

Hubbard interviews Bernard Gross

Introductory banter

HUBBARD: I'm calling you because your name was given to me by someone as having had some contact with R.R. Rife some years ago.

GROSS: You said that I had contact with him. He worked for me.

HUBBARD: He worked for you? Rife worked for you?

GROSS: You see, he was subsidized by the Timkin family for years, but when finally he left them, he had never worked for anybody, he was subsidized, but he actually worked for me, and I gave him a laboratory, and he did work for me.

HUBBARD: How long did he work for you?

GROSS: Well, maybe six months, I'd really have to go back on the records but ah... then I decided to start two new corporations and I made the mistake of not taking him with me, cause he would have fit in real well. He was a wonderful ah... and had I known what was ahead of me I certainly would have got him because I finally got into optics pretty seriously, and I am right now. He would have been a wonderful man. And as you probably know how he became the technician he did... you probably know all that stuff?

HUBBARD: Well I was told that he trained with Hans Lutheral in Germany for a while. Is that true, to your knowledge?

GROSS: Well, for a while, he spent several years in Germany.

HUBBARD: Oh he did?

GROSS: He sure did. He was subsidized again by the Timkin family and that was right close to where I lived for years. I used to visit with him and finally, I couldn't spend much time, I wanted to help him, I respected his skill and his knowledge of optics, and so being on the staff of UC I invited some of the physicists to look at the microscope, and they did, but at that time he was involved in booze.

HUBBARD: What year was this?

GROSS: I really couldn't put my finger on dates. But he didn't impress the physicists, in fact they shook their heads because he was a mile off on his theories, but if he'd have just talked about what he really did and what accomplished in his microscope he would have been respected by the university. He really didn't have the background to theorize like he did in medicine and all that stuff and finally got himself and others in trouble. But I did then, after he passed away, and I'm sorry I didn't see him before he did, but again, I had been involved, after he passed away I had met with the men... I know the two men that worked for him over the years when he had the Timkin laboratory.

HUBBARD: And what are their names?

GROSS: Well, Dick Alderson was one of them and he lived in Ohio now, he was a chemist, later he worked for me all through the war, for four years. Then there was Henry Siner. Henry Siner is was his microscopist assistant, and when Dr. Rife was invited to come to the Academy in England, the Royal Academy, he was involved again in booze, and he sent Henry, he spent a couple of years there and did some wonderful work.

HUBBARD: Henry Siner spent two years in England?

GROSS: Yes. While going to England, Henry took this large container with this microscope and lashed it in his room to his bed or something and they and a rough ride and the microscope was damaged. That was one of the two big ones that I know about. And when he got there it was not operable. So he called up Dr. Rife on the telephone, you can verify all this here in San Diego with Henry, and Henry told him what had happened, and he said "Now, you get these kind of tools, small screwdrivers," which Dr. Rife gave him anyway to take with him, "and listen carefully, and start with one prism," I don't remember if he started with the lower or the upper, it doesn't make any difference, there were some 21 prisms, and he went through the adjustments of each one, and after hours on the telephone it performed beautifully. Now one of the things he did then, the work with Henry would have been really worthwhile because he saw the typhus bacillus, and he saw it very clearly, and he saw it in movement, and he had magnification, he claims he got up to a hundred thousand, and he could see perfectly. Now Henry, after this booze incident Henry left the laboratory and went to work in industry and now is a banker as a matter of fact. He is a natural scientist, very knowledgeable although he did not go through any universities, very knowledgeable and very good and astute man, and all this had to get in the hands of a real problem. Crane went out and thought he could exploit some of the medical devices that Dr. Rife had made. Well, Dr. Rife could never repeat any medical research to my knowledge. He just wasn't trained for it. And he wasn't a natural himself in that field.

HUBBARD: You say he couldn't repeat, could he repeat his own experiments?

GROSS: In the field of medical research... you see he used to transmit various frequencies for different diseases, and claimed that he could, with any particular disease, control the bacillus, or whatever, with that frequency. But he never could repeat any of that. I don't care what anybody else says. I know that he couldn't. Now his theory, was a theory, and some day it ah... and I know there's a lot of people that worked on it. But he didn't have proof of it. You can start off with a theory and prove it, that you are right, but I am saying he could never prove anything. But he was a master, master, super mechanic. Trained to design lenses, and that he could do without a computer.

HUBBARD: Did he grind any lenses that you know of there in California?

