

ALTHEA PRATT-BROOME

TAPE 11, Side 1

November 29, 1995

M.O'R.: This is Michael O'Rourke for the Washington County Historical Society continuing the interview with Althea Pratt-Broome at her home on November the 29th, 1995.

So you were just telling me about ...

A.P-B.: Yes. Over there those reefs are very close to the surface. There's one great huge one that goes through there. You dig down and you just get nothing but this brown lava rubble, you know, and you're chopping into it to try to do anything over there. And that's all on the upper section.

Well, there also are some remnants of Native American summer camps there. So before they can go on and do the development of that park they have to have the archeologists come out and see whether this is a significant site or something that they can go ahead and just let the grass grow over it and not do anything with it.

For the Zeidels to do their development around here the archeologists had to come out - all this through Army Corps of Engineers - and they found a site just on the north side of the marsh here. Do you know where Teton Way is down there, off of Tualatin-Sherwood Road? That was put in right at the time. In fact, they told us that it was already designated and everything before, so they couldn't do anything about it when I was starting to try to save

the wetlands. Well, they were not telling me the truth. It hadn't all been laid out yet, so the changes could have been made.

As it is, when they built Teton Way, it's so low that it floods all the time because the marshes were all there, and they'd just run right across. And one day they're going to have to do something about it, because at that time - I mean, I can imagine right now that it's pretty well flooded.

M.O'R.: Right. With the weather we've had.

A.P-B.: Yeah. So right down in through there there are a number of other Indian campgrounds as well. So they're all over this area. Why? Because of all the wildlife that was here. It was perfect for them. You have this mostly mild weather and all this game. When I came [there were] fox, deer, all these things. The deer still - not this year, but even last year some of the deer were still coming in just below the kitchen there, and they would come into my garden over here and nibble on things. I haven't seen fox for years now. Coyotes, still; I hear them every once in a while. Not for the last year, though.

M.O'R.: Even though your place is still - might be a refuge for them ...

A.P-B.: Yes.

M.O'R.: ... they'd probably have trouble getting here from other places.

A.P-B.: Well, yes. Not only that, but when they've filled this up on the side and began all of the work down further they blocked a lot of those things. And they also started to clear out all in under the woods, all these trees over on the north side. They began cleaning all of the shrubbery, everything out of that.

Well, there's no hiding place for the deer. Only this little stretch of wetlands, and it's very hard because this is an impervious surface on this side now, and it raises the water, so it's harder for them. They have to do swimming in order to get over here, and what do they have? My three-and-a-half acres. It's not enough range for them.

M.O'R.: Right.

A.P-B.: I don't know what's become of them. But a lot of animals are converging on this little bit of land that's upland now, other than the wetlands animals. A beaver is frantically trying to put his dam up again.

But they came in - the Zeidel group came in, and they hired some people to take out all of the beaver dam. They even came on my property and took them out, and I discovered it afterwards.

They were supposed to put them back up again, but they never have. And the beaver can only do so much, you know, because the water is rushing over it in weather like this, and they are frantically trying to put this thing together again so that they will have a pond in which to do their food storing for the winter. It does freeze over around here if it gets cold enough. We have walked out on those marshes many times, and my little girls used to skate on them out there.

A.P-B.: I heard another farmer tell me that that they would occasionally skate on their fields in the wintertime.

Now, when you first - what made you decide to get involved in the wetlands issue in '75?

A.P-B.: Those things that I told you about. Number one, the slag that was being dumped. Number two, the filling. Probably the

biggest reason was that they were going to put a lot of that salvaged steel and stuff out here, and I was thinking, "Ye gods, now what happens to the marsh?"

But it was primarily because for many, many, many years I had been taking all of these children out there teaching them about the environment, about wetlands. And University of Oregon Medical School was sending their doctoral students down here because there's a rare microbe in the water of the marsh here. Then Lewis & Clark was bringing their students out here for botany and biology, anthropology, and I was bringing my graduate students from Portland State out here to work with children in a natural environment in the arts. What is the connection between science and art? For me they've always been connected. Nature is art. So [I've been] bringing them out here and saying, "What can you do with art in the environment?"

One of the things I used to do with kids was take them out there with paints, all kinds of paints, paper and brushes, and we would try to match the colors of everything we saw out there. Then they became aware of the beauty in a blade of grass, in the stems of the dogwood in the winter, and the yellow of the willow. But if you've ever looked at canary grass to see the colors of beige and brown in it, try to match those. I mean, nature is incredible. To me it's God's painting, and how can we do things like that?

