



<p><i>Peru Introduction</i> 1999 and 2000 Part 01, Ch. 01 CRF Media Chronicles</p>	<p>Final: 11/20/12 Time: 2:37 © 2012 Carl and Arline Ryan</p>
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Carl: The Asheninca People, ... living along the headwaters of the Amazon River, ... was a new emphasis for the International Mission Board. The Huser's, former members of our church in Cassville, Missouri, were now serving among this isolated and very difficult to reach People Group.

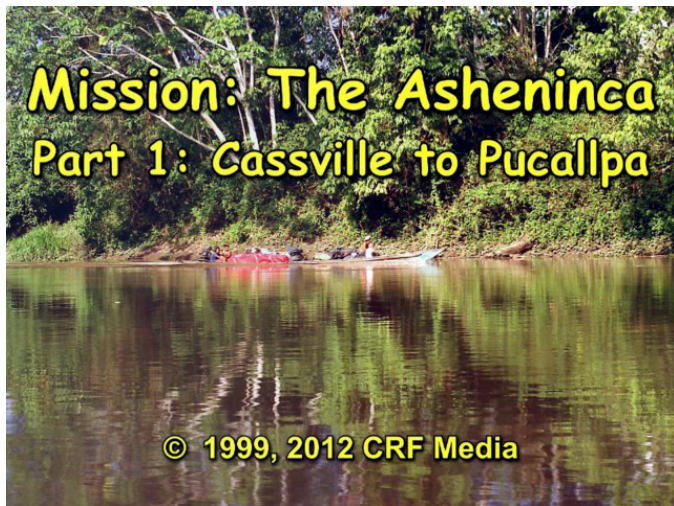
In 1999, the mission team invited several people from our church to visit them and help with the ongoing work. My brother, Bill, and I were the only volunteers who made the trip. It was a great experience and we developed a much better understanding of mission work among diverse environments and cultures.

This was also a learning experience as I edited and compiled the videos, pictures and other information obtained during the trip.

Arline: The following year Carl and I returned to Peru but, ... this time, ... the mission work was located on the outskirts of the mega-city of Lima, the capitol of Peru. The area is a place where people struggle to carve a home and a new life out of the barren and rocky hills. While in Peru, we also took a two-day trip up and over the Andes Mountains to the cities of Tarma and Huancayo.

For the Peru trips, we produced a total of six video chapters on VHS tapes. Much later the videos were remastered for a Blu-ray disc.

Overlay: CRF Media Chronicles
 © Filmed: 1999-2000



Mission: The Asheninca

Pt. 1: *Cassville to Pucallpa*

Ch. 02 (9:59) Filmed September 1999

Carl: The Asheninca People live in the lowlands of Eastern Peru along several rivers that feed into the Amazon. They depend on these rivers for their primary and sometimes, their only, method of transportation. David, a former member of our church in Cassville, is now a missionary among the Asheninca. Bill and I volunteered to visit the missionary and deliver some supplies. We also documented the mission work for a presentation to our church. With the maximum allowed baggage of 150 pounds each, we loaded up and headed for Tulsa. From there, it is south across the Gulf of Mexico and, finally, arriving in Lima, Peru about midnight.

The next afternoon we would fly across the Andes to Pucallpa.

Insert MAP: – Lima, Pucallpa, Puerto Bermudez

Lima, the capital of Peru is about 15 degrees south of the equator and a thoroughly modern city with traffic jams, high rise apartment buildings and churches. The main part of the city sits high above the beach. The harbor offers deep sea access to trade routes throughout the Pacific Ocean. The Plaza de Armas, in Lima was established in this location in 1535 by the Spanish conquistador, Francisco Pizarro. The government palace, the House of Justice, the National Cathedral and other stately buildings are in this plaza. Throughout Peru the towns and cities take much pride in their Plaza de Armas or town square. These plazas are usually beautiful and well maintained even when much of the rest of the town appears as a slum.

