



Paul N. Temple

Part 2

By Dickson Buxton and David Zweig



Paul Temple may best be known as the man who co-founded the [Institute for Noetic Sciences](#). But he is that and much more.

In Part 1 he took us through his early years, his interrupted education at Princeton, his combat service in World War II, his matriculation at Harvard Law School, his international law career and his chance introduction to the petroleum business.

In Part 2 of this profile, he talks about how he came to leave the Big Oil industry to become an entrepreneur, how he began to explore "consciousness," the founding of IONS, his international peace initiatives, and his latest active endeavors to create a planet healthier than the one into which he was born.

We hope you enjoy deepening your acquaintance with this singularly remarkable man.



Merchants of Vision

I spent six weeks in Yemen back in the days of Ahmed the Devil. This is another story that I won't go into now.

In 1961, again much to my surprise, I was offered a job as president of the affiliates of Esso [now Exxon] in Spain. I took the better part of an hour to accept. I had to get my wife on the phone as she did not speak any Spanish at that time. We soon found ourselves aboard the Leonardo da Vinci liner sailing across the Atlantic to Gibraltar.

Thereby hangs an experience in Spain that lasted about nine and a half years. I never expected to stay there that long. They had sent me to take over a small marketing company, but mostly because they had acquired exploration acreage and they were going to be drilling wells in Navarre and Aragon, and they needed someone to deal with the government while all that was going on.

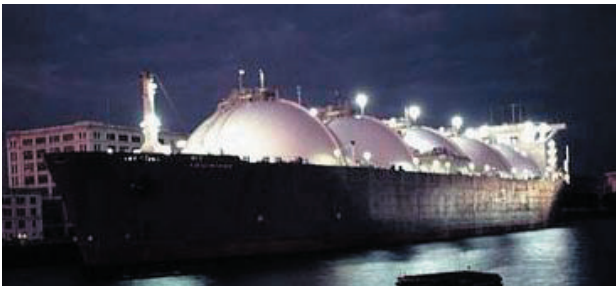
In due course, I was able to develop good relations with a number of influential Spanish businessmen, including a group that had a permit to build an ammonia and fertilizer plant in Malaga. At the time foreign investors were not permitted to have control of any company in Spain. This was still the latter days of Generalissimo Franco. We managed to do a 50/50 deal between Exxon and the Spanish group. It was quite a bold new precedent. As a result I was able to stay in Spain after the company had drilled about six dry holes in Aragon. The plant is still running; a government-controlled company now owns it.

Meanwhile, allied with Banco Español de Credito, known as Banesto, we received permission for Exxon to build a refinery in a town on the Mediterranean coast, Castellón de la Plana. This was again a fairly dramatic new precedent because no other foreign company had been given permission to have as much as a 50% interest in a Spanish refinery. Then we achieved permission to build a nylon and caprolactam plant for Esso Chemicals in Spain. One thing and another came along, and finally I was able to negotiate for them a deal with the gas company in Barcelona to import liquefied natural gas from Esso

Libya. Esso had decided to build a plant in Libya. They had a lot of natural gas reserves, but of course, there was no market. The only way they could create a market would be to liquefy the gas to -276 degrees F. and then it could be transported on specially built tankers. It has become a worldwide industry now. This was one of the first examples of transporting LNG from country to country by ship.

The man who was the head of the gas company in Barcelona became a good personal friend. He

asked my boss at Exxon if he could borrow me while this project was being put together. Instead of going back to NYC after 6 years in Spain, I moved my family to Barcelona and became Executive VP of Gas Natural. We spent three and a half delightful years in Barcelona while a group of Americans who were specialists in various aspects of LNG came in and prepared the city for its reception from North Africa. It eventually arrived and was inaugurated by General Franco.





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After school was out in 1969 the Temple family moved back to the States. I left Exxon because I had been offered by its former chief geologist a proposal to join him in creating a new international oil exploration company with headquarters in Westport, Connecticut.

Thus, we moved back to Westport and undertook to construct a new company there called Weeks Petroleum. It proved to be a wonderful experience that required travel all over the world. The degree of success of the Weeks' geologists was not to be compared to what Exxon had achieved. I was president of the Weeks company, and stayed in Westport until 1976 when it became clear that the company needed more technical expertise at the top. Moreover, the exploration phase, which was more interesting from my perspective, had passed. I resigned as President and moved to Washington DC where I had many friends. I remained a significant stockholder in Weeks.

The group of people in the Fellowship was still in DC, so I had an opportunity to renew the relationship. In Spain I managed to create several fellowship groups that met for lunch. It was a new experience for everyone. 99.44 % of Spaniards were Roman Catholic. They had not had that kind of experience. It was quite wonderful to develop friends in the Fellowship in Spain, many of whom continued to be friends after I had moved to Washington, DC.

I also had started making personal investments in oil and gas exploration in the US. Through my relationship with [Lewis Weeks](#), the former chief geologist of Exxon, I had been assigned a small fraction of a royalty in Australia for his recommending certain oil and gas prospects in the Bass Strait off the coast of southeast Australia. I hardly dared hope something would come of it, but the result was that when BP brought in Esso on a farm-out basis, they found one good oil and gas field after another.