One of the little girls that I started taking out there in my alternative school - I'd bring them all, of course - but this little girl had this wonderful artistic talent even as a tiny thing, and I would talk to her about art. And she is a very fine artist in Southern California now, and she said, "It all goes back

to the kinds of things that you did with us." So how could these people that I was working with, these graduate students who mostly were teachers, how could they go and help children to realize the beauty of what's out there?

The representative for Zeidel when we were talking with them about the marshes, and he said to me, "Why do you talk about it as being beautiful? It's ugly. It's just simply ugly."

And I said, "Have you ever looked closely at it? Come with me, I'll show you."

M.O'R.: Did he, then?

A.P-B.: After a few years he began to say, "It really is beautiful, isn't it?"

But there is so much there all year long. Just the beautiful color of the duck weed floating on the surface of the water. The pussy willows in the spring. I mean, if you examine everything that's out there, it's incredible. And then you get all of the wildlife, the color, the sound.

Have you ever listened to a red-winged blackbird? That is one of the most beautiful sounds in the world. And the wing feathers on a wood duck, any duck for that matter. And all of the little yellow birds and the thrushes and the wrens. All of these.

And their nests, the nests that they build are just unbelievable. I have some hanging in my attic study along the window there, beautiful long nests, little short ones, the kinds of things they use to make their nests, to make them soft inside and - how does this long thing hang together when you fill it up with baby birds? It has strength to it. And these little tiny things do it. A swallow's nest.

And then you have those great big huge blue heron nests, and you have squirrel's nests. We get them in these trees around. In fact, I'm trying to straighten out one of these trees that is losing one side, it's all cracked and pulling away. So I've been taking branches off of it. They're very high, and there's this one that has a squirrel's nest in it. I can't take it yet.

M.O'R.: Until the squirrel's through with the nest?

A.P-B.: That's right. He's using it for winter, and then he'll use it for spring. But what I told Richard was that we're going to have to get up there with a big tall ladder, a picking ladder, and careful move it from there to the other branches. But he may decide that that's not the territory he wants. But before the storm takes that branch totally off of there I'm going to have to do something about it so it isn't going to crush anybody.

M.O'R.: Is the spring still there at the base of the elm, or has that dried up?

A.P-B.: At the base of the cottonwood tree?

M.O'R.: Or the cottonwood, rather, yeah.

A.P-B.: This past summer when they were doing all that it was as dry as a bone. You can't pump for 24 hours a day month after month. They didn't quit until about the first of September.

And then after that they decided because - and this was not in the urban renewal plan that we came up with. There is the big lake, and then there was to be an extension of a smaller one with the townhouses and the apartments and condominiums around it, which would be very beautiful. Well, then the people who were doing it decided that the flow between the two would not be adequate, so they'd make the one a separate pond.

Well, all of the water was supposed to come not from this water table but from the regular water. Well, first thing I knew there was a big pumping crane up there, and they were pumping water out of the water table, and the water had just begun coming back, and all of a sudden it was all gone again. They had filled that pond. And they said, "Well, we need it for irrigating, too."

M.O'R.: When you say regular water you meant like city water? They were going to fill the lakes with that?

A.P-B.: Mm-hmm. Bull Run.

M.O'R.: Bull Run water?

A.P-B.: Mm-hmm. So here we were again.

M.O'R.: They could have maybe drawn it from the river, too?

A.P-B.: Yes, they could have, but you see, it would cost more. So they didn't. So I wasn't very happy about that. But we did have city water by then, so -. Sad.

M.O'R.: Well, so you became involved first as just a citizen in trying to preserve the wetlands here?

A.P-B.: Mm-hmm.

M.O'R.: Then you became part of the group that was overseeing the urban renewal; was that the sequence of events?

A.P-B.: Yes. I'd already started on the wetlands.

M.O'R.: Was that a completely individual effort or were there other people that you linked up with on that?

A.P-B.: Oh, no one person can ever do this all by themselves. You involve everybody you can possibly get. They came from Lewis & Clark College, they came from the University of Oregon Medical School, they came - I brought them out from Portland State. And every agency.

The Scout kids I'd been taking out there, their Scout Masters would bring them in whole great groups. Schools came. People came from everywhere, Audubon. All the different outfits that I named came and spoke. The City couldn't hold it in the City Council chambers. They had to take the school gym. There would be like 250 people there. They got the message: people wanted to save this.