Overlay: Francisco Pizarro

Carl on-camera: Looks like this is a grocery store and David has to get some groceries to take back to Pucallpa and uh, this is the grocery store.

Carl: Our time in Lima was very short with our flight to Pucallpa leaving at 3 p.m.

Carl on-camera: We'll be leaving in about an hour. Well, we've just taken off at Lima Airport heading for Pucallpa. It's foggy. It's been foggy in Lima like this all day long.

Carl: The one hour flight takes us over the 18,000 foot Andes Mountains, back down to the lowlands and to the small airport located at the edge of the city. Pucallpa, even with a population of 250,000, is considered a frontier city carved out of the jungle. The Ucayali River in the background empties into the Amazon.

Insert labels: Rio Ucayali, Pucallpa, Airport

The airport was very small with only a tin roof protecting the baggage claim area. By the time we were on our way, it was pouring down rain. The muddy roads, the rain and primitive living conditions were only a foretaste awaiting us during the next several days.

We stayed overnight at the Wycliffe Linguistic Center located at the edge of the city. The accommodations were excellent but it was still muddy dirt roads all around.

Carl on-camera: The roads are really not the best. The rain we got last night messed them up a little bit. Of course, the mud here is real slick and sticky to your shoes. Probably tracks into the house real bad. The real problem with the roads is it makes the roads extremely slick and also you can get stuck fairly easily. I understand it is pretty bad during the rainy season.

Carl: The next day on our way to Pucallpa we finally arrived at one of the few paved roads in the area. Vehicles of just about all descriptions make their way along this thoroughfare.

David on camera: We're entering into the main part of town here. There's two main streets in our town. Those are little motor cars that you see. Every motor car that you see is a taxi. You can get in and go to anywhere in town for about two soles which is equivalent to about 70 cents.

Carl on camera: There's the local policia. ...Here's one of the local attractions. (**David:** Town mascot.)

Carl: Above us perched on almost every street light are BIG buzzards. To the right or left are more dirt roads is a residential area; a place that includes a variety of farm animals.

Carl on camera: Looks like a load of bananas. These look like pretty good bananas. They're rather large. Be ripe before long.

Homes are built wherever space can be found along the river band including near huge storage tanks. I don't know how they keep track of the addresses. Bill is kind of walking around enjoying the scenery. You can again see the oil refinery tanks in the background.

Overlay: Outhouses?

Carl on camera: Looks like it to me.

Carl: During the summer, a large part of the Ucayali is dry and is used as a residential area. Many of these homes will be flooded in a few months during the rainy season. Typical rainfall ranges from 3 inches to 8 inches per month.

Pucallpa's economy depends on timber from the jungle, a large variety of fruits and vegetables and fish from nearby rivers and lakes. Oil and natural gas are becoming a significant source of income.

Shopping is a real challenge. There are small shops and large open air markets. It is necessary to buy packaged goods at one store, fresh meats at another and bread at still another. This type of shopping is true for hardware, plumbing, electronics, building materials or auto parts.

Carl on camera: Here are some dry goods. I see some rice and some beans and it looks like the other side is pretty well stocked with a variety of liquors. Here's the hardware store right over across the street. ... I don't know if Bill is going to find anything in here or not. They've got TV's

Carl: Souvenir vendors quickly converged on the rare appearance of American visitors with their array of locally made items.

On camera talking ...

Carl: The schools are held in two sessions with half of the children going in the morning and the rest in the afternoon. Most walk to and from school.

Our time in Pucallpa was short but long enough to obtain Bill and my airline tickets for our return trip to Lima. We also stocked up for the continuation of our trip overland, then by boat to the remote Asheninca villages.

Overlay: © Filmed in 1999



Mission: The Asheninca

Pt. 2: *Pucallpa to Puerto Bermudez*

Ch. 03 (6:57) Filmed September 1999

Carl: The five of us were up and ready before seven in the morning for the trip to Puerto Bermudez. On our way out, we filled the two diesel tanks of the Land Cruiser and several cans with gasoline for the motor boat.