GROSS: He sure did. He ground them right in front of me when he worked for me. One day he was grinding a lens for a telescope I wanted to measure tooling accurately, 30 feet long, within a few thousands. He was grinding that lens from raw glass when a twelve o'clock whistle blew and the thing exploded right in front of him. It just happened to be the resonant frequency and it did happen, he did it over again. And of course he completed that telescope and it was absolutely perfect. I could tell you a lot of things he did while he was working for me.

HUBBARD: Let me ask, do you know whether he had any note book in his laboratory in his laboratory on his medical experiments?

GROSS: That's a question you should ask Henry Siner. I can answer question where I was involved only. I have no business doing anything but that. Henry is a very fine person. I want to tell you I was willing to even spend some of my money to help and work with Henry to reconstruct one of those microscopes which I know Henry can do, if he had the frames. The frames are in the hands of this punk that's in P??? in fact he should be sitting in a jail now, except that some very kind individual got him out and promised to keep an eye on him, and so he is out.

HUBBARD: And who is this person to whom you are referring.

GROSS: Crane. And I wouldn't believe a word that guy says. I've tried to get some, you know, something from him that I could use basically, but there's no use, no use. I mean the guy is so far gone he can't do anything. But I think he drained Dr. Rife out of every nickel, and I know how he did it too.

HUBBARD: You do?

GROSS: Yes, he loaned him money for booze, and then when the time came and Rife couldn't pay it back he said, "Well, I'll take it out on your equipment." And that's how he got what he did. Now that I know, I'm not guessing. Life is too short. I would like to do something that's good. I happen to be the founder of the Hall of Sciences in San Diego. I was going to set up this microscope, reconstruct one, and then I was going to bring it down to one of my companies where I could use photography through it. It is way in advance of what ever did to it.

HUBBARD: Well now Dr. Gross, let me tell you why I am interested in this microscope and what it means and what I am trying to do. First of all I have applied here at our state university for a small amount of money to try to recover these microscopes and see what it would take to restore them. I don't know what it would cost to restore them yet, all I want to do is first find out. Then as soon as I find out what it would take, how much money it would take to restore them, then I want to press vigorously to restore them to an operable condition to where we can make a few observations. One of the things, the article of Seidel and Winter, that was published in the Smithsonian Institute, I suppose you've seen that several times?

GROSS: Yes, correct me if I'm wrong, that's the article that recognizes that Rife built the highest magnification mechanical microscope in the world, and they recognized it, and verified it.

HUBBARD: I don't know that it was verified, but it was claimed there, yes. But the thing is, what I had recognized recently, in the last two years, is that that picture, a cross-section of a tetanus spore there, gives the same information that the electron microscope gave some fifteen to twenty years later. In fact that picture there is better than what we've had from electron microscopy as late as 1960. So the thing is that we did have techniques in electron microscopy to produce a picture of a cross-section of tetanus spore that good in 1944, by no means. Those pictures are the prime evidence for the capability of that microscope. And because I have recognized that, I have been calling around all over the country, in fact I went out to California in April, and I saw Crane, and I saw the microscopes, I spent a week there. I'm satisfied that the microscope was capable, at that time, of producing extremely high resolution that we have only been able to accomplish otherwise with electron microscopy and with new techniques. Now, I have an approach to the fundamental aspect of biologic aging in all organisms. This theory I have, I think is a very good one, and I have talked it over with one chemist and another in England, and I want to do some high magnification work. You see, most biologists, when they do their microscopy, for the electron microscopy, they have to take the water out of the system. And this is most unfortunate because this

is the biggest component of living tissue. And water is not a simple substance, it's very complex. To make long story short...

GROSS: No, no, I'm interested in every word you are talking about, you see, I was in research, pure research, way back, and I never got out of it. I am enjoying every word you are now saying.

HUBBARD: I am sure, Dr. Gross, as sure as one can be without having the evidence right in front of him as to what are the two common denominators... now let's just use arithmetic a bit.... A common denominator of aging in every form of life. I'm sure that I have one of those common denominators, the other common denominator is radiation. But at any rate, if I had this microscope working, what I would do is then go, you see here in Buffalo we have American Optical, they are one of the microscope manufacturers here, over in Rochester there is Bausch and Lomb, and the Institute for Optics of the University of Rochester is there, it's the biggest optics institute in America. So I'm right here in the center of the optical part of the United States, at least in the eastern United States.

Gross explains his business ventures and why he got interested in optics.