M.O'R.: And when was this?

A.P-B.: Well, beginning - let's see, urban renewal began in September of '76. So it would have been '77, '78, '79, '80.

M.O'R.: So just an ongoing process ...

A.P-B.: It was. It took a long time to work out.

M.O'R.: ... of meetings? And out of this process, then, some of the wetlands were preserved, and then there was also I guess the downtown plan for Tualatin for the renewal of that?

A.P-B.: We were doing it all at the same time. It finally went all the way to the governor and the attorney general. Governor Straub was the governor then. Because it was a landmark case and no one was that sure of what they were doing, and they mandated that the City put a good portion of it into a preserved protected area. So 57 acres of it was put in a protected area. And I can show you one of the maps, big map, of the protected zone. And I think I told you that bringing all the school kids and everything that the mayor even allowed the children to speak at one of the council meetings, which was unheard of. He was a wonderful guy.

M.O'R.: And who was that?

A.P-B.: That was Roy Rogers, who's Commissioner of Washington County now. He became a Commissioner after that.

M.O'R.: So you had - it sounds like you had some real support within the City government for all of this?

A.P-B.: Oh, yes. Yes, I did.

M.O'R.: Who were some of your real allies during this period?

A.P-B.: By name?

M.O'R.: Mm-hmm.

A.P-B.: Michael Dethridge Newsome, and Brian Lightcap from Army Corps of Engineers. Mike Hauck and Mike Utoff, who were both from Audubon.

I met Mike Hauck - here was this young man. I was out hiking around in the wetlands out there and here came this young man across the wetlands, a birder. And that was how I met Mike Hauck, never realizing that he was going to get very involved in all of these things, not only that I was doing but everybody else. And look at him now! I mean, without him, believe me, there would be a lot of environmental things that never happened in Portland and its surrounding area. That man is incredible. He's been a very loyal and a very active person. You pick up *Audubon Warbler*, tour after tour after tour, Mike Hauck. He's out there all the time working.

Then Isaac Walton League - let's see; what's his name? I'll have to think about it. Some of the names are slipping because I haven't worked with them for quite a while now.

Thousand Friends of Oregon, Henry Richmond. But the one who really worked with us, and I - his name is just out of my mind. As it comes I'll give it to you. Gene Herb from Oregon Fish & Wildlife, and I can't remember the name of the fellow who was active from U.S. Fish & Wildlife at that time.

Let's see. Who else? Can't remember who from Division of State Lands, and I can't remember the name of the fellow from Nature Conservancy who helped us a lot.

One of the young fellows who was just finishing up his law degree at Lewis & Clark College was very instrumental in helping me realize a lot of the different laws that would help us. He's back in Pennsylvania now. Duke Pepper and his wife Joanne. Joanne would go out with kid with me, and we would canvas the area with these pamphlets and things that the kids had made up. And paintings, we put up posters all over this place. The kids would stand out in front of the stores and the banks and all the businesses with their petitions and get all of these people to sign these petitions to save the wetlands.

This one absolutely gorgeous little six-year-old girl in my alternative school, little Anne, blond, big blue eyes, the most adorable little creature - and the kids had made these masks that were just head masks that they'd put on top of their heads, and it would be birds and animals, and they'd stand out there with these petitions. Little Anne would run up to somebody and say, "Would you help me save all of those animals out in the wetlands? Would you sign my petition?" And these big men, they'd look at her and they'd say, "Honey, I'd do anything for you." [laughs] And they would sign them. And we would take all these petitions to the council.

I remember one of the businessmen said, "It's not fair what she's doing." [laughing] "She's getting all those kids out there, and who can resist the kids?"

I said, "Well, these are the people who are going to inherit all of our mistakes."

M.O'R.: Right.

A.P-B.: "Whatever you do now, they're going to have to live with it, and they have no voice. So they are doing it because of what they believe in. Not just me, but what they have experienced out there for themselves. It's made an impression on their lives."

One of the boys was a schizophrenic, I think I told you, from Belfast, Ireland, had been involved in witnessing all the violence over there, very violent. I took him into my alternative school; we all worked with him. And he still comes back to see me. He's 24 now. He was one of those who spoke to the council, the difference it had made in his life, getting out there into nature and working with creatures, watching birds, watching animals, and that it affected his whole life.

