

Maureen and Mike

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**Oral History Number: 422-044, 045**  
**Interviewee: Rod Ash and June Ash**  
**Interviewer: Suzanne Vernon**  
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**Project: Upper Swan Valley Oral History Project**

Suzanne Vernon: This is Suzanne Vernon, and the date is September 14, 1999. Today, I'll be interviewing Rod Ash at his home north of Condon. We'll be talking about Rod's involvement in conservation organizations here in the Swan Valley, a little bit about the history of the valley in the 1950s and '60s, but mostly about the development of the ad hoc committee at Condon and also the Swan Ecosystem Management and Learning Center which Rod has been very involved with here in the 1990s.

[Break in audio]

Rod Ash: —this particular thing is different though.

SV: [unintelligible] I'm going to ask you about when you first came here, and then we'll come back to this subject [unintelligible] corporations and development because I think that's pretty interesting too.

[clock chimes] At least you don't have a bird clock.

RA: Yeah, we do up there.

SV: [unintelligible]. Every one of these tapes has birds on them.

June Ash: Do you want me to turn it down?

SV: No, it's fine.

JA: It doesn't work that loud. [unintelligible].

RA: Which one? This one here? Yeah, right.

JA: [unintelligible], slow, fast.

SV: I need to ask you some really boring questions, but we'll get them out of the way quick.

What year were you born?

RA: 1928.

SV: Is your legal name Rod or Rodman?

RA: Actually, the legal name is Willard Rodman. They always called me Rodman and Rod and so on.

SV: Where were you born?

RA: In Hollywood California. Back when Hollywood was a different place.

JA: I've got a good one. This is corny as all heck, but I've enjoyed it thoroughly knowing it all my life. He's the fourth of four sons born to his mother, and he was born for the first time in a hospital and on Election Day so she couldn't vote for the first time in her life.

SV: You started stirring things up right from the start.

RA: Right, right. Yeah.

JA: I keep in mind, that's why I told the kids, that's why he's been in politics.

SV: What is your mother's name?

RA: Myrtle Geraldine Willard Roark (?).

SV: Long name. Do you know she was born?

RA: Ohio.

SV: You know what nationality she was?

RA: That was one of those families where they were here pretty early, and I think it's a real mixture. I think it's Pennsylvania Dutch and French. I think one story in the family is some of the eastern Indian tribes and all kinds of mixtures in there—English and Scotch.

SV: Your father too?

RA: No, my father was born in Texas. His name was Robert William Ash. Robert William. His dad came from England, actually, immigrated from England. Then his mother's side, they were Kentuckians. Actually that's the only side of the family that I've got a very...somebody years ago did a little genealogy, and that one there was a Rod...What was first name? The last name was Rodman, and that's where my name showed. The last name of the family was Rodman and they came from Scotland and eventually got into Kentucky not long after Daniel Boone. They were there in the early settlement period in Kentucky, and then then some of them eventually moved on to Texas.

SV: I appreciate it when people do genealogy, [unintelligible]. You went to school [unintelligible].

RA: Both of us from Berkeley. I graduated from the University of California at Berkeley.

SV: I had down that your degree was in ecology.

RA: In anthropology. Yeah. But my master's, actually that's right, the master's, the thesis, actually was the concept of human ecology in anthropology. This, of course, was when you had to go look up what ecology meant. When it really, first the concept was first getting mentioned. My master's was in 1954. Our degree is in '51.

SV: [unintelligible].

RA: Right. Right. Right.

SV: Now, it wasn't too long after that that you took your first visit out here to Montana.

RA: June and I were lookouts on Big Swede right above Libby on the Kootenai.

JA: In '52.

SV: Were you thinking about anthropology and ecology when you came up here?

RA: Well, actually I was. Matter of fact, I had a paper I had to write. That was on the lookout. Actually, I had been before we were married in '48, I had worked for the Forest Service over on the Clearwater National Forest just across the line in Idaho out of Orfino. That was when that country was before the blister rust took out all that white pine. We were a fire crew and a blister rust crew, and so we were pulling the currant bushes and so on trying to keep that under control. It was a beautiful white pine forest, just almost cathedral like. I haven't been back since, but I gather from talking to people that most of that white pine's gone.

Then when I was through with that job, that was the end of my freshman year at the university so I was going back to the sophomore year. On my way home, I had a little time so that's when I first came into Montana. I hitchhiked into Montana, came across into Missoula, and then took the road from Missoula on the on the west side of the Flathead Lake—the Kalispell and then up to the park. One thing I remember is that on that road, which is then just a two-lane road, I stood for hours waiting for a ride and it was just a matter of not even much traffic. I mean it wasn't a matter that no one picked me up. There just wasn't very much traffic. I can remember I picked up a Montana highway map and was carrying it with me, and as I stood over there someplace—I don't know, Dayton or wherever the heck it was—but wherever it was you got a really good view of the Missions from there. I took out my map, and I saw that long, unpaved

road on the east side of the Missions. I thought, oh boy, I really like to get back into that country. I remember the next day or so, whenever I finally got there, I was carrying a sleeping bag, and I just threw the sleeping bag out up on Logan Pass. There was there was nothing there. I mean there was no observation place. It was a beautiful spot, but there were no facilities at all. I just threw my sleeping bag out there on the pass and woke up the next morning and hitchhike another ride on further across onto the other side.

JA: He actually looked into the Libby and teaching, but the differences in salary between California and Montana were so fantastic, we couldn't do it. So for our first opportunity to come back into Montana was in 1960 when the road was being worked on across the Lolo. We came across a gravel highway and lost four hubcaps.

SV: [unintelligible].

RA: As I say, we'd known the Libby area and had really enjoyed it, and on our way home we drove down through the Bitterroot and really liked Western Montana. So we kept talking about going back, and we started a family and so we weren't traveling too far, but we kept talking about maybe coming back and camping. Then a teacher that I worked with at Enterprise High School out of Redding, she was born and raised over on the east side in Ekalaka in Eastern Montana. Her dad apparently used to...that was his vacation was to come over here and go to Holland Lake and camp. I was always talking to her about Montana, and we had decided in '60 we go take a trip back in Montana. She says, "Well, that's a really nice country. Why don't you check that out?" We drove him to Holland Lake on the 4th of July, and it was really interesting. As I recall, there was no campground there like there is now. It was just people camped near the lodge all around there.

JA: [unintelligible].