GROSS: ... and this is why I became somewhat interested recently. I think I can get the color and the magnification that no one else has been able to get so far, if we could reproduce the Rife high-magnification microscope. That's why I saw Henry Siner and I went over the whole thing and I decided and he decided that we would do it. We didn't want to fool around with Crane so we sent somebody that is his parole officer, I know him well, and so far he hasn't been able to do anything with him. The guy is only out of jail because of this person. There are so many "ifs and ands." I don't want to be pressured by some guy that should be sitting in jail. I want to buy the thing. And then if I decide I want to give it to a university or something, I'll do it.

HUBBARD: Well, I was trying to rent it, rent them, and I offered to restore them and return them to him restored.

GROSS: Who has the knowledge to restore it that you know about?

HUBBARD: Well now, I have Nemarski in France, he's the Director of the Institute of Optics there, and George Stroke is head of the electron optics section down at Stonybrook. I've been in contact with George Stroke about six months ago. I've also been in contact with the Acting Director of the Optics Institute at Rochester. Now, I don't care how the instruments are restored.

GROSS: I question whether any of these people can do it. Now, I am an optimist by nature. But I know enough about this particular instrument that I know there is only one man that can do it.

HUBBARD: And that's Henry Siner?

GROSS: I know it.

A discussion wherein Gross sells himself and Siner as the only two who could put the microscopes back to working order.

HUBBARD: This microscope, the mechanics of it, is not really advantageous for biologic work. What we really need is an inverted microscope. The condenser should be above the specimen, the illumination train should be above the specimen, and the magnification optics should be below the specimen.

GROSS: Have you talked at all about details to Henry yet?

HUBBARD: I've set up an appointment to talk with him tomorrow...

Discussion follows regarding funding specifics for a possible restoration venture between Siner, Gross and Hubbard. Gross further sells Henry as the only man for the job.

HUBBARD: If we could get the thing restored and show pictures comparable to what were published in the Smithsonian Institute, then I'm sure I can get the microscope manufacturers, at least one of them would come up, maybe Zeiss would do it, and would use something like their inverted axialmat. If we could get that type of instrumentation, that's what is needed, Dr. Gross, to make the Rife optics highly productive. You see, the microscope as it is now is a very low productive instrument. You can't get much work done with it. It is impossible to get much work done with it. You can get a little bit of work, but not the quantity of work which you need to get done with an instrument to pay, to make it rewarding for an investigator to spend time and money. This is the next thing. But at the moment the principle of the microscope is what is needed.

GROSS: My own feeling is we build two, one just the way it was, and the other we modify.

HUBBARD: Well let me talk with Henry Siner tomorrow. And I am very sorry to hear this evaluation of Mr. Crane....

GROSS: Well, the last thing I want to do is talk about the bad in somebody, I would much rather talk about the good, if there was a little good in somebody I'd skip the rest of it. Believe me. But he is an exception. And I don't want to

see you go wrong because a lot of people have been hurt. He should be in jail right now.

HUBBARD: Well, I've offered to rent the microscopes from him, if I can get them restored...

GROSS: If he said yes you would still be in trouble. I would trust that... No how.

More funding discussion for possible purchase of scopes from Crane

HUBBARD: I was originally trying to get the Smithsonian Institute to go and try to purchase them. But there were some problems, they were having some administrative... some personal changes in the section on microscopy and they weren't able to do anything when I went down to Washington this summer.

GROSS: What would they buy?

HUBBARD: Well, I thought they might buy the number three, that's the big universal microscope, they might buy the number four microscope, and then if we could locate the number five in England, there would be three microscopes. Now, I found number three microscope at Crane's. He said that some of the prisms were missing in it. Some of the prisms in the barrel were missing.

GROSS: I'm familiar with that. Those prisms were not made by Dr. Rife.

HUBBARD: They were not?

GROSS: No (emphatically).

HUBBARD: Do you know who did make them?

GROSS: Well this is the sort of thing that Henry would know.

HUBBARD: Well now, the number four microscope was there, it was in very poor alignment. I did align it. It was dirty. Number three microscope is absolutely filthy. These microscopes, it would take at least a month to clean them up. They are just unbelievably dirty. But I did align number four well enough that I could get a low magnification image through a 10X objective and it was very poor. At any rate the parts were there. So number four could be restored I believe. That's what Crane had when I was there this April.

GROSS: What were you trying to do, arrange for a purchase?