He stopped by here about a month ago when they were doing all of that down in Eugene to save the forest. He's living in Washington now. He came down to join that group, and he stopped in on his way back to Washington, and he said, "All because we used to come here." So for some of them it's still working.

M.O'R.: It was a real turning point.

A.P-B.: How many, I don't know because they all go off in different directions, but I know some of them who still do.

So there were a lot of instrumental people who came and helped. Dick Benner. Dick Benner was the one from Thousand Friends. Dick Benner is a tremendous person. And then he went from there up to working with the group saving the Columbia River

and keeping it from being developed all along there by business. Yes, we need business. We need a compromise.

A few years ago when the State was dealing with the takings issue over the fight in Corvallis for the wetlands on this one farm, they called me and asked if I would come down and talk to the legislature about how to compromise, how we did it here and what did I do, and would I bring some of the people who had been instrumental in helping me.

So I brought Gene Herb from Oregon Fish & Wildlife, Steve Rhodes was City Manager here. He had been an assistant city manger when all of this was going on. And I took the businessman who was on our board now, the one who didn't want all this to happen to begin with and was filling. So he went with us.

M.O'R.: And what was his name?

A.P-B.: John Vidas. And then who else? I took someone else. Somebody from - it wasn't Mike Hauck. I can't remember now.

But anyway, I took a group and we went down and talked about the taking issue and what we had done here, how you compromise, the fact that we do need business, but we do need the environment.

One of the reasons we need wetlands, almost 99 percent of our oxygen is made from water plants, and every time we fill up a wetlands we're losing a lot of our water plants. Therefore we're destroying the very oxygen that we breathe, and we can't live on carbon dioxide. The purification of the waters, et cetera, et cetera. Besides the nurseries for the fishing industry, the rivers, the streams, the wetlands, the estuaries, all of these are nurseries for those little fish. You get rid of them, you've gotten rid of the fishing industry.

We're all connected, but they don't see it because they don't know about wetlands. And so it's all a process of education. So as I told you we started this group called the Friends of the Tualatin Wetlands, and then in 1981 we got our nonprofit status and changed the name to the Wetlands Conservancy, and then we could accept land.

The iron foundry was the first one to want to donate land to us, and it was before we got our nonprofit. And so Oregon parks - oh, that was another person, Larry Espy from Oregon Parks came out and helped save the wetlands also. And so when we got our first piece of property - because we couldn't hold it, not having a nonprofit status, so he held it for us through the Oregon Parks. I think our first two came that way.

But Morey Arnson owned the iron foundry over there, and when he wanted to donate two-and-a-half acres, wasn't very big, but believe me it was very important because it was our very first one, and every inch of it counts. So I called the newspaper - and of course this whole site for the wetlands had been in the newspapers, it had been on TV, it had been everywhere, and none of it had I solicited, nor anyone else. It was just that they heard about this mess that was going on out here and they came out.

But this time I called them, and I said, "Go out to Morey Arnson and do an article, because here is this guy who fought this thing tooth and nail, and now he is donating land. He is building a whole new section on his iron foundry for a lunchroom for his employees to sit and watch the wildlife while they eat lunch. Go get an article on that man." And so Morey and I became friends.

M.O'R.: Although you had started out as adversaries.

A.P-B.: Yeah. I mean, once they understand, and this is the whole thing, because so many of the times the environmentalists go out with, "Okay, you're the bad guys," and the business people are looking at the environmentalists and saying, "You're the bad guys." Well, nobody is, you know? You need to get it together, and you need to know that there is such a thing as compromise. So that's what it's all about.

And you bet, I get mad when I see some of the things that go on because I feel so helpless, but we're not helpless. The grass-roots thing in a democracy still works, if you get enough people. And it did work, and that's why the marshes are still here.

M.O'R.: It's a great story.

[end of side one]

ALTHEA PRATT-BROOME

TAPE 11, Side 2

November 29, 1995

A.P-B.: So across on the other side - see Nyberg Stream comes down just on the other side of the Tualatin-Sherwood Road. Hedges Creek, which is what this marsh is, comes down farther from the hills and down across and under the road and out, where Nyberg comes from up over on this side, comes down, used to cross over Boones Ferry, but culverts take it under Boones Ferry, and it goes down. That was another thing I did a lot of talking with them about how to do that and not culvert it all the way to the river, which was what they wanted to do. It needed to feed the marshes on the other side, part of which Fred Meyer filled that had the mastodon bones in it.