RA: Anyway, we went in there, and they had rigged up a public address system and they were playing really loud music all around. We looked at each other and said, "Man, I don't think this is the place we want to camp." We left there, but I'm sure we met...we probably talked the Leita.

JA: [unintelligible] because we'd forgotten our camera, and the neighbors were going to send us the camera to Holland Lake. We talked to her about the problem, and she said, "The mail only comes up to Condon, then it turns around and goes back." So we had to transfer our address to general delivery in Kalispell. She had to do that for us. But we had a long conversation with Leita. I can remember.

SV: Was she working at the lodge?

RA: She was cooking there, I guess. Then we left there and decided that was just too crowded for us. We'd come to Montana and get away from it all. So we just drove out then and took some of the side roads, and we ended up taking Rumble Creek Road...Rumble Creek Road?

JA: Yeah.

RA: Yeah, right. Rumble Creek Road. Wwe camped that night on what is now Caroline and David Berner's place. And at that time, what was it, the Ziegler estate? I guess it was. There was this really nice old rundown, Norwegian-looking cabin there, but it was abandoned. We knew no one was there. It was really rundown. But we camped up on the side of the mountain. Now, I don't think you can even see it as easily from their place.

JA: [unintelligible].

RA: Look out at the Swans. Just beautiful.

SV: So was it more [unintelligible]?

RA: As we recall, we had a really good view and now when you go up there, there's so much growth that you just don't see the mountains at easily at least from there.

JA: Oh, yeah. We were looking over the Missions, and the field was completely open. The kids were running [unintelligible] great time. [unintelligible].

RA: Then we went down the next day because we figure...I guess there was water there, sure. They've got a creek. But anyway it was way up on the side of the mountain so we decide, well shoot, we'd like to go to a get to a place where we could do some fishing and so on. I guess we probably drove into the ranger station at that point, and it was at where it is now. Obviously, it probably hadn't been open for very long though at that point. But we were in there and asking, I guess, we wanted to get a map of the forest in and the ranger district and so on and asking about places we had go. I guess we had looked at the map and noticed the road going up to Glacier Creek, up toward the Missions. It probably was somebody working on the desk, but she said—he or she—"Let me ask the ranger." The ranger came out and we looked at each other, and we both recognized each other because it wasn't that many years that he and I...He had been on this blister rust crew with me over in Idaho on the Clearwater in '48, and he was just a kid. This was—

SV: [unintelligible].

RA: Fred Matzen (?), right. Fred had been just out of high school. Born and raised in Chicago, on the streets of Chicago. The whole thing was amazing to him. They were they were doing a lot of...There was driving cattle through that area where we were working and they'd drive these cattle through and he'd just stop working and go up and watch—watch them drive. Well,

anyway. So we had a nice chat, and we ended up going up and camping up on Glacier Creek where there was a logging spur that had been logged apparently not long before. A logging spur actually went into the creek, and I guess at one point you could have driven all the way around to Lindbergh from up there. Anyway, we camped there. Beautiful spot.

SV: Tell me how you went up there [unintelligible].

RA: It was the same pretty much the same road that it is now. It was really narrow. If you met anybody which you never did, but if you did, one person had to back up. It was still really just room for one vehicle and that's all.

We camped there on Glacier Creek, and we came back there probably every other year for probably, what, four years? Yeah, yeah. Well, no. Every other year between '60 and '70...'69 when we bought this place. It was such a regular thing that I think after that first trip...of course, you made your own camp. There were no tables or anything like that. So I built myself some rough tables and just tucked them over in the brush. Every time we'd come back they were still there. I don't think anybody else ever use that particular spot.

JA: We didn't even know there was a trail or any way to get up to Glacier Creek.

RA: We tried to walk up the creek, and it wasn't until I think we had been there for a week or more and all of a sudden I realize that a vehicle had gone up past us. I thought the road ended there. It was so little traveled. This is the first vehicle we had seen. We'd been up there a week, and I thought, heck, there must be a road up there. Then we realized there was a road, and again it was really a primitive one but at least we were able to drive up then to where the existing trailhead is and walked in from there.

JA: [unintelligible].

SV: So they might have been local people.

RA: Oh yeah. Then after that—

JA: After that we always felt like we wanted to change license plates whenever we crossed the line.

RA: In our morning, we'd get up and have coffee or something and was it Uno (?) or Tonno (?). Uno or Tonno? Tonno Strom, at that time, worked for the Forest Service during the summer, and his job was apparently checking trail heads and things like that. Once a week he'd come up there and sit with us and have coffee and that's where we learned a lot about the valley was just was just talking to Tonno. It was Tonno. You're right.

JA: He's the one that told us that the Ziegler estate might be subdivided or something. That's what brought us down into the valley in '69 to see if there was land for sale. What we found was Marguerite Wilhelm's little Frosty stand right out in front of where the Hungry Bear is now. We had hamburgers and milkshakes and talked to her about land for sale. She said she didn't know of any, but she said her daughter and son-in-law had been transferred by the Forest Service to Brookings, Oregon, and an airplane which was a log cabin on ten acres was for sale and would we like to come and see it.

SV: What's the daughter's name?

JA: Marilyn and Marianne. [unintelligible].

RA: Frank Rose.

So we followed her up here. That was the summer...I've noticed in the paper since you...I always look at the weather news, and that summer apparently had record high temperatures.

JA: One hundred and three that year.

RA: Yeah. It was really hot. Yeah, yeah. The place, they had logged it, piled the slash. This was probably just a couple of years before we saw it, I imagine. Maybe not even that. It hadn't been very long—

JA: There was a fire—

RA: And the slash had gotten away from them and really burned much of the ten acres over. So you could you could stand here where the place is, and you had an unbroken view of the Missions. There was nothing between here and the Missions. Now, you can't even see the Missions from the back of our house. It was hot and dry. But of course, the kids—the two older boys, we didn't have the young ones yet—the two older boys just loved the area. We stayed here and looked the place over. Matter of fact, somebody drove in while we were here who was apparently interested in buying the place. Someone else from out of state. Anyway, we went on home. We went on we were going to the Custer Battlefield on our way home. So we drove out of the valley that next day, and we only got as far as Lincoln...the kids, "Oh, buy it, Dad! Buy it, Dad!" So I stopped in Lincoln and called Frank on the telephone in Brookings, and we made the deal over the telephone at that point. The price, even in those days, was a really good price for from California's point of view. I think we paid \$9,000—

JA: No, it was offered for 8,500. Yeah. We took it for 9,000 so we do something with the \$500.