The field started in production in 1971. It took a long time to get the project going, but since that time, I have had the great pleasure of receiving a small portion of all quarterly payments of royalties from all the oil and gas production in the Bass Strait. This has greatly improved the economic condition of my family. My share of the royalty requires no work at this stage. Production is still going on. It is still producing large amounts of oil and natural gas. Although the volume has decreased, the royalty has not significantly decreased because prices of oil and gas have increased substantially, especially over the last year. This has proved to be beneficial to the Temples and also about 50 other royalty holders, including the Lewis Weeks family.

The royalty has been a godsend and has provided an opportunity to support a large number of charities, including the Institute of Noetic Sciences.

In 1973, something quite significant also happened: our youngest daughter Robin came home one day in Westport and said, "I want to take a course called Silva Mind Control."

"Mind control?! What would that involve?"



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It sounded dangerous. My wife Karen and I finally decided to take this course with Robin. In the Silva course we learned we were able to function mentally in ways that did not seem possible. For example, at the end of this course we were given the name and location of a person who was a complete stranger, and we developed the ability to identify any physical abnormalities of that individual. In one case I identified that a young man had lost a leg. I could visualize an image of him. He also had an extreme case of acne, but they did not have that information. Later they confirmed that this was true. I did not continue to practice this mental exercise, as I thought it might be an invasion of privacy! Still, the purpose was to send healing images to the person in question.

After this Silva Mind Control course I went to a meeting in Chicago of an interfaith group with Senator Harold Hughes. At this conference there was an Apollo 14 astronaut named Edgar Mitchell who gave a speech about his experiences on the moon. Mitchell, during his moon mission, had performed telepathic experiments from his space capsule. He had organized several psychics in the US and Europe to try to tell what sequence of random cards he was concentrating on. There were something like 10,000-to-1 odds that they would be as successful as they were. He was over 180,000 miles from the Earth when this was going on, so it shows that telepathic transmission is something that is not limited by mileage.

I met Ed Mitchell after his speech. We talked and not long after that he invited me to have lunch with him in New York City. I was glad to do that, and at that lunch he asked me if I would be willing to help him in establishing a new foundation that would be dedicated to the study of human consciousness.

Having taken Silva Mind Control course and having had such an amazing experience there, I was ready so I said of course I would be delighted to assist him. Ed, having just come out of NASA, which had a huge budget, was trying to line up a few people who could help pay the necessary expenses while his institute got on its feet. His interest in me as a potential collaborator was probably based on this objective.

For many years I made a substantial contribution to the growth of this new entity called the Institute of Noetic Sciences, founded in 1973. It is on the verge of celebrating its 35th anniversary, and as you may know, it now has a 200-acre campus in Novato. Over the years the Institute has done a good deal of pioneering work. But the vanguard work that it was doing 20 to 30 years ago now has become more or less mainstream science. It still is doing experiments, but it is more difficult to remain on the cutting edge in that kind of scientific inquiry than it was in the 1970s.

I met Willis Harman when he became president of IONS, I can't remember the exact date, but I served as Chairman of IONS for 17 years, so it was some time ago. When Willis and Rinaldo [Brutoco] decided to create this Academy, Willis had had this great insight. He was willing to accept that the business community was something that is a key element in the formation of public opinion and knowledge. Willis had written a couple of books that illustrated his thinking on that subject. I tried to help Willis, but I was so committed with different things that were happening in my life that I didn't join the World Business



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Academy when it was organized. I was too swamped. Nevertheless, I thought it was a great idea and Willis tried to talk me into it, but I gracefully declined at that time. Now I have joined and have realized the error of my ways.

The National Prayer Breakfast is now officially sponsored by the groups that meet each week in the Senate and the House of Representatives. It is a way that these men can get together in fellowship across party lines and share their faith and get to know each other better. Behind the scenes there is a group of people, many good friends of mine, who do the essential work to make this possible. They invite the Cabinet and the staff employed in the White House, the diplomatic corps, the judiciary and interested persons from all over the country and over 100 countries.

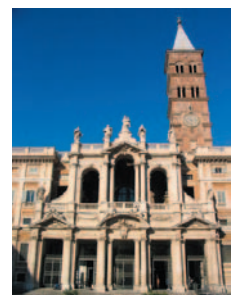
In 1988, I attended the US/USSR Citizens' Summit in Arlington, Virginia. There were two of those events, one in Arlington in 1988 and one in Moscow in 1990. Citizens' diplomacy was taking place, largely unpublicized, toward the closing days of the Soviet Union. There was a lady named Rama Vernon who had taken the initiative. Something like that was also going on at Esalen. Michael Murphy and his collaborators were also inviting leaders of the Soviet Union to come to the U.S., stay at Esalen, and have a direct experience of America. Rama Vernon, whom we happened to know, asked if I would be willing to act as Master of Ceremonies of those two events. I was glad to do that. I had studied some Russian and at the time knew enough to say a few words. I had never met a card-carrying Communist.