But you get all this water coming down off of the hillsides, and it's a natural drainage, and then it goes all the way down to the river. Well, there are those apartment houses on the hillside on the other side of the freeway, the Rolling Hills Apartments. It's like a rabbit warren. It's so full of people. And the man who built it wanted to build some more down below, down into the marsh. So all of a sudden there was fill being pushed into the marsh down there. Well, Division of State Lands was notified, and they came up to the City and they said, "You can't do that."

"Well, we have this general permit, and the general permit said that we could give them permission."

"Not something as big as this." They had put like 250 yards of fill in. Well, you either take it all out again or you miti-

gate. So Division of State Lands said, "All right, we'll let you mitigate for part of this, and the rest, you get rid of it." So the mitigation, then, had never been done. And a year had gone by, and Division of State Lands had just gotten on the City good and hard again, because it hadn't been done. And Steve was just fit to be tied. He was mad at us.

So I said, "Steve, it's a simple solution. Give the 13 acres of wetlands to us and we'll see that the mitigation is taken care of, and you won't have to do another thing with it."

So he took it to the City Council after we got back from Salem and the council okayed it. So we then owned that 13 acres, and we could get the guy to do the mitigation. So we got Fish & Wildlife to come out. They have this wonderful guy. He gets his big equipment out there, and he digs these very artistic beautiful ponds that have curving edges, and he takes it and he piles some of the stuff into little islands so that it will making nesting areas. He does this beautiful stuff.

And so he came out and made this wonderful pond system, and that was the mitigation. The guy had to pay him of course, the man who was filling, but that was his mitigation, and it was all taken care of and we were all done with it. So then Steve was happy. So those are the things you go through.

M.O'R.: How many acres of wetlands around here that ...

A.P-B.: About 75 down through here, and then the 13 acres over there. Then we also own parcels over in Tigard, I think one in Beaverton. We're working on a couple of them out towards Gresham, and we were working on one that we turned down out by - what's the other lake by Blue Lake? There's another lake they made

out there - I can't think of the name of it now - right next to Blue Lake.

It was all part of it, but they built a road over it and so the upper part of it is the part that they wanted us to take some of that wetlands. But there were a lot of things wrong with it that we didn't feel we could get involved with. So we didn't take that.

Neskowan on the coast. Let's see. Near Manzanita, there's one there. And we're working on a great huge one down out of Newport, Beaver Creek. We're working on that one now, and we're working - we have about - well, let's see - over in Tigard it's Hart Wetlands. And where Barnes Road has been redone there's a piece of property and a wetlands that a fellow named B.G. owned. We have that one. We're completing it. There are a lot of them.

M.O'R.: All of this since 1980, roughly?

A.P-B.: Yeah. Mm-hmm. About that. That's a lot. I can't even name them all, but we do have some maps that show where all of these are.

M.O'R.: You mentioned earlier that you met Jack at one of the first meetings here?

A.P-B.: Yes.

M.O'R.: He was involved, his architectural firm was involved in this project?

A.P-B.: In the planning for the city center, for the urban renewal city center.

M.O'R.: What was his own involvement in the wetlands preservation at that time?

A.P-B.: He early on - Tom McCall had started trying to - well, let's see Oz West, actually - Oswald West, the governor back in the early 1900's ...

M.O'R.: Right. There's a Portland park that's named after him?

A.P-B.: Yes. And he had been instrumental in helping to save the coast land. And then George Diehl, a citizen, had started the Oregon Shores Conservation - what do they call it? Anyway, it's Oregon Shores.

And Jack - Tom McCall had started the beginning of the land use reform here in Oregon, and he appointed a committee. He tried to get people not necessarily who were environmentally oriented but who came from different walks of life and businesses. And Jack had never been involved in anything environmental before, but Tom McCall asked him to be in this group, and that was when Jack began his environmental career because then he realized what was happening. Then he joined Oregon Shores.

So he was involved with them at the time that I met him. So then I went to some of the Oregon Shores meetings also, and then - in fact I designed their first brochure. They had always talked about having a brochure, but they never got around to it. So I designed one and wrote it and did it for them.

And then some of them kind of got involved in what I was doing, and Jack at first didn't want to be involved in this, and I think I told you the story a few years ago Mike Hauck was - maybe it was last year even - kidding Jack about the fact that the wetlands are his life now, and one time Jack and I weren't married yet but he would come out here and work in my vegetable garden, and one

day a group of us were going out into the wetlands to do something, and so Mike Hauck called him and said, "Well, Jack, when are you going to get involved in all of this?"