RA: So it was \$8,500 for the place and the ten acres. But we made the deal over the telephone and eventually did all the paperwork.



SV: Several things that you've mentioned prompted questions in my mind. About the same time that you guys showed up here, several other people that I've interviewed came. Cal Tassinari came about that time [unintelligible]. People really interested in fishing. I mean, I know Cal was. You mentioned fishing. Is something that you guys did—

RA: Oh, yeah. I enjoyed...still do but I don't do as much of it as I did then.

SV: Fly fishing?

RA: Well, yeah. By that time I was a fly fisherman. Early when I was a kid, I'd bait or anything. But by that time I was a fly fisherman.

SV: How about in backpacking?

RA: I had done some backpacking. Actually, June and I...Of course, we'd walk in to Glacier Lake, and then up over the top to Turquoise.

JA: I actually made it up there.

RA: Oh, you actually made it to Turquoise. Oh yeah, yeah. Really good fishing in those days. I guess still good fishing because Glacier there was just...Whenever we'd go up there, we had that whole lake to ourselves. I don't think we ever met anybody up there because we'd tend to go up...We knew what little traffic there was would be on the weekends. So we'd go up to the lake during the week, and there was never anybody on that lake. That's true...I'm sure there must have been some exception of that, but in all the years we've camped on Glacier seldom did we find anybody up there. No one was ever hardly ever parked up there.

JA: But we were always afraid every time we came back—

RA: Somebody was going to take our camping spot. [laughs]

JA: [unintelligible], looking for land in the valley. But the person really introduced this to the Swan Valley was [unintelligible]. She has the little grocery, and we'd come down to [unintelligible], and we'd replenish ourselves. Of course, she was so friendly. She was the welcome wagon. She gave us her preserves of elk stew, and she always tried to have things—some fresh things—available for us when she knew we were coming. Then the last year or so, I think even '67 maybe, she told us about...You tell her. The name of the organization.

RA: Swan Citizens Conservation Corps. Club or whatever.

JA: We even went to meetings before we lived here. We came down from the mountain, and we met Ed Foss. [laughs] That was really interesting.

RA: At the time, we didn't know names or anything like that. I'm pretty sure we did meet Cal Tassineri, because I remember meeting a wilderness ranger type and it must have been Cal, I'm sure, at the time. One of the things that was interesting at the time. They apparently had this big plan that you've probably heard of too. They were going to build a trail from Glacier clear across the Missions, and they started working on the Glacier Lake leg of it while we were when we were still camping up there because I remember we couldn't go up sometimes because they were dynamiting or they were blasting rocks out and so on. Because before that, there really was just...what am I trying to say? It was probably not a developed trail. It was probably just, you wandered up, follow what everybody else had gone.

SV: Can you describe how you found your way up that creek bottom? What that?

RA: When we first did it we just we just bushwhacked up the creek, and of course we didn't get very far. I think we probably got about as far as the trailhead as a matter of fact, because I decided, man, I'm never gonna get to a little kids and June up this very far. Then once we realized that the road went up...I think there must have been, there was probably a sign that at that point saying how many miles on to Glacier Lake. Then the trail was pretty obvious. It was not a great trail, and they didn't...you had to wade the creeks. They didn't have a little foot bridges or anything like that. Although once they started working on that, what was a grandiose idea, of having a mainline trail, then they put some foot bridges up across the Glacier Creek and so on.

SV: Did you see any grizzlies?

RA: No. We saw black bears. We had a black bear hanging around the camp one summer. Scared the dickens out of a little kids. But never any grizzlies. No. We did see the black bears pretty frequently like walking up in the Glacier there'd be black bears sometimes coming around the trail and so on. I'm not so sure, on the other hand, at that point I would have known the difference.

JA: Ellen was five years old, and we had our little potty arrangement back in the bushes. I thought, well maybe, Ellen could learn to go back there by yourself and not have to have an adult take her. But the one time that she experimented going back by herself there was a nice black bear sitting in the sunshine eating huckleberries, and that was the end.

RA: I was just going to say one thing of those really first days. Before we found the Glacier, I guess the first next place we camped before we went up Glacier Creek, we actually drove down and we camped probably near where Neil Meyer place is now, just down in the river bottoms. It was really hot. We were looking for some relief. Lots of mosquitoes. But we remembered at the time the acres around what was probably the Coviere (?) place because we didn't know them then, but they were there obviously. We must have driven right by their place but we remember the acres of the daisies. That one really impressed us. You know how many daisies that were down there.

SV: If you had to write a paragraph on what your impression of the valley was when you first, the first years that you were in here, could you do it?

RA: Yeah, I think so. It was really a great place, and having that access into the Missions so easily, even with a young family, and it feeling so remote—

JA: There was no development at all. There was the [unintelligible] Nelson grocery store—

RA: And the Buckhorn.

JA: There was the Buckhorn and there was the Swan Valley Center which was a lot more permanent then than it is now.

RA: Strom's store then.

JA: There was Strom's store, yeah. And the ranger station. I don't remember any houses at all except for the Wilhelms.

SV: Okay, which Wilhelms?

JA: That would be Marguerite and Lee.

RA: Well, the Nelson's place was there.

JA: Yea, but that was the grocery store.

SV: Where was Marguerite's.

RA: Next to the Hungry Bear. Right. Right. No, I'm thinking of Rich Nelson's place. That was there. Barbara Creek was there. I'm sure there were other places, just not so obvious.

JA: It was very sparse.

RA: And they were back off the road. Yeah.

SV: Could you see the logging? The logging had started by then, didn't it?

RA: Oh, yeah.

SV: [unintelligible].

RA: Yeah.

I was thinking about this knowing you were coming and kind of what would be my impressions, but that's one of the things that I've noticed that's changed to a degree. There's been more logging, of course, since then, but some of the areas that were pretty barren right after that logging just like this place is just obviously it's a young forest, but it's a pretty thick forest now in some areas that were pretty wide open. Then the other thing that that I've noticed from the earlier times is how much cleaner the logging sites are. When you'd go to a deck or where they logged from, those were often just all kinds of crap would be there. Oil cans and just...It was a really messy thing. Now, you can go to those same places or go to the places where they're logging from now. Once they leave, there's very little sign that they've been there other than the sign of the work obviously.