We all had been exposed to Senator Joe McCarthy, and at that time, there was a lot of fear about Communists in this country. At the Summit in Arlington my wife and I invited the Soviet Peace Committee to come to our apartment the night before the first session. In came a remarkable group. Apparently, they were all Party members, or they would not have been invited by the so-called "Peace Committee." They were leaders in every field. You can imagine: movie stars, a brain surgeon, a couple of astronauts, et cetera.

I was astonished to find out that even though these people were Communists, they were good and friendly people. Based on our original meeting there wasn't anything about them to be fearful of. I think, in fact, they were more fearful of us than we were of them. After all it was America that used the first atomic bombs. When we went to Moscow ten years later, we already knew many of these people. This was in 1990, shortly before the end of the Soviet Union. The next year the whole Soviet structure collapsed. I think we outspent them. They finally concluded they couldn't keep up the military expenditures that were necessary, and so that was the end of the history of the Soviet Union.

Another highlight was an audience with Pope John Paul II. I was involved in a company that created a videotape (which you can still buy) called "A Prayer for World Peace." This was a videotape that had been created of the Pope saying the Rosary in St. Mary Majors Church in Rome in a half dozen languages, flashing simultaneously through satellites to congregations around the world who were joining in reciting the Rosary. So it was an amazing experience. We didn't charge the Vatican anything. This was just something that they were happy to have us do, and we were happy to be able to do it. This was the

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time of Pentecost, and the Pope was holding midnight Mass in the open air in front of St. Peter's Cathedral. Because of this videotape we were invited to join in this Mass. Practically all of our group decided they had such jet lag that they couldn't stay up for a midnight Mass, so they went to bed. Diane and I decided to attend. We came into St. Peter's Square and showed them our invitations. The first thing we knew we were up on the elevated platform sitting next to the Bishops and Archbishops and sharing kneelers with them for communion. This was the Vatican's way of saying thank you for what we were doing. We were greatly honored.

For a number of years I have been involved in the study of consciousness. Individuals can achieve a realization of the role of consciousness and the capabilities of human consciousness. It happens when a businessperson gets introduced into the business community. It doesn't happen because they are businesspeople. It happens because it involves a lot of truth that is not widely known or accepted. In fact, it is systematically rejected by a lot of people until they have such an inner experience themselves that there is no argument one way or the other. Once you have experienced things, then you know they are true. For instance, the board of Institute of Noetic Sciences, on two different occasions, had firewalks. Now we know that people in some remote locations in India and some Pacific Islands do this, but this is not very common in our culture. But we found out through personal experience that with proper training, conditioning and instruction, you can build a fire, scatter the embers, and walk over them without getting burned. You can experience the laws of mind repealing the laws of physics. These coals are very hot! I remember the first fire walk we had was at Gold Lake Ranch in Colorado. There were 25 of us where the board and a few of the staff of Noetics were having a meeting. In the evening we decided to have a fire walk. We had an instructor who was very experienced. So we went out and built a huge bonfire. We stood around and held hands and someone started saying "Ommmm." Everyone started saying "Ommmmmm." I couldn't help commenting that this was the first time I had ever heard Om on the range. Everybody walked over these coals, and no one was burned because we were confident we would not be burned. Once you've had that experience, it is something that is unique and you wouldn't believe it unless it happened to you. This is just an example of the kind of things that can happen within the framework of experience that we're all pretty confident can't happen. Except it does.



To wrap up this quick autobiography, I should tell you a little bit about what I am doing today.

I am in partnership in a company called [Seasoil Limited](#) with a man in Chicago who is quite a genius at formulating organic chemicals. This company is producing organic fertilizers and soil nutrients. People want to go organic because organic foods attract a premium price and are healthier.

It is having terrific success in the agricultural life of South America, including Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. They are demonstrating how these chemicals will improve the characteristics of the soil so you get more produce and more



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nutritious and better tasting food. People are very excited about it down there.

I am also acting as chairman and co-owner of a company ([Biogenesis Enterprises](#)), which has a unique and patented technology to clean up contaminated sediments under bodies of water. They are working right now in New Jersey, not far from the mouth of the Passaic River which is heavily contaminated with dioxin. General Electric was pouring these contaminants into the Hudson River in upstate New York, but they didn't realize, at first, that when you pour something toxic into a river and it disappears, it is still there. And they are spending millions of dollars cleaning it up.



They are demonstrating that this technology will, in fact, clean up these sediments so that they can be used for other purposes. They can't just be dumped at sea anymore as they were at one time. You have to keep dredging deeper in the harbors of the world because they are building deeper draft ships all the time.

We have also done a successful pilot plant demonstration in Venice, and we expect to get busy on a longer-range basis there sometime next year. This is a new potential worldwide industry. Think of it as cleaning up the face of Mother Earth, which God knows we need. In the last century or two mankind has managed to besmirch Mother Earth's face in a pretty dramatic way, often without realizing what they're doing.

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