And Jack said, "Not on your life I'm not going to get involved in it. And Mike was kidding Jack and saying, "Do you remember that?" And Jack said, "No, I certainly don't remember that," and he got a little upset with him, but Mike and I were laughing about it and saying ...

M.O'R.: You remembered it, eh?

A.P-B.: Yes. Now it's certainly his life, all right. Well, now he's trying to retire from the Wetlands Conservancy, too, but he has been tremendously active and influential with it. He's been a very hard worker and made a lot of difference.

Everybody just laughs him when he says he's going to retire, and of course then he had the newspaper do this article on him and his big retirement, you know, his second retirement, and no way. He has retired more than I ever expected that he would.

M.O'R.: Now, this newspaper article you're talking about, was it ...

A.P-B.: *Oregonian*.

M.O'R.: ... fairly recently?

A.P-B.: Yes. It was that recent one.

M.O'R.: So you were - you started a lot of this work around conservation of the wetlands and also participating in the urban renewal here beginning in '75, and of course we have these other big projects, the Skoggins Dam and the Unified Sewerage Agency spending lots of money, you know, bringing the treatment plants up

to par, and a lot of this was already underway, and perhaps even in place by the mid-80's.

Then there was this group, Northwest Environmental Advocates that had brought a suit against the Environmental Protection Agency because they weren't enforcing the Clean Water Act.

A.P-B.: Yeah, Jack Smith. [laughing] He's a friend of ours, too.

M.O'R.: Can you tell me a little bit about that and what your perspective on that lawsuit is? How important was it, or was the momentum already there before that lawsuit, or how did it contribute to this?

A.P-B.: It's very hard to judge whether they would have gone ahead and done what they needed to do if it hadn't been for Jack Smith and the others getting in there and actually suing them. I personally have never believed in suing people because it's so horribly overdone that it's ridiculous.

M.O'R.: It also sets up this adversarial thing ...

A.P-B.: Yes. I always have the feeling that you can sit down and work things out in almost all cases. Now, I can be dead wrong on some cases, of course, but I do feel that with that they could have eventually worked through everything if they had been willing to spend the time. It didn't seem to be that much of an impasse, but I think that a lot of it was impatience, too, because Jack Smith is a lot like Jack Broome. They're both very high strung and impatient, and I think a lot of Jack Smith, and I certainly think a lot of Jack Broome. But I think that more things can be worked out than sometimes seem to them to be able to be worked out, and you don't have to have it done, boom, right now. All things that

are worth doing take time, and they take a lot of understanding on all sides. So I hate to say very much about it because I'm dealing with a couple of people I like.

M.O'R.: Okay. Well, I've also heard the suggestion from at least a couple of friends of mine who I know are at the core environmentalists who say that they think maybe that - in terms of the water quality issue, not in terms of the wetlands but in terms of the water quality issue on the Tualatin that it's actually been carried a little too far, that maybe we're spending too much money now to get too small an incremental improvement in trying to live up to these standards. What's your feeling about that?

A.P-B.: I don't think we've gone too far. It's working, and I think that ...

M.O'R.: And the cost is reasonable, do you think?

A.P-B.: I think so. I think that we have to weigh our priorities and say, "Is it more important to let the businesses do what they want to do, or do we need to spend the money to just absolutely clean it up?" And I think that it's that important that the money should go to it, just like - there was a lot of this talk with the metro green spaces. "Why is it so important to save all of this whole watering basin that we're trying to save?" If you look ahead another 50, another 100 years, if we let things continue like they're going without a bit of nitpicking and a lot of money spent, we're not going to have anything.

If you look in the 50 years that you and I have been talking about now - in fact we've been talking about more than 50 years. We've been talking from the 30's to the 90's, almost to the 2000 time. And look what has happened in that amount of time, all the

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degradation, and then the long cleanup. If we let things go now the way the Republicans want to let it go, if the Environmental Protection Agency has no more teeth to it than it has right now, and no money to go out and do the inspections - there was an article just the other day in the paper about it.

M.O'R.: That's right. I read that article. They're starting to skip inspections to save money.

A.P-B.: Yes. The business is going to go right back to the laissez faire again. There's going to be more pollution, air pollution, water pollution, earth pollution, and there are going to be more people harmed from it. And then it's going to cost a great deal more to clean it up.