SV: That's a good observation. [unintelligible] complaints I've heard [unintelligible].

RA: This is probably partly because Forest Service and SEC [Swan Ecosystem Center] with our patrols in the high country, that I remember going up to say Pony and Cat, we didn't discover those places until after we had the place. We pretty much spent all of our time when we were camping—camping up on the Glacier end of things—but once we moved here and come here for the summers we found—the boys and I found—Pony Lake, and then eventually, Cat Lake. But I can remember some really big garbage dumps that people had left particularly at Pony. Not so much a Cat. Cat didn't get much use. Still it doesn't get too much use, but in those times it didn't...Matter of fact, we didn't even know there was a trail into Cat. We went into Cat from Pony. Other words, we went into Pony and then just went over the ridge...or up the ridge and back and dropped into in Cat. We were even told probably by some of the locals who wanted us to believe it, but we were even told that there was no fish in the Cat. Of course, there were. We caught some really nice fish in Cat Lake. Then coming out...Cat really hasn't changed much. I mean, the trail may be a little bit more worn and maybe the camping sites on either end show a little bit more use but not very much. Cat is almost like it was...how many years ago, 30 years ago.

JA: [unintelligible].

RA: Pony gets a little bit more use, I guess, and a little bit...You can tell but not much.

SV: [unintelligible] harder to get to now.

RA: Yeah, yeah.

SV: Let's go on with this. You got the property in '61. You're raising kids and doing all these things.

RA: One of the nice things about teaching was I had those summers free and two weeks in the winter. We bought the place in the summer of '69, and there was a lot of work to be done on it.

It hadn't been lived in. It hadn't been lived in for several years, and the people who had rented it had let things go to pot. Windows were broken.

JA: The whole under part of the [unintelligible]—

RA: It was all exposed.

JA: There was no foundation.

RA: We decided we'd better not try to come up in the winter. Anyway, we came up then in '70, the summer of '70, then then from that point on we came up every summer and every Christmas. We were here both, and we learned a little bit about the winters then.

SV: A little bit.

RA: Yeah, right.

SV: [unintelligible].

JA: We had a pretty good introduction to a wild winter in Montana. When was that? In '79?

RA: Not that late. You mean when the car froze up?

JA: Yeah, when it was—

RA: '72, wasn't it, or something like that.

JA: Minus 35 degrees for three weeks. Our car engine froze. The dog had pups. David's dog had pups. Our plumbing froze.

RA: I think the pump froze up, cracked.

JA: I think so. [unintelligible].

RA: We had to go home on the bus because we had to leave the old VW here because the engine, well, the engine block cracked and everything else.

SV: I'm starting to get this picture of this young couple [unintelligible].

RA: [laughs] Not really.

SV: [unintelligible].

RA: In those days though, there weren't any other vehicles that you could haul four kids and a dog and all your camping stuff in the vehicle. It was before you had Suburbans and things like that. So we had the VW. Of course, it was a good car in some ways, but it's an air-cooled engine. In the winter coming to Montana, or leaving Montana, if we were going downhill, we all froze to death. [laughs] It was really cold.

JA: Then we'd race...If we'd stop for a night in a motel and we raced into the motel and [unintelligible]. [laughs]

SV: Probably do all that again.

RA: No, no, I don't want to do all that again. That's enough.

JA: Yesterday, at that AARP meeting, [unintelligible] at this time of year when it's so beautiful, I really feel like I'd like to get out and go camping and just enjoy ourselves. Sleeping out in the woods and so on. I thought, you know, it is nice but that's why we bought the cabin back in '69. So we didn't have to do so much of that.

RA: We still did a lot.

JA: We did a lot, coming back and forth and taking trips and everything. But it was nice to have shelter at night.

SV: You still must have done a lot of backpacking?

RA: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I did a lot of backpacking actually. I had done some...I shouldn't say some. I did a lot of backpacking in California. I had a friend of mine who was a teacher at Enterprise High who was an avid backpacker, and every summer we'd take a long trip but in the nearby country because we'd lived in Shasta County which is not...In those days was a pretty rural remote area too, near Mount Lassen National Park and Mount Shasta and so on. There's a mountain range—part of the coastal range called the [unintelligible] not far from Cottonwood where we lived. That was, again, an area that didn't get much use. It's now a wilderness area. It wasn't a wilderness area then, but now it is.

JA: Then, of course, as kids we were raised in the Sierra Nevadas for camping. My brother was ailing, and my folks used to take us to...the doctor prescribed outdoors. My dad would take us to Pine Crest and leave us all summer long. We camped and we had a little boat, learned how to row, and we fished in [unintelligible] Creek. We swam, and this was our summer for three months. My brother improved in his health [unintelligible]. That was the background for me even if I was a beatnik in Berkeley, we used to look up at the Berkeley hills and say, "Boy, wouldn't it be nice to get into a situation where we could camp?"

SV: When did you first start noticing...No, let me rephrase that. When did you first get involved in community organizations here?

RA: Here?

SV: Well, start in California.

RA: I was going to say, in my case my older brother was involved heavily with the trade union movement. He actually ended up being vice president of state AFL-CIO, but anyway he was an activist in politics and so on. He was much older than I was. He could have been my father. I mean he was 22 years older than I was. So once I was old enough to...I kind of tagged along with him because he knew I was interested in that stuff. I was involved in it at least in politics and things like that pretty early. I think...I was trying to remember. I remember going out and handing out leaflets...Let's see, who would it have been for? Truman at least, but it was probably well before that even.

JA: Of course, once we got established in Shasta County, where we lived for 30 years, we were quite involved in protecting the Sacramento River and the Cottonwood Creek base in which we lived. We became charter members of the [unintelligible] Society chapter in Redding. Rod introduced ecology to the kids at the high school. One thing just led to the other. The protection of the streams and the rivers, working on that.

RA: Then June was really active and in the community organizations in Cottonwood. The Camp Fire Girls and Chamber of Commerce and things like that. Cottonwood was 500 people probably. We didn't live in the town, but we live in another a rural area outside of town. So in a way it wasn't...It was different but not a huge amount different than say the Condon area in terms of the kind of relationships you had. We really enjoyed that. I had been raised in Oakland and June, San Jose and Piedmont. But my folks and her folks too, for that matter, were actually kind of were small town people. They hadn't been in big towns. My folks moved all over the place. He was kind of an itinerant, and so they moved from Texas to Oklahoma to Colorado to Wyoming to California and back and forth. They moved all over the place. Although once I was born, they didn't leave California so I spent my early days in California. Anyway, so that was kind of a natural for us. I was involved in in Democratic politics in Shasta County.

