sociology in Queens College here in New York City. Author of a recent book uh investigating the point of view of Hollywood and Hollywood people and producers, that is from the anthropologists and sociologists' viewpoint. On Wednesday, Mr. John C. Green, director of the department of Commerce and the office of technical services which deals with

inventions will be with Mrs. Roosevelt. On Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Landman, authors of *Profile of Red China*. And on Friday we complete our list with Joyce Carey, the distinguished British author. Mrs. Roosevelt and Elliott Roosevelt will be with you again Monday with Quentin Reynolds and Jack Garfein and every day Monday through Friday from 12:30-1:15pm. Til Monday then, this is Ben Grauer bidding you all good afternoon. (38:56)

[Ben Grauer:] Friends, this is Ben Grauer speaking. Have you ever dipped into a bowl of vegetable soup and found plenty of rice noodles but only a smattering of vegetables? Its rather disappointing isn't it? More than that it's downright annoying. Well you'll never have that problem with Habitant vegetable soup because it's simply chock full of all kinds of garden fresh vegetables a swim in the broth made from the natural vegetable juices. Yes, for hearty satisfying nourishment, Habitant vegetable soup is ranked right up front with any food you can serve. And how your family will love the special Habitant flavor created by old fashion time tested French recipes. So when you think of vegetable soup think of Habitant and you'll be on the right track to satisfaction. For interesting variety in your soup menu, remember Habitant pea soup, genuine old country French style pea soup and heavenly Habitant onion soup with a golden goodness such as you have never tasted before. All three come in the yellow can and your local grocer has them. Get Habitant soup on your next shopping trip. Now is discussion time, here is Elliott with a letter from a listener.

[Break 40:13-40:22]

[Ben Grauer:] And next on the schedule for the *Eleanor Roosevelt Program* is today's guest interview. But before Mrs. Roosevelt introduces today's guest, I'd like to take a look at the lineup of listening on WNBC tonight. Here are some of the highlights. At eight o'clock *A Man Called X*, a very popular program with Herbert Marshall as the mysterious adventurer in this series. At 8:30 *Night Beat*, another in the series of the Kent's mystery dramas starring radio and film actor Frank Lovejoy. At 9:00pm a case is solved by Inspector Thorne. Karl Weber stars as the eccentric character. At nine thirty that interesting and normally human personality *Mr. Keene, Tracer of Lost Persons*. Tonight Mr. Keene is going to solve "The Poison Sandwich Murder Case." At Ten O'clock, an interview of pure, sheer pleasure in musical listening. Lloyd Shield and Company, light and semi classical mode in the modern manner. With his full sympathy orchestra and distinguished soloist, Lloyd Shield and company is a guaranteed high spot for summertime musical listening on Friday nights. There is the lineup of programs with one special feature which we can remind you about this week. At 11:15 tonight, immediately following Ken Banghardt and the news, we present *Robinson Crusoe, USAF* the story behind that story is that NBC's working reporter W.W. Chaplin who has covered everything from war to catastrophe for NBC went down to the everglades to join a group of United States Air Force men. They set themselves in the middle of the everglades jungle and reduced themselves to the simplest of conditions. Away from any civilization to see how they might survive literally as self-imposed Robinson Crusoes in the isolation of that deserted jungle territory. Similar to the conditions they might run into as flyers of the air force who might be forced down in a foul of jungle land. Another- in fact the concluding story on *Robinson Crusoe, USAF* tonight at 11:15 on WNBC. There is the lineup for listening and now to tell us about today's guest is Eleanor Roosevelt, here is Elliott.

[Ben Grauer:] Yes, Mrs. Roosevelt, time for our regular midway station identification and a brief announcement before we return to you and your interview with today's guest. This is WNBC AM and FM New York and you're listening to the Eleanor Roosevelt program recorded in Mrs. Roosevelt's living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Today Mrs. Roosevelt's guest is famed naturalist and explorer Ivan T. Sanderson. Before we return to our interview I'd like to repeat an announcement we've had from the director of the Office of Civil Defense of the city of New York. A former police commissioner Arthur W. Wallander. City Director Wallander announced that the nuclear air raid warning

siren test scheduled for Saturday has been changed to Friday as you know. And the new series of air raid warning tests started last Friday at eleven O' clock. They will be held on alternate Fridays from now on. There will not be an air raid warning test today. The next one will take place next Friday, August 24th. These new tests are the same as those conducted previously on Saturday and set to [Unclear Term] and a full red signal denoting the danger of imminent attack then a three minute period intermission and finally the full all clear signal. Uh it's been pointed out that these tests have been conducted on Friday instead of Saturday to enable the millions of out of towners, who are not here on Saturday who spend their business day in the city to become acquainted with the warning signals which would be so vital to them in the event of an enemy attack. Also these Friday tests enable the thousands of business establishments which have completed their Civil Defense Building Control Organization to find out just how effective those organizations are by scheduling tests and drills at the time of the sounding of the warning sirens. Commissioner Wallander has asked that the people of this city continue to examine their knowledge of the action that they would take in the event of a real air raid by asking themselves this question. A question you might very well ask yourself when you hear the air raid warning signals next Friday at eleven O' clock. If this was a real alert, what would I do now? That announcement from the Office of Civil Defense. And now to continue today's interview, here again is Mrs. Roosevelt.

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