Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. Today we welcome back a very familiar face to across the fence. His association with WCAX TV goes back to the beginning of the station in 1954. And the hosted this program for more than 40 years. There's only one person fits that description of course it's Tony Adams. Thanks for being with us.

Tony.: Nice to be here with you.

Judy.: Longtime viewers are going to be really interesting to find out what you've been up to because you have been really busy.

Tony.: I primarily volunteer at the medical center hospital of Vermont. I work out of the recovery room and a transport patients from there to their rooms or to their cars outside. And I play a lot of tennis.

Judy.: Fantastic. Your most recent adventure involved a tour of the Baltic Sea when did you go?

Tony.: They went there late June and early July. It was wonderful weather it rains there it was 12 days of beautiful blue sky and sunshine.

Judy.: See the power you have Tony.

Tony.: That's exactly right.

Judy.: I know you brought a bunch of pictures to show us. Let's see what you've got.

Tony.: Yes we do. We left Copenhagen Denmark on the Emerald Princess. A 13,000 ton vessel of the princess cruise line accommodating 3000 passengers and the Baltic was smooth as a lake. We went ashore first in Northern Germany and visited a medium size city Rostock and we take a look at saint peter's church. The city was referred to as the gateway to the north. It had beautiful stained glass windows. They had their first meeting in this Lutheran church way back in 1512. Some people went to Berlin but I had been to Berlin on a previous trip so I went to Rostock instead.

Judy.: So from there you traveled to?
Tony.: Helsinki Finland. The capital of Finland. A rather unique church there. It was built with solid rock property left of the parish. You can see here all the rock on the bottom and you can see a slight dome. It's a slight green dome it's called the rock church. It was blasted and in this picture we see the interior the view rock walls with the church's pipe organ in the center. Let's take a look at the next one right there. People of course we're going and you can see the top of it if there where the dome is but is not closed in. Then we went on to a monument to Finland’s most celebrated composer Jan Somebalias. It was located just a short distance outside of downtown Helsinki. Quite interesting seeing that was. Then back to the center of the city and what is referred to as the center square Lutheran church Saint Nicholas with an impressive long stairway going up. Inside the church we take a look at a rather old and unique chandelier in the center and people going down the aisle to the altar area.

Judy.: That's beautiful.

Tony.: The great attraction to me was saint Petersburg Russia and the hermitage museum is what used to be the winter palace of the czars. This is the huge and it is huge hermitage museum along the banks of the Niebuhr river. Housing over three million are works including paintings by the Vinci Monet Rembrandt and Renoir. The ornate beautifully decorated main stairway. Look at that. You climb this and then you're into the main part of the museum. Next we take a look at the throne room. As you can see the imperial throne is right in the center and that's where I sat. No not really.

Judy.: And greeted tourists as they walk by.

Tony.: I was a special guest. This is an original painting by De Vinci Madonna and child. Judy we got a real close of view of it and note the gold frame of this priceless painting. Next we have a Michelangelo original coulds to crouching man one of over three million art works. We got lucky because we toured the hermitage without wall the wall people.

Judy.: I was going to say in your pictures you have great shots of all the different features that you're talking about without huge crowds blocking shots.

Tony.: We were able to get right up close to them. The real originals are the ones that are priceless are in class and you can touch them. And us both so anyway. But we are really close it was wonderful.

Judy.: How long did you spend their day just been more than a day?

Tony.: We spent two days there. One day we're in the hermitage which is a museum former winter palace in the next day we went to what they call the summer palace called Peterhoff. Let's take a look at the next one here. This is the Machilite room. Named because it's all made of marble in the interior up and the marble is machilite. Now let's move along too a scene outside which is a canal. Old buildings are lined up the canal. Saint Petersburg is just a wonderful wonderful city to look at.

Judy.: Where did you go next?