SV: When did you move here full time?

RA: '84. I retired in '84, and we came up here to stay.

SV: Were you involved in community first before then, here?

RA: Here. Well, the Swan Citizens Conservation Club, whatever that was called. Actually even before we came here to stay, we had gone over in...Remember, this was...When was it? In the '70s I guess, that they started doing, thinking about more planning. We actually went over and

then attended a couple of meetings in Polson when they were starting to talk about land use planning for Lake County, and we got involved because in the summer organizations kind of shut down but I think we went to a couple meetings at least that the Lake County Democrats had sponsored. We had, at that level at least, gotten our feet wet a little bit in Montana.

SV: Did you notice any differences in community interaction and politics here?

RA: Well, yeah. Probably the community part of it, I mean, strictly community, like June was heavily involved in, probably there was a lot of similarities. Although probably Condon area, I suspect, has gotten a little bit more active in more recent years as the population here has grown. But the one thing I was really impressed by when we started going to meetings like at the community hall and things like that, was I had the feeling that people had better communication and more input, like with the Forest Service and with local government and so on. Because by the '80s, California had grown so much, and even Shasta County had...Well, what started out. When I went to teach in Shasta County, it was a brand new high school. I started with Enterprise High School, and it was the second high school in the history of Shasta County. I mean, there was no other high school except Shasta High. It was one of those situations where people boarded their kids if they lived too far away from Redding. Well, there was Anderson High. That was an older high school too. Then the place just exploded in terms of population then in the '70s—'60s and '70s I guess.

JA: What I would comment about the difference would be in our community, even being rural, I would say we had several organizations, and you belong to youth groups or you belong to the Chamber of Commerce or you belong to the Garden Club. Whereas here in the Swan Valley, if there was ever a meeting, it was at the community hall and everybody came, and you didn't represent any one particular group. It was more of an open discussion of everything. It was open to everybody, and it brought in everybody maybe.

RA: More of a whole community-

JA: More of a whole group type of thing. [unintelligible] didn't have that folksy touch to it. Both communities had a sincerity for their community.

RA: Of course, in Shasta County, it was it was getting more and more centered on Redding and so on. Then the other big difference that we noticed, and this is not maybe a little off your question, but we were really impressed once we came to Montana and started to take more part in things how easy it was to make contacts and communicate outside of your own immediate community. In California, for example with Audubon, it was a big deal. You had so many chapters throughout the state and so many people involved that you didn't have much effect within the state as a whole, but shoot, in Montana you have nine chapters. Most of the chapters are in towns that were smaller than Redding even used to be, so you pretty soon you got to know almost everybody that had any kind of leadership in Audubon. I mean everybody, not just your own area. Then the same is true we had the feeling with government in Montana.



You very seldom had any personal contact with a governor or senator or anything like that. Whereas we found in Montana, man, you could be on a first-name basis with your congressman or even your governor—candidates for a governor. Very quickly. All you had to do is take part in something. But in California that was...We just had the feeling when we came to Montana and started to take more part in things, that probably Montana was like California might have been in '84, 50 years before.

SV: I'm trying to think of a time frame when like the Grounded Eagle Foundation began. Then that kind of all evolved, and it was ad hoc, and then SEC.

JA: Grounded Eagle Foundation started...I can remember the phone call. Isn't it funny how you can think of things like that? But it was within the first couple of years that we were here. '70, '71.

RA: We had already though gotten pretty active in Audubon, so we were already involved, weren't we? Yeah, we were. We were already heavily involved like with the Flathead chapter of Audubon, and then we started going to some of the Montana state meetings—the council meetings. Yeah. Must have been '85, '86.

JA: Wouldn't it have been in the '70s.

RA: No, we weren't here in the '70s. Not to be part of organizations. We didn't become a member of Flathead Audubon until '84.

JA: [unintelligible].

RA: Right. Right. Right. Yeah.

[Break in audio]

SV: —occurred to me that up until about the mid-'50s people's main motivation—outside of the outfitters—their main motivation for going into what's now wilderness or the back country was to hunt. Now, the outfitters did have a certain amount of fishing that was going on at the same time too, but not very much that hunting and fishing took place in the Missions. If I understand it right, most of the use of the Missions was by local people, but somewhere between 1955 and 1960 a lot of that changed and maybe it was kind of a national trend too. But this whole backpacking thing started to come about for recreation. Were you a hunter?

RA: No, I did some hunting. I did some hunting, like with, later on with the older boys because they were interested. I'd done a little in California but not very much. But I did love to fish—

JA: And he loved to hike.

RA: And I loved to hike. I just usually—

JA: He always wanted to see what was on the other side of the mountain.

RA: So exploring was a lot of reason for walking.

JA: Every summer there was a big backpack trip that was organized to take kids—the boys and Rod—into the Missions. Then, of course, [unintelligible], he's our oldest, why, this was indelibly imprinted in his mind. All of this, my gosh...Let's see, the first time we went camping with him, he was a year old. We went up on the Carson Pass. He spent all this time trying to get into that river [unintelligible]. But he just grew up around the campfire. He loved to cook around the campfire. He loved to do all the chores of camping. Loved to put up the tents and go to sleep. His program was for the University of Montana and in forestry from the time that we introduced the cabin and the Mission Mountains to him, this is what he had in mind. It was really interesting. He wanted to backpack...he's still doing it. Saw him the other day, and he says, "They keep telling me that I ought to do more administrative work. Get involved in it." He says, "I just don't know."

RA: The backpacking thing, too, is that...I think I got into backpacking just to get some place. I remember my first backpacking was well before they had all this nice equipment, I was packing great big old bulky sleeping bags and canned goods and 80-pound packs and so on. But again as time went on, it was just backpacking wasn't so much a sport as it was to get some place.

SV: It just seems like there's a different—

RA: I think you're right, and I think there was...maybe people had more time possibly. I just don't know. It's a good question. But I think kind of the groups where I was with, it was more, I think, we would have gone into that back country at any time in our lives because that's what we really enjoyed doing. We just wanted to go see the country or maybe go fishing, but as June said, you could have gone fishing a lot closer to home. It was mainly just to see some new country.