In the parking lot was a bus also filling up for the 320 mile trip over the mountains to Lima. It will take 25 hours for the bus ride.

We started out on a paved road toward Lima then, after about 20 miles, it was south on through Campo Verde – then

dirt.

Driving is dangerous with few accommodations. Despite the dangers and primitive nature of the road, there was much to see and learn as we made our way South.

On-camera Audio: Discussing sugar cane processing.

Overlay: Extracting juice from sugar cane.

Overlay: They make whiskey from the juice.

On-camera Audio: Discussing: traffic on muddy road.

On-camera Audio: Discussing: people riding on oil truck. Then more traffic problems on mud slick road.

On-camera Audio: Discussing arrival at small town and getting something to eat.

The road has become a problem with drug trafficking and there are now our three military checkpoints along the way.

The 160 mile s from Pucallpa to Puerto Bermudez ws completed in the mid-1970's as an effort by the Peruvian government to open up more of the Amazon frontier.

On-camera Audio: Discussing travel progress.

Nearing Puerto Bermudez, the road was better maintained and, finally, after seven hours, we were at our destination and ready for a short rest stop. We would then transfer our gear into a small boat and set out down the Rio Pichis to our overnight stop at Amanbay. Perry, one of the team members, arrived a day earlier to make arrangements for our boat trip. Puerto Bermudez is a small town and the only place within a fifty mile radius to obtain household goods, clothing, food, medicines, small equipment and other items. They also repair shoes, boat engines, as well as heavy equipment used in the timber industry. Gasoline and diesel, stored in 55 gallon drums, is available from a garage.

The town has its own electric power generator and provides service from 6 to 10 p.m.

We had a delicious catfish dinner at El Arriero Restaurant before going on our way.

On-camera Audio: Comments on good catfish dinner.

The car was parked in a safe place and we walked past the hotel where we would stay after our return.

Access to the river is at the end of Main Street with a 20-foot wide section of concrete pavement reaching down to the water.

At this ramp, there were a few boats called “peki-pekis” similar to ours. Bill and I were now entering a world entirely new to us.

Overlay: © Filmed in 1999



Mission: The Asheninca **Pt. 3: Puerto Bermudez to Belen**

Ch. 04 (16:08) Filmed September 1999

Carl: After lunch, we loaded our gear into the peki-peki and were ready to head down river.

Our peki-peki is a cone shaped craft about 30-feet long and just over 3-feet wide with power supplied by a 9-horse power gas engine. A shaft is attached to the motor and extends to the rear of the boat driving a small propellor. This allows for very shallow water operation.

On-camera Audio

This river, the Pichis, becomes the Ucayali several miles

down stream. The Ucayali is one of the major tributaries of the Amazon.

The Pichis River at this point and at the near low water stage, ranges from 100 to 300 feet wide with a depth of just a foot or so to over 10-feet.

There are no white water rapids but numerous shoals and fords. The water was muddy and the river was rising from the previous night's rain. For us, we would overnight at the village of Amanbay.

The first part of our trip was arranged earlier by team member, Perry. Marty would remain in Amanbay while Bill, Chris, David and I continued on to Belen. Perry would join Marty the following day.

The water was muddy and the river was rising from the previous night's rain. It was all a pretty tight schedule with many uncertainties especially the condition of the river.

We reached the village of Amanbay just before dark and with the help of some of the villagers, carried our supplies up a steep and muddy river bank and then on about a half a mile to the place we will spend the night.

After a hurried prepared evening meal from our dried food supplies, David and Chris presented a church service for the villagers while the rest of us prepared our quarters for the night.

On-camera Audio: Discuss early morning activities.

We were up and had oatmeal and raisins. After stowing our gear back in the boat the four of us were off.

On-camera Audio: Discuss downriver trip.

We finally make it to Belen at about 5:30, just before dark. The next morning we could see better where we were.