Tony.: To Peterhoff the very next day. We used the ocean liner as the home and then the next day started off again. Peterhoff is the summer palace of the czars or was. Not too far outside of Saint Petersburg referred to as the Russian Versailles. After the French. This is an overview of the summer palace in the background. A beautiful setting it is. Then we move along to another scene of the palace. Look at the golden statues line the alley up. Will take a look at the close-up of it with the fountains going. These are all golden statues. You can see all of them but it's really impressive. If you get the bottom and look up it's unbelievable. Another garden view of the fountains at the summer palace at Peterhoff. We were there in June and July and it's breathtaking. When you look
at it can't believe it. Of course I had to prove that I was there so I had a friend of mine take a picture of me in front of the fountain just to prove that I went there and I'm just not showing you photographs. Then back to the city of Saint Petersburg. A view of the church they call it spilled blood. Like spilled on the floor. St. Isaac's cathedral built on the spot by the way where it Alexander the second czar was assassinated. Alexander the second instituted reforms including freeing of the Serbs. Look at them and if the saint domes of the cathedral. Then we go inside and it's even more spectacular there. These are all tiny tiles you can hardly see them you have to get up to it. As you can see on my finger there just about that big but there's thousands upon thousands to make those pictures. Let's take a look at another of the tiles. These are all mosaics. You have to get a real close to them and we did. This is the blue room in the Usipoff palace also at Peterhoff. The summer residence of the czar. This next scene is interesting. It's a wax figure of Rasputin. The priest who had a big influence over Alexandra the wife of the last Czar Nicholas who was overthrown in the communist revolution. The wax figure of Rasputin he by the way do a lot of ire from other people and he was assassinated chopped up and thrown into the Niebuhr river. We didn't see him but we saw that particular.

Judy.: That's kind of a gruesome detail.

Tony.: Then we went on to Tallin. This is the square of the old city. Right next to that is Alexandra Neveski cathedral in Tallin. Witness the cathedral cupola and golden crosses at the top. Against as I told you a clear blue sky. A few clouds here and there. Then we went on to Oswald. This is right in front of the hamlet theater with my newfound friends Tony and Barbara Benedict. They come from outside Detroit Michigan. I love them the happened to bump into them at one of the functions and we hit it off so we spent a lot of time together. Now let's move along. Does this look like a City Hall to you?

Judy.: It does.

Tony.: It's Oslo with the twin towers and Oslo is one of the smallest capitals in Europe only 0.5 million people that the beauty lies inside the City Hall with these beautiful murals on the wall. You don't see that in a City Hall of the United States. That's where they held the Nobel peace prize ceremony. Right next to it will take a look at another mural from the other angle with a light streaming in. Just absolutely breathtaking. Now we go on to the presidential palace and onto a thing that comes next. Gustaff Vigleland is a famed Norwegian sculpture. Take a look that picture and between the two green things that stick up there is a big tower. Let's take a close-up look at that.

Judy.: Oh my goodness.

Tony.: The study of life. Body upon body depicting the struggle of life. This bridge that comes where the statue is will take a look has a tremendous amount of statues built by the one sculptor depicting life and various things. One of the most interesting ones Judy is the next one which is the torture baby balling away again by the famed Norwegian sculptor. And this more joy filled young boy and father celebrating life in Vigleland park in Oslo Norway.

Judy.: Amazing. Are you thinking about planning any other future oversee trips?

Tony.: I use to do two trips a year for the travel agency in Burlington. When 911 can we destroyed that but we're thinking about a spring trip to fabulous Greece and the Greek islands in either May or October. I know this sounds like a long way off but if you're thinking about it it's not too early to start planning. If we go and we get enough people to go you will see things like this. No this is the boat to be left on. The famed Parthenon on the Acropolis in the center of the grease capital of Athens called by some the most perfect building ever designed. And the famed eb zoines in their native cost and they paraded in front of the two of the unknown soldier in constitution square in Athens it takes
place at the same time 12:00 PM. No trip to Greece would be complete without a trip to the Greek islands and look at this picture. This is famed Santorini which overlooks a volcanic area that was filled with water and those and blue buildings you see sit on top of a big crest and it's just unbelievable. Then we have the famed outdoor theater at Epidaurus which they stage plays and people come from Athens which is what 80 or 90 miles away in the summertime to watch plays.

Judy.: It looks like a lot of fun.

Tony.: It is. It's empty when you get there but they fill it every day that they run in the summertime.

Judy.: It sounds like that might be one of your favorite trips.

Tony.: It is because I've been there many times and I'm able to get by with the language in that helps an awful lot. So that's something that we're thinking about. If you're interested there's no obligation whatsoever just write to me only Adams post office box 4508 Burlington VT 05406. Tony Adams post office box 4508 Burlington VT 05406. It's fully escorted by the way. There are no worries I take care of you there's no obligations just right for more information.

Judy.: Thanks for taking me along your vacation. I don't get much.

Tony.: We can sign you up for the spring trip if you'd like.

Judy.: I would love to thank you so much. That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson we will see you again next time on across the fence.

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