HUBBARD: No, I was trying to arrange for a two year loan, and I was going to restore the instruments, or try to restore them, and I would give the instruments back to him, or, if he wanted to sell them after the were restored, I would turn them over to whomever he wanted to sell them to. Now, Dr. Gross, I don't know what the legal status is of Rife's material. I presume that the story that Crane gave me was right - that he was the executor of Rife's estate.

GROSS: Well, I think I explained the whole story to you. He loaned money to Rife. Rife couldn't pay it back and so he said, "OK, well you give me all these microscopes and things." Now, what he told you I don't believe because I happen to know that's what happened.

HUBBARD: All right, now then, there is another story he told me, he said that the microscope in England was not paid for. Is that true? Do you know?

GROSS: I'm sure that's not true. Not paid for by whom?

HUBBARD: He indicated the people with Gonin, the surgeon to King George the Fifth, had not paid for the microscope.

GROSS: Well who said he was supposed to?

HUBBARD: I don't know.

GROSS: Huh. Well all I can tell you is, you will regret the day you had any transaction with him. Now there might be a way of getting some of those frames and duplicating them. But I would touch that man on any basis. He IS supposed to be in jail now. And the man that's hauling him out is the only man I know of that could get more information on how we might get them and get them cleaned.

HUBBARD: Well, I am going to prepare the next moves. I may go to England after the first of the year.

They plan their future movements. SEACOR is the name of Gross' company (CofB)

HUBBARD: I will send you a letter with a photograph marked so that you will understand more precisely the importance of the publication of this picture that was published. You see at the time that Seidel and Winter published their article, there was no way to corroborate what he was publishing, and there was no way at time there was not enough information for people to really appreciate one of those phonographs. Now, we do have the information and we can appreciate one of those photographs, at any rate... I am determined. I have been after this Dr. Gross, let me tell you. There is correspondence showing that I have been after this microscope since 1949

I believe. It wasn't until February of 1975 that I got the final evidence from scanning electron microscopy of the one of the pictures, that corroborated one of Rife's pictures and then later I searched and found evidence to confirm another picture. And so it has been since February of 1975 that I have been after this thing with all the energy that I can, and I have really run up a lot of long distance phone bills trying to trace things down. But I am going to push this thing through if I possibly can and I do appreciate your help and I will be in touch from Mr. Siner.

GROSS: Who is Christopher Bird?

HUBBARD: Here's the story on this Dr. Gross. Chris is an excellent journalist. He is top notch. He has done a lot of work on this and has been digging on it for at least two years himself. I am interested only in the technical aspects. He helps me get leads, and anything that I can help him technically - I do. I am afraid now, Dr. Gross, looking back, with hindsight of thirty years, I am afraid that this chapter of Rife is going to be one of the saddest chapters in American medical research. If we can confirm this, and confirm anything else in the way of radiation effects of long wavelengths on bacterial organisms, it's going to be a sad story to tell, and Chris will have it to tell. So that's the division of labor, I take care of the technical aspects, and he is going to push on the literary. But I would like to urge you to channel any help that others could give on the technical aspects to me because if five or six different people all over the United States, Europe in Japan, if all start dividing your efforts, we won't get the thing finished. Now, I am 54 years old. Henry Siner is 60 years old. Crane is in his 60's. I know another man who was in contact with Rife when he was a boy. Unless we get this thing finished in this decade, all of us are going to be dead. It will be gone totally.

GROSS: I agree.

HUBBARD: So I am really pushing on this thing and believe me, I will be in touch with you again and Mr. Siner.

GROSS: Very good.

HUBBARD: All right sir, then good night.

GROSS: Goodbye.

Next interview.

Opening pleasantries

GROSS: I read your last letter with great interest, you ask among other things that I supply you with Dick Alderson's address. I talked to his daughter and unfortunately he passed away on August 24th of this year. He worked for me all during the war as you probably know. Let me just briefly say that we here in San Diego are interested in producing the Rife microscope. We are especially interested at SECOR, a company that I am Chairman of the Board, in producing special equipment with it to make it more useful, such as video equipment, that is our business. We are in optics and very high-end video. So, I'd like to point out just two things that you probably realize anyway – one is that Henry Siner will be needed since he is the only one in the world that I know about available today that knows how to make adjustments and teach the operation technology. Having the microscope physically, and we hope that it shows up, we have some leads now, but by itself that microscope will not... not perform the way Rife says unless Henry makes it do it.

Gross continues to sell himself and Siner as the man and company to reconstruct the scope.

Hubbard goes on to warn Gross about a man interested in the scope, a Dr. Schleicher who he feels is a shady character.

