

ANDY KLEIN

March 11, 1996

Tape 2, Side 1

M.O'R.: This is Michael O'Rourke continuing the interview with Andy Klein in his office on August 26, 1996.

So you were going to tell me about that meeting.

A.K.: Well, that was basically when it all happened was at that meeting, and I think that's probably what, right at that time was when the project died. But people just kind of threw up their hands and said, "Well, the Corps is not going to go much further on this thing." And the Corps had gone so far as to develop good topographic maps of these different dam sites and reservoir areas. Matter of fact, I even was able to secure one copy for the site up here at Gales Creek, and looked at it from the point of view of Forest Grove maybe developing the site, but it would have involved so many miles of road relocation. It would have been a big dam. It was clear out of reach for Forest Grove to do it by themselves, and so we had to look at other things like Trask and the Devil's Lake Fork of the Wilson River and things of that type.

CH2M did several studies of dam sites in and on Clear Creek, and again, the stream bed is so steep that there was going to have to be an incredibly high dam to impound even 2- or 300 acre feet of water, and if they had done that, the cost benefit ratio was just blown right out of the sky because there was no way that you could spend that kind of money, and you get such a very little amount of storage, it was only going to be good for a few years, and then you'd be looking again.

So Scoggins was a godsend, it really was, and then I guess hindsight is 20/20, but they should have built Phase 2 of the Tualatin Project which was the dam on the Tualatin River, and they

looked at two sites there, one at Gaston and one up at Mount Richmond, and neither one could fly. I have reports I think on both sites that were generated by the Bureau over in the Boise office, and it didn't catch fire, and I was on that committee with, oh, Harold Meyer was on it, and there were a number of us, and we met one day - Wes Mylenbeck was the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and I forget who the County Manager was at the time, but he got up and gave a very short and concise talk, saying the County was not interested in pursuing it, period, and that was all there was to that, and that project died, I guess mainly again because of the Cherry Grove interest upstream, it was going to flood a part of Cherry Grove, and they didn't want that, and oh, I guess it's the old nimby thing, you know, that pops up every now and again that someday there will be another dam in this valley. There's almost going to have to be, and of course, the Unified Sewage Agency is buying into this, the raising of the Trask Dam for flow augmentation.

When we did these studies for DEQ back in the early '70s - '72, '74 - we tried to promote flow augmentation as being one method of treating the water quality conditions because it'll bring the water temperatures down in the streams; it will provide dilution for any nutrients that are in there, and if you can get that ratio of nutrients to amount of water, if you can get the nutrient ratio way down, you can keep the algae from growing, and if you get the water temperatures down, that helps.

Another thing that we were promoting was vegetative corridors on either side of the Tualatin River and perennial streams, tributaries to keep the shade over the streams. Number one, you can bring the water temperatures down five and 10 degrees, by putting those vegetative corridors along the streams, you keep the turbidity from getting into the stream, which helps, and it'll pick up

some of the nutrients, the trees will take, and vegetation will take the nutrients up, and that helps keep the nutrients from getting into the streams.

These recommendations were made back in '72 and '74 when we completed these studies. EPA and DEQ are just catching on right now, 20 some odd years later, that this might be a good idea, and I can't figure where these people have been, what they've been thinking about.

:And they're easily implemented, and I sat down one day and I got to thinking about it. If you took a strip of ground 50 feet in width along just the Tualatin River for like 30 miles or something like that, and you paid the