And maybe you can sit back there in Washington DC and sit down here in Salem and say, "It doesn't really matter. People will go right on living." The poor people who live in these places are the ones who suffer. Haven't we done enough to the poor, with all of the cuts that have been made and everything else that's happened?

I've worked with poor people. I know what a lot of them go through, and I know where they have to live. I used to take my kids from the alternative school and go over to a school in North Portland and have those black kids come out to our school, and we heard some stories and things that were hard to believe, but they were very real.

If we don't do something for those people, if you've read history, if you want to go back to Rome, even, to the fall of Rome. You have all of these raggie-taggle Visigoths and Goths and all the rest of the hordes of them, waiting on the other side of that

river, looking across at Rome and looking at what they had and what they didn't have, and they wanted it.

We have them all along our border trying to get across. We have them coming in boats to try to get in. You're looking at trouble, and it's going to come one day. And if we don't spend the money to care for people or to give money to their country to help them to do something and cut down on population or whatever - and it's the same thing with the environment, you won't have anything left.

So yeah, I think they're not spending too much money, and I think we do need to nitpick. Compromise, but only to a point. Most people don't read history.

M.O'R.: That's right.

A.P-B.: And they don't know what's coming.

M.O'R.: I guess some of these notions are a bit abstract to bottom-line businessmen who want to ...

A.P-B.: That's right. It is. But so was wetlands abstract.

M.O'R.: Right. Well, in fact in your compromise it sounds like you've actually converted some folks here who are now beginning to realize that the wetlands at least have some environmental and aesthetic value.

A.P-B.: Yes.

M.O'R.: Do you think that this translates into actual economic value for them?

A.P-B.: Oh, yes. Because one of the things that they're finding now, people want to live by these places. They want to live by water. I mean, it's very important to people to have something to look out at besides a barren street full of traffic.

Do you think I enjoy looking out there at that traffic, which wasn't there when I came? Why do I have hedges to block out some of that? People would rather look at something beautiful, believe it or not. And they're finding that when they build these housing areas around water and where there are woods and fields for people to look at and marshes, that they can sell them for money. So they're even beginning to look for these places to buy and put their housing around it, and they're willing to compromise with it, because they end up making more money. It all comes down to that dollar.

M.O'R.: So rather than fill it and build a few more housing units they leave it?

A.P-B.: Yes. Yes. But in the beginning when we started this, we couldn't convince them of that. But little by little. And then we'd show them things from back east, Maryland. Look at what they did there. And you take one place after another. If you have enough pictures and enough stories it begins to ring a bell. And then they say, "Hey, we can do that." And now they're doing it. Watch the ads for all those housing developments. Look at them.

M.O'R.: See what they're selling these days?

A.P-B.: That's right, and what goes for the most money.

M.O'R.: You mentioned Zeidels several times in the course of this conversation, and I know that they are a big developer out here right now. Emery Zeidel?

A.P-B.: Emery Zeidel.

M.O'R.: Yeah, do you know him personally?

A.P-B.: No. His sister I knew, was a good friend of mine in high school, and I just briefly saw Emery. He was my sister's age, if I remember correctly. So I didn't have much to do with him, and I really haven't had anything much to do with him in this. It's been his representatives who come that I've spent time with and talked with.

One of the first ones would get very angry with me, but we became good friends, and he even sent his child here to Willowbrook, to the summer arts program. Quite a few of the Zeidels have come. And the latest one - not Bob Durgen. Emery Zeidel and Anderson, I can't remember his first name, have been very good friends for many years, and so they combined to work on this about a year, two years ago, and they sent Bob Durgen as their representative. Steve Shane was the one for Zeidel before Bob Durgen, and I'm very fond of Steve Shane. His two children came to Willowbrook.

M.O'R.: I see.

A.P-B.: And then two other Zeidels. Steve Shane's wife has a sister, and her sister brought her two children here to Willowbrook, and then Steve and his wife and little boy used to come out to see the programs. I think the little boy was a baby then. And then later when Steve's kids got big enough, why then he brought them.

And then another Zeidel, one of the cousins, brought her daughter here. Yeah, we've had quite a few of them. So it isn't that there's any rankling or bad feelings or anything, it's just how do we work things out? We do like each other.

M.O'R.: Well, maybe this might be a good time to call it a day today, and maybe we can schedule a final meeting to pick up some loose ends in a week or two.

And thank you again for your wonderful stories.

A.P-B.: Thank you.

[end of tape]