HUBBARD: I have had copies of correspondence which your undesirable acquaintance put in your neck of the woods (Crane). This man is getting himself involved in trying to sell some equipment which I think will land him back in the arms of the Food and Drug people.

GROSS: Let me explain that I wouldn't talk to him myself, I don't need him, I don't think we need him, and it's just a waste of time. If we do anything it will go all around him because we don't need him. He unfortunately was a part of a miserable thing that happened to Rife. Some day we will tell you the real story of what did happen to Rife. And I don't see what all this has got to do with the microscope.

HUBBARD: Well you feel then that everything can be handled on the basis of the microscopes in England?

GROSS: There is some other information that we have that I am not at liberty to talk about now. But England is one of the things that should and must be pursued. If you people feel that you want to be part of that fine, then you tell me that. The procurement of the microscope in England.

HUBBARD: I would very much like to have that microscope.

GROSS: The only reason that we want it is that we know that there has been no working drawings ever made. We would like to use that as a substitute if you will, or in place of drawings, to produce that scope. Drawings that can

be used for working drawings. And that's it. That microscope without Henry is just useless. Totally. He worked for two solid years with that microscope.

HUBBARD: Well, Dr.Gross, let me repeat that I am not interested in any material consideration about this microscope.

GROSS: I understand that thoroughly. I will put this in writing - that if you really are interested in its use as a researcher then you will become part of what we are doing.

More banter about the foibles of getting funding from universities for this. Hubbard updates his standard plan involving the NIH.

GROSS: Regarding the microscope... what is your real interest... would you like it for a period of time... would you like it for your researches... do you want ownership of one... what do you want?

HUBBARD: Dr. Gross look, the microscope, as it exists now, is not a highly productive instrument. What I want is to demonstrate, first of all, to a number of important biologists and pathologists that this microscope will give the images, which the electron microscope will give at that magnification. That's number one. Then number two, as soon as there are enough biologists are convinced of this, then the physicists, the theoretical people in optics, they will have to come around and give a technical description and go from that into the theoretical limitations of such a device. Then, after that second stage is completed, the microscope manufacturers will then have the courage, and that's what it really takes, one of them will have the courage, to try and adapt the optics to a modern mechanism. The mechanism that Rife had, it is like a car before Ford's model T. It will get you a little distance but you can't get enough work out of it. So what I need really for my work, is I've got to have... or biologists in general... we have to have a microscope that is a high work output instrument. We can't invest years and years like Rife did. Microscopes today are a million times more productive than what they were with Rife's situation.

GROSS: We're in the optics business so I know just what you are talking about. But while I like competition, the decision here is to go ahead and do all the things you think will be accomplished only after a demonstration. We don't need all of that. Henry Siner knows the instrument, he knows how to operate it, he worked two years with it, he knows what can be done and what should be done with it. He's a first class natural scientist. We have the engineers that know how to modernize it. So we can't look at the rest of the industry to do something if we are going to invest our energies in it.

HUBBARD: In other words you do have a commercial interest in the microscope?

GROSS: Yes, definitely. Well, let me correct that. We have an interest of both contributing to science and the other is to contribute to an industry.

More discussion of other people who want involvement but are stymied by patent limitations.

GROSS: Rife was right when he told me that patents didn't interest him. Know-how did. The patents wouldn't mean a thing in this case. The know-how that Henry has is what we really need as far as protecting ourselves and any investment we make.

HUBBARD: All right Dr. Gross, I'll cooperate. You see, the role that I would play would have been this: If I had gotten the instrument in England, the first thing, I would photograph every step of it. The thing would have to be cleaned up. There is just no way that you can keep an optical instrument around, as you know, for two or three decades...

GROSS: Well, there's a little more to it than cleanliness. The know-how and making it work is more than cleanliness. Cleanliness is part of it, certainly. But we feel that we would like to have people like yourself involved if we are going to accomplish something. We look forward to you doing something with it. This is why I was interested when you first called me, when you explained your project, I became interested in your efforts.

More was selling of himself and Siner as microscope resurrectionists.

HUBBARD: Well, now I can prepare the specimens which would be comparable to what have been produced for the electron microscope and image them, I can compare what can be obtained from the Rife microscope and the electron microscope, and it is this comparison Dr. Gross, which I have already made, which I think is my initial contribution. But I would have to do much more work to convince the biologists. At any rate, I would be glad to cooperate with you all.

They make arrangements for Hubbard to come out to San Diego the following January.

Call concludes

End of Gross interviews.