We stayed in the local school house, but, it was dark by the time we carried all our supplies the half mile to the building. We quickly set up the video projector for the church service David and Chris were conducting that evening.

Following the service, we fixed ourselves something to eat. Our long, tiring day came to a close when we were able to get to bed on the concrete floor. Although it was hot because of poor air circulation, this was our best accommodation on the entire river trip.

Chris set up his satellite radio. I even had a turn.

Arline: What a shock to answer the phone in Cassville and hear Carl's clear voice from the jungles of Peru! It was so good to know they were OK.

Carl: The school house, the only building of this type in Belen, was built by the government.

We looked around the area for a while before the 9:30 church service.

On-camera Audio

Overlay: 9:30 a.m.: Belen church service

On-camera Audio: Comments on church service.

After David and Chris concluded the church service, we put together a light lunch of Ramen Noodles and canned ham. The day was very hot.

We spent some time walking around the village. We ran short of safe drinking water so David and Bill went to the river and pumped another 5-gallons through our filter and added some chlorine.

Later, we brewed coffee and then walked around the village some more. This is a rather small village, maybe only a couple hundred people. It is really hard to tell because the huts are spread out and sometimes hidden by the jungle.

On-camera Audio: Comments on homes and living conditions.

David and Bill spent a little time in the afternoon doing some repair on the peki-peki. After that we all stripped for our river bath. The water was cool and really refreshing even if a little muddy.

The afternoon spent getting ready for the evening church service and relaxing.

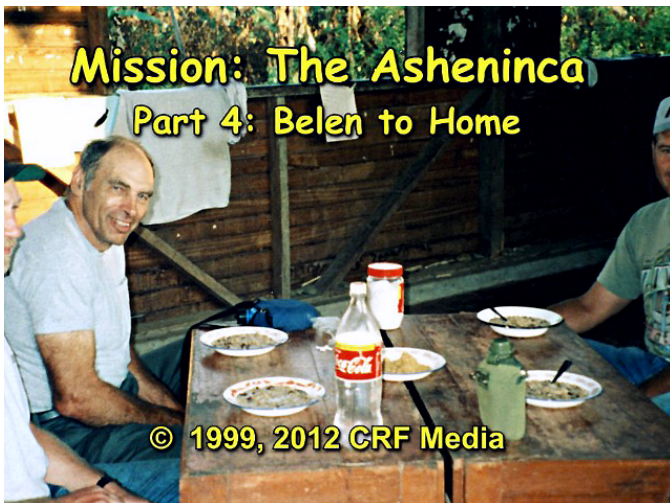
We managed to get most of our supplies organized before dark in preparation for the evening meal and our second night in this village.

There is no electricity here so we tried to have everything pretty well in order before dark. After the church service, we hung our mosquito nets, unrolled sleeping bags and mats and settled in for a much needed rest.

There was a lot of lightning off in the distance so we expect rain again tonight. It will be welcome.

On-camera Audio: Comments on load of roots for food.

Overlay: © Filmed in 1999



Mission: The Asheninca Pt. 4: *Belen to Home*

Ch. 05 (11:10) Filmed September 1999

Carl: After our usual breakfast, we were back on the Apurucayali.

On-camera Audio: Leaving Belen by boat and observations along the way.

This time, we are going down the river for most of trip then a few miles back up the Pichis to Amanbay.

Bill took a couple turns at the control of the peki-peki but most of the time he was up on the bow of the boat watching

for submerged logs and rocks. Some of the obstacles were spotted too late for the slow maneuvering peki-peki to avoid. It was one of these rock outcroppings that moved him abruptly from the bow into the river. What a surprise! At least it was cool and refreshing and an interesting diversion.

On-camera Audio: More comments about trip including refueling, cattle boat and fishing.

We arrived in Amanbay by late afternoon and rejoined Perry and Marty where we had left them on the way down river.

We packed our supplies from the boat to what had been set up as a hospital. This is where Perry and Marty had secured a hut for an overnight.

This building had never been used for its intended purpose but for storage instead.

On-camera Audio: Comment on our accommodations.

Inside was a birthing bed, recovery bed and some shelves. Bill's bunk for the night will be the birthing bed. He was the only one of our crew short enough to be comfortable on it.

Overlay: Bed with mosquito net

We all pitched in and fixed a good dinner from our pooled supplies leaving enough oatmeal and dried apples for breakfast the next morning.

Overlay: Elementary School

On-camera Audio: Comment about school.

Overlay: Baño – Toilet

On-camera Audio: Comments about toilet then volleyball game.

The missionary crew, David, Chris, Perry and Marty, conducted church services after dark and showed some religious movies.

Rain began falling shortly after bedtime of around 10 p.m. and continued for most of the night.

We were up about 6 a.m. and waited for the rain to stop. Finally, we said our goodbyes to the Asheninca of Amanbay.

On-camera Audio: Comments on loading gear on boat and river conditions.

The river was down several feet in spots. About an hour and a half from Puerto Bermudez we ran aground in some bad rapids and cracked the prop of the boat.

On-camera Audio: Comments about repairing the prop.

On-camera Audio: River conditions and arrival at Puerto Bermudez.

We arrived at Puerto Bermudez about 1:00 p.m., unloaded the boat, loaded the truck and went to the hotel – a good place with bathrooms. Had a quick shower, shave and on to the restaurant for catfish. It was a relaxing afternoon.

The Plaza de Armas near the hotel was a beautiful park-like setting. A good place for all to enjoy.

Overlay: The next morning we were off to Pucallpa at 6:45.

On-camera Audio: Comments about crossing small river and wooden bridge.

Overlay: About half way to Pucallpa

There was only one major problem. The fuel pipe from our rear tank to the pump was mashed due to the high center rocks in the road. We were unable to repair the pipe, but, instead siphoned the diesel from the rear tank to a container then to the front tank.

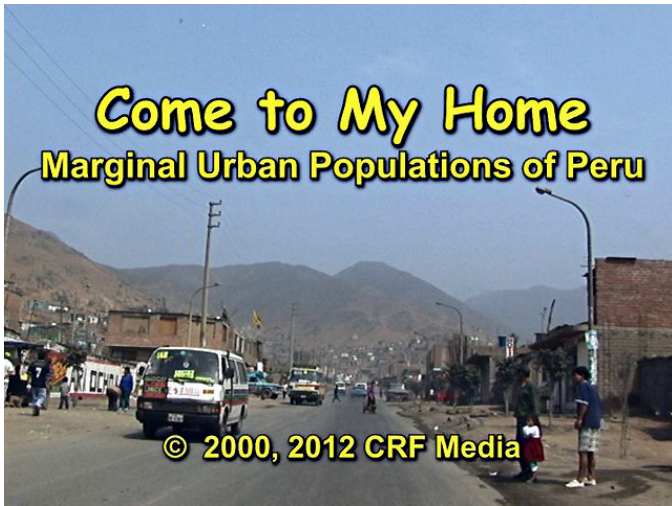
We arrived in Pucallpa about 1:00 p.m. and unloaded most of our gear off at Chris' home. The next day Bill and I took the plane to Lima and then on home.

Overlay: Pucallpa to Lima Check-in

The time visiting the homeland of the Asheninca people was too short. Still, we were humbled by their simple lifestyle.

Many external influences are changing this subsistence culture. So too, this trip and these people have changed us as we ask “Where to from here?”. “What should we do with what we have seen and experienced?” What would you do?

Overlay: © Filmed in 1999



Come to My Home

Ch. 06 (11:26) Filmed July 2000

Overlay: Near Lima, Peru: August 2000

Carl: From all over Peru, people come to Lima looking for a job and a better life. With little or no money, they are making their homes in the mountain foothills of Eastern Lima. It is here that many learn of Jesus Christ and have invited Him into their lives.