SV: We'll come back to the Grounded Eagle Foundation now, I guess. When Kenny [Ken Wolff] first started asking for help pulling that all together, it seems to me that that there was a lot of community outreach that you guys were trying to do at that time. It was really the beginnings of a lot of things that have happened since then. Did you sense that at the time?

RA: No, because I really didn't. [pauses] I think I was doing it because he asked me to. I really didn't have any great passion for rehabilitation or something myself. But he asked me to, and it seemed like a nice...it was a good thing to be doing. As June said, I guess, the real contact more with conservation here had been through the Swan Citizens Conservation group. I think that might have planted some ideas even though it kind of sputtered along there for a while.

JA: I think at the very beginning, Ken kind of had the impression, or desire, that his place would have been the focus, the center, for the things that SEC is doing now. But he was handicapped by his plumbing and various different things. I don't think Ken could ever handle the handicaps or disappointments or the ability to organize, the ability to use leadership, the ability to delegate responsibility. When he did, he often got into a lot of trouble.

SV: It seemed like in about that same time, though, the ad hoc committee starts.

JA: Yes.

SV: Do you remember what spurred the ad hoc?

RA: Oh yeah, that one I clearly remember. That would have been, what, in '89, I guess. The folks up at Lindbergh Lake, I guess, were starting to get concerned about growth and so on. I'm a little vague on that end of it, but I think they started talking about maybe developing a plan for their area. Dave Downey (?) contacted me and Bud Moore [William "Bud" Moore], because he thought that maybe the whole valley ought to be involved with it. When he contacted us, Bud and I, I don't think either one of us knew exactly what they were going...what they had in mind. So we went to it, Art Ortenberg (?) was there, and I'd had a little contact with Art through the Grounded Eagle Foundation before, so we knew each other—not too well, but we did know each other. We had gotten him, Art, to make a really nice contribution to the Montana Audubon Council when it was first getting started, with a more permanent organization. So I'd had that relationship with Art, and Art might have even suggested Bud and I. I'm not sure about that but because I didn't know Dave Downey at all.

Then when we went to the meeting, they had also invited the fellow who at that time...I just blanked out on his name, but he was in charge of Lubrecht. He was the person in charge there. Then someone from the Forest Service who is involved in land planning type stuff...again name escapes me. He's since retired. Let's see. There might have been a couple of other people, but I think Bud and I were the only ones there strictly from the valley not county and Lindbergh Lake. It turned out was that they were thinking, well, the valley ought to be involved in this planning effort, but as Bud pointed out it had already been. The Missoula part of the valley had a comprehensive plan that Bud and Tom Parker and others had actually worked on, and had gotten...agreed...had accepted by Missoula County. They didn't even know it existed, these other folks. That kind of ended that part of the discussion because that the valley was actually ahead of Lindbergh Lake on that one.

But then we were talking about...This was at the time when emotions are starting to run pretty high with a decrease in that in the timber cut. It was way down on the forests and the efforts by folks in the lumber and the timber industry were concerned that the environmentalists were closing things down for them. There had been quite a few incidents, not in the valley so much, but elsewhere. Matter of fact, stories were told at this meeting about physical confrontations up in the Kalispell area and so on, and of course in our own area, there had been some pretty

hot public meetings about resource issues in the valley. Anyway, they were saying, "What do we do about all this?" Bud and I said, "Gee, maybe we ought to see if we can find some ways to get the community together on some of these issues." And that's kind of where the ad hoc idea was started. We didn't call it ad hoc, of course. Bud and I actually started making some contact with people that we thought would at least be willing to sit down and discuss issues. We both agreed that what we needed to do was to find people who represented a real good cross section of the valley's point of view. Not necessarily representatives of groups but people who were involved in the timber industry, who were involved in environmental or whatever.

We invited Neil Meyer, was one of the ones that I thought of because we had known Neil mainly through our kids because they had in the summers had rode horses together and so on. We came up with Anne Dahl. We knew that she was active in environmentalists, and Sharon Lamar. We invited some other loggers to take part. Nathan Kaufman (?) was involved in the very beginning of things. We invited someone from Plum Creek. Pat Caffrey (?) came to some of those early meetings from Plum Creek. Of course, Doug—

JA: Russell?

RA: Doug Russell from the Forest Service was very instrumental once we talk a little bit about the idea, and Doug was all for it and, again, took part because he was part of the community. He didn't do it as official.

JA: [unintelligible].

RA: Oh yeah. Well actually, at the time when we first started talking about it—and I'm glad we didn't do it—but we thought we'd go clear to Swan Lake and try to get that community involved too. So we actually invited several people that some of us knew at Swan Lake, including Steve and others from that group and some loggers too. I think we actually had...Steve Kelly (?) showed up and someone else from the Friends of the Wild Swan to a couple of our early meetings and I think a logger came to some of our early meetings, but they didn't stay with it for very long. I mean, they weren't really interested in—I feel, this in my opinion—much in the community approach. They still were thinking more in terms of a special interest approach. We were trying hard to discourage that. We didn't want Anne Dahl to be a representative of Friends of the Wild Swan, or me, a representative of Flathead Audubon, or Neil, the logging association. We wanted the point of view to be expressed, but we wanted the emphasis to be upon the Upper Swan Valley community. So that's what the struggle was. Then we started having some meetings and got some good...I think everybody we invited came to those early meetings. Steve Kelly and some of the others who were active in the Friends of the Wild Swan dropped out pretty quickly. A couple of the loggers—not local loggers, but some that had come from the outside—they dropped out. For a while unfortunately, we lost Plum Creek; although as you know now, we've got somebody who's been coming regularly. But except for those few, most of the people stayed with it and are still staying with it. Then I think it was Anne...or maybe it was...No, I bet it was Sharon Lamar. Sharon had worked with Alan Taylor (?) through

the schools. Remember, the Ortenbergs had gotten some money to the school to do some group work and so on, and Alan had been working at the schools. I didn't even know Alan at that point. I think I'd heard his name mentioned or something, but I didn't know him. Sharon suggested, "Why don't we get Alan in and see if we can get these meetings," because you know it is. Such a diverse group and we get a lot of talking, but we didn't seem to be getting anywhere. So we invited Alan. He was really interested. Of course, he donated all of his time. Alan came in, and then we started to get ourselves a little better organized in starting to try to...About that time we decided to call ourselves the Swan Citizens Ad Hoc Committee, and we made decisions like we didn't want a formal organization. And I think a really good decision that we instead of having officers, we change the chairman for every meeting and started having public meetings. At first it was fairly tightknit as we kind of felt our way together, and then we started opening it up to anybody that wanted to come because it was always open, but it was more your word of mouth to get together. Then we started having more—

SV: So we were talking about the ad hoc and kind of come up to that point where you started thinking—

RA: Of course, we had some really interesting sessions with ad hoc, and you remember we took on some pretty interesting issues like that Elk Creek exchange. Who knows what exactly causes things to happen, but personally I think if the ad hoc group hadn't taken that up as an issue and kind of brought it to the attention of the Forest Service and Fish, Wildlife and Parks, that might have been logged actually by Plum Creek as Plum Creek was definitely moving in that direction. Anyway, after a really interesting process, we supported the notion of a land exchange, and eventually it went through.

Then the group was getting more involved with the Forest Service, and the Forest Service was very interested in what we were doing and started...The district rangers were coming to our meetings, and we even had the forest supervisor come from time to time. Then Chuck [pauses]—

JA: Dropped the bombshell.

RA: I was trying to remember Chuck's last name. I just blanked out.

JA: Chuck Harris.

RA: Harris. Chuck Harris was particularly interested, and he started coming to every meeting actually, or whenever it was possible. He was interested in trying to do some, what he called restoration forestry, where these overgrown ponderosa pine groves with a lodgepole and fir and so on coming up underneath it, and the possibility of catastrophic fire. So we had a committee of ad hoc who took on working with the Forest Service and ended up doing that a ponderosa restoration there at the worksite. Actually, we looked at several places to try it and ended up deciding that was an ideal place in terms of public education to do it. That was a

project that was underway. So we had a committee that was working pretty closely with the Forest Service through ad hoc, and then as June said, we had a meeting. I don't even remember exactly what the purpose of the meeting was—one of the issues or topics that we were interested in—but Chuck came and toward the end of the meeting he wanted to have some time. He got up and made the announcement that because of budget cuts that they were seriously considering closing down the workstation, and that they would not be able to operate it as a workstation anymore. For whatever reason we had the meeting, it was a very well-attended one. The room was pretty full. Were you there by any chance at that one? Yeah. So there was a lot of people, and almost no matter where they stood, they almost universally said, "Whoa! That's not a good idea."

So a lot of hot discussion, as I recall, June put Chuck on the spot about the fact that Forest Service green rigs were running back and forth on the highway all the time, and that they were—

JA: They had 38 employees [unintelligible], and not one of them could be spared to handle the work station in the Swan Valley.

RA: Anyway, we were pretty upset about that, but then we decided rather than just whine, to see what we might be able to do to keep the Forest Service here and maybe even become a better manager in the area. That there be more involvement with the citizens and so on. Again, it was working with an informal group, but we were looking for ways in which we might be able to cooperate with the Forest Service and keep the place open. Fortunately not only was Chuck really interested, but Rod Richardson who was the forest supervisor then, was really committed to working with a community group like what we had been doing over the several years. So he actually spent some time. None of us knew and he hadn't even known, there was such a thing as the National Forest Foundation which was authorized by Congress to actually work with the Forest Service, but nothing much had been going on with it. But he thought, well, let's see if there's something that they might be interested in doing. Well, it proved to be pretty much of a flop, working with the National Forest Foundation for one reason or another. They didn't really ever do us too much good. But in the process of trying to figure out what to do, we realized whether it was the National Forest Foundation or somebody, we were going to have to raise some money. Ad hoc wasn't in the position, being so informal, no one's going to give money to a group that has no status.

That's when we decided that we would we would organize a nonprofit. We thought we'd try that. Anne Dahl did all the work, and all this was before she was hired to be the director. She did this voluntarily. Did all the paperwork. We had a long discussion and argument about what to call ourselves, and we ended up with the...let's see, what's our original, official name? The Swan one Valley Ecosystem Management and Learning Center. Eventually, we decided that was too cumbersome so we shortened it to Swan Ecosystem Center. So we got the non-profit status, and about the same time—everything happening so fast, it's a little bit mixed up in my

mind—but about the same time...And the Forest Service agreed that this was a good idea and agreed that we ought to form a partnership.

This is all new ground, you realize. This is brand new to them. This is brand new to us. There were no models for this kind of an arrangement. Like the Glacier Park has an association—Natural History Association—things like that. But there was nothing where you'd actually have some kind of joint management and partnership that any of us could find. So we were feeling our way on that. But they did agree to try it. Of course, this is where the National Forest Foundation was useful because they acted at the beginning as kind of an intermediary and we work through them. So the Forest Service agreed on one hand to do certain things, and we agreed on the other hand to do certain things. Through the National Forest Foundation, actually reached an agreement, a partnership agreement.

Then about that same time Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg, who have the place up there near Lindbergh Lake, they had been aware of ad hoc and liked the idea, whereas I mentioned earlier Art had been in on that very first meeting. Then they were friends with Hal Salwasser, who was the regional forester at the time, and Hal had visited them at their place. He said, “Boy,” he says, “You've got potential fire hazard here with the growth that's taking place,” and theirs is mainly a larch forest. He says, “Why don't you go down and look at the at the ponderosa pine restoration site that the ad hoc group and the Forest Service is doing at the workstation?” So they did. They liked what they saw, in terms of how the management was saving the big trees but opening it up. We were somewhere along the way with this partnership and with the non-profit, and they made an agreement with the Swan Ecosystem Center to manage their property—their section 24, at least. Not their whole property, but section 24. And we would get the proceeds from any logging activity that took place on it.

Neil Meyer, who was by that time the vice president of the Swan Ecosystem Center—

JA: And retired.

RA: And a retired logger, logging contractor. Great reputation as a as a sensitive logger, stewardship logger. He took the lead for us into seeing what could be done up there. We ended up with it making an agreement with the Ortenbergs and Pyramid Lumber and Swan Ecosystem Center to do some low-impact logging, opening up small sections—small areas—at a time. I think the first logging we did up there was maybe 20 acres, opening up some large forest, and we got the proceeds from that. That has proved to be kind of the financial basis for SEC. Now, we've gone out and raised other monies to bring in for special purposes and so on. But that gave us kind of enough money to uphold our share of the relationship with the Forest Service, so that we're now sharing costs and the management of the workstation.

You don't want me to go any further. It could go on go on and on and on on that one.