Not for narration: Missionaries, Woody and Sylvia Fletcher, have served in Peru for over thirty years. After living in other places in the country during their ministry, they have been in Lima for several years. Their team is the Marginal Urban Populations of Peru or MUPP. Members of the team work in what is called “the area” where people by the hundreds come in and literally carve out a place for a small home from the hillsides surrounding Lima. Land here must be chipped out of the hillside and leveled prior to building a home or church. The roads are also done by hand with picks and shovels.

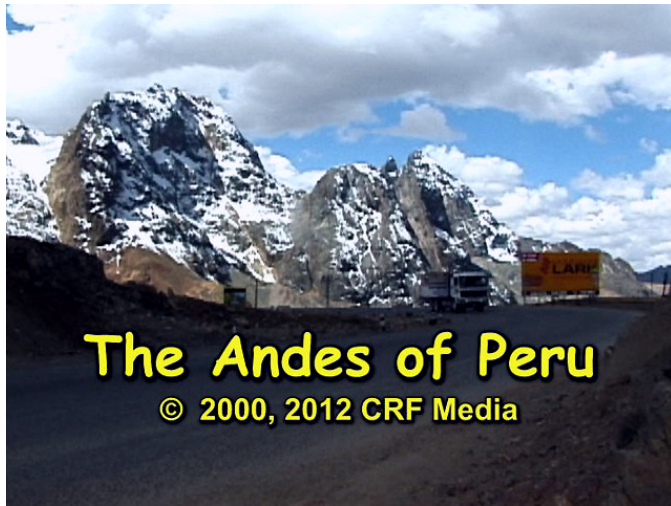
During our visit we went out to the community of La Florida with about 150 homes. This is where Rodrigo and Dora, head of the church planting team, started the work several years ago.

We went on to walk around the Christ the King Community where there are six different divisions of approximately 50 families each. The average income is \$100/month and five children per family. A water truck comes 2-3 times a week to fill 50 gallon drums at 25-30 cents each.

Small house churches are established in these divisions and eventually a one-room small church building is erected on land usually donated by the community organization. The vision is for 75 new house churches by December 31, 2003.

In this video, Woody ad libs on camera talking about the various church plants located in this part of Lima.

On camera audio: Woody Fletcher---



The Andes of Peru

Ch. 07 (12:07) Filmed July 2000

Carl: The winding road passing through tunnels, across rivers, up steep mountain grades and narrow passes is all part of visiting the Andes Mountains of Peru.

Map Overlays:

Lima
Morococha
La Oroya
Tarma
Huancayo

On this three-day trip, we will reach an elevation exceeding 16,000 feet and enjoy a world much different from that of Lima.

Peru's Central Highway is the well-traveled route across the Andes and back down to Pucallpa in the lowlands near the Amazon River. The heavy trucks, ... mostly 22 wheelers and sometimes pulling trailers, ... seem out of place on this difficult route. These huge vehicles are usually loaded with lumber from the forest or minerals from the mines.

BELLAVISTA, at 12,000 feet elevation, was a good rest stop. Here we had a quick lunch and walked around the area. The creek tumbling down the mountain was thick with silt from the mining activity further up the mountain side. This was also a good opportunity to breathe in some oxygen for those feeling a bit light headed. We brought a small oxygen bottle along with us just in case.

Arline: The mines, some located in deep ravines, extract copper, gold, silver, lead and zinc ores from the area. These are big operations and the largest source of income in the Andes Mountains.

The shrines along the way, ... marking fatal accidents, ... remind us that this is a very dangerous highway.

The snow covered Mount Yerupajá indicates that we are nearing the summit pass. The air is very thin at this elevation but the trucks continue on with the aid of superchargers on their air intake.

Despite the elevation and harsh working environment, mining activity began centuries ago. For most of the area, the silver grade increases with elevation.

The railroad built to haul ore from the mines reaches an elevation of nearly 16,000 feet at the Tielio Crossing. This pass near Morococha is the highest standard gauge railroad in the world. The summit is 82 miles east of Lima.

Carl: For us, this was a good stop but breathing sufficient oxygen was difficult. From this spot, the road continues on up to over 16,000 feet, one of the highest in the world. It was then downhill toward Tarma.

The city of La Oroya, (OR-yah) ... 23 miles to the west, ... is located near a huge mine and smelter.

The highway splits just outside the city with the southern route to Huancayo. We take the northern route to Tarma; a distance of 33 miles. The road cuts through terraced fields of potatoes, wheat and other crops. Needless to say, tending these farms is a lot of work.

Tarma, 140 miles from Lima, is often called "the Pearl of the Andes". Located in a fertile valley at an elevation of 10,000 feet, both the pre-Inca and the Inca peoples called this place their home.

Today, the population is about 60,000. Most of the homes are located along the hillsides leaving the flat valley floor for raising crops. Peru's tallest eucalyptus tree ...planted 170 years ago... is located in the valley.

The families of the residents have lived here for generations with their ancestors interred in nearby cemeteries. Most people living here are devout Catholics.

Arline: The Hacienda la Florida , where we stayed for the night, was originally constructed some 250 years ago. The

accommodations were excellent including a nice restaurant with good food.

The owners, Peppí and his wife, are a very friendly couple and showed us around. Peppí even played some music on an old 78 RPM record using their gramophone.

The next day we headed back toward La Oroya. The mountain river flowing with cool clear water was in stark contrast to the muddy stream we encountered on the way from Lima.

At the junction near La Oroya, we turn south and pass a huge smelter operation. It was then on another 75 miles to Huancayo. We followed the Mantaro (MAHN-tahroe) River for much of the way. The water from this river empties into the Rimac River on its way to Lima and then the Pacific Ocean. Occasionally, there were llamas, ... in Spanish called Yamas, ... grazing along this fast flowing stream.

At a rest stop next to the river, we could see terraced farm land stretching up the hillsides.

Carl: After arriving in Huancayo, we checked in at the Hotel de Turistas Huancayo, in English "Huancayo Tourist Hotel" and spent the remainder of the day touring this impressive city. The hotel was directly across from the city's Plaza de Armas. It is a beautiful, well kept place where many people congregate often. They seem to be enjoying the relaxing atmosphere while sitting around talking or accomplishing a task. Occasionally, someone is in a real hurry.

Huancayo, at an elevation of 11,000 and a population of 850,000, is a commercial city located in one of the most important agricultural regions in the Andes.

Near the edge of the city, is the crowded Sunday market.

On camera audio ... Sunday is where people pile in ... many, many decades.

Behind us is where the Artisans from the Mantaro Valley come into the city to sell their products and beautiful creations.

There were many treasures to choose from but it's important to buy one of the dried gourds carved with scenes. This art is called *mate burilado* and is truly amazing. Naturally, we brought one home with us.

The ladies are having a great time shopping. They have already purchased their keepsake "church" hats and now are having a difficult time choosing just the right woven tapestry. An excellent choice was made and it fits well in our home. The nice-looking hats were worn our first Sunday at home!

While in Huancayo, we enjoyed a delicious meal in the hotel restaurant. The food on our trip has been delicious and a real treat for us all.

Arline: The next day it was the long drive back to Lima. Of course, there was more to see and enjoy on the way.

These three days truly provided a vital contrast to the mega city of Lima. We traveled through what seemed to be a different world in the Andes of Peru. Seeing the local customs and dress and meeting the friendly people was an experience we will remember for a lifetime. Thank you, friends, for providing incredible memories!

Carl: It was getting late by the time we stopped for dinner at a restaurant near La Oroya. Leaving there, the sun was beginning to set and getting dark when we drove through the **Ticlio** Crossing. From here, it is only three hours to Lima and downhill all the way.

Overlay: © Filmed 2000