SV: When each person I've talked to describes it, it almost sounds like, oh, it just kind of fell together. It just so happened, and such and such. But don't you think that you did a lot right in putting it together?

RA: I think we did a lot right. What I think is really important is we had the right people working together. I don't think we could have ever been successful, I don't think ad hoc would have been successful, I think ad hoc would have flopped very quickly. I don't think SEC would have been successful if we hadn't had the right mix of points of view and personality, and above all, commitment to the community. I think that is really important. There is no one said, "Hey, I represent the Montana Logging Association, and you've got to do it my way. Or I represent Montana Audubon, and you've got to do it my way or I walk out." I think it's all been—even with much disagreement—we've all said, "Okay, let's see what we can do to accommodate each other's points of view, but at the same time have something positive happen for the community." I think that's really driven the process. And I don't think it would have worked particularly well if we had had a bunch of elected representatives from special interest groups arguing about land management or something.

JA: [unintelligible].

RA: Again, I think we had, as you say in terms of making things fall together, I think if we hadn't had Neil who knows so much about how to manage land and from a logging point of view, if we hadn't had Tom Parker and Melanie who had the wildlife view and could work with Neil in terms of doing a decent job, and I think Anne Dahl has had the perfect skills for being a director of an operation like that. She's mild mannered, she's willing to listen to folks and work with them. The Ortenbergs obviously willing to commit themselves to a local group like that. I mean Sue and Bob Cushman have had...Sue is probably our A, number 1 volunteer in terms of working on things putting her time in, and Bob's helped us with the bureaucracy and the financial ends of things. I just think it's been...Bud Moore with the status he's had, not only in this community but in the larger community, to give us credibility that when we got started. Alan with all the things he's done in terms of getting things going in an organized fashion. I think each person involved provided an essential link to making the thing work. That's what I think.

SV: I think you're right [unintelligible]. So when people come to you and they say, "How do we do this in our own community [unintelligible] fall apart?" What do you do tell them to do?

RA: What I first of all tell them is, "I don't know if it'll work necessarily the same way." But it seems to me that the basic ingredient is it's got to come from the grassroots up. I mean there's got to be a desire on the part of people in the community to make things work for the sake of the community. They've got to give up something maybe to do that. If you're working like we were, we had to work with a bureaucracy. You have to have people, in this case, in the Forest Service willing to stick their necks out at times and willing to listen to non-professionals and maybe modify their behavior so that there's got to be that kind of commitment on both sides. I



think you've got to have people working together for the sake of the community to start with too. Maybe I just said that.

SV: Of course, the whole logging issue brought that [unintelligible].

RA: Yeah, yeah definitely. You got the land use issue in general as to what do you do with the land, and who's got the right to use it, and that sort of thing.

Something else that I thought of as an as a basic ingredient too. [pauses] It'll come to me, I guess.

SV: Well, the resource people are here. I don't [unintelligible]. You mentioned the Forest Service. You've been able to—

RA: Oh! I know the other ingredient that I think is important is that you concentrate on those things that you can actually affect, that you that you have some influence on. I think if we had gotten involved in these big hot-button issues—how much wilderness should there be, what should be the then forest level of high timber harvest or something—we would have ended up hating each other. But when we concentrated on things close to home that we all knew and appreciated, then you had the basis for getting somewhere. But again, if we had gotten sidetracked into fighting over spotted owls or something, then I don't think we could have...I think everybody's recognized that, and I think for the most part all of us have kept ourselves from raising the kinds of issues that would be terribly divisive.

SV: Where do you think you're going to go? Where do you hope it goes?

RA: Well, I think we're going in the right direction, and I think that maybe the thing that...We've done certain things where I think we've gotten a really strong beginning framework like in education and providing information services and getting people involved. I think we need to probably continue to work at having more input into actual land management, and that gets tricky because you get involved with national legislation and all that sort of thing. But I think we can do it. I think at the same time, we would also like to see more economic benefits for the community start to show up because I think that's part of our justification was that we wanted to find ways that people could make a decent living and have some income from land management activities. I think we've done some of that. I think there has been income showing up in the community that wouldn't have been there for folks if SEC hadn't been organized. But I think we'd like to see the day come when maybe the Forest Service would be able to do management on a low scale, not a gigantic scale but on a low scale, doing things that really need to be done for forest health and at the same time would be producing income for folks. I think we need to continue to move more in that direction.

Then I think, another thing is that maybe a more permanent kind...some security that the Forest Service will continue to support the partnership—that we have a future—and on the other side,

that we have some financial security somehow. I think to is—and this is again gets beyond what we can do by ourselves in the community—but I'd like to see foundations, for example, be more willing to support a community kind of effort and realize how important it is, rather than so much emphasis upon varieties of special interest kinds of things. I'm not knocking that. That has to be done and should be done. But I think it's really hard for us to make outside folks realize what a positive effort this is for a community, and that we need some support for a while at least.

JA: [unintelligible] application form for that scholarship, just what you said—

[Break in audio]

RA: —that in terms of our becoming part of the community how important it was that the community had community events. We love going to the big Christmas parties at the community hall. To me, it's a shame that they've been lost.

SV: Tell me about them. That's the first I've heard of them.

RA: Great! They were community dances. Everybody in the community came to...Like we were strangers in the community in a sense—

JA: Brought their babies.

RA: Brought their babies. We were invited. That place was dancing going on. There were local people musicians playing for us. Dale Conley would play his accordion and then they'd bring in a band too. But it was often homemade music, and everybody just had a really good time. I think that was a great introduction for us when we'd come here in the winter. Then as June said the Moxie. Of course, our kids got involved with the Conley kids and the Meyer kids and everybody with horses, working with horses, and going to the Moxie. Our two Californians as they were known as, of course, won the rescue ride at the Swan Valley community at the Moxie, I think, for three summers in a row because being brother and sister they worked together. They had a horse that had been an outfitters horse, and he was slow but they could get him to do anything they want to. He could turn on a dime, he could stop, turn around, let somebody get on him and go back. It was like the turtle and the hare, even though he was slow, he was deliberate and they and they won the rescue ride three...That was the kind of thing that really, I think, made us part of the community. We got to know the Conley's real well.

JA: It was the family involvement [unintelligible] in the community because there are a lot of people now, my goodness, it's just amazing to us that they live back in the bushes and we never know they're there. Rod and I drove up on Lake [unintelligible] to check out the birds, and what's the...Perry is the last name?

[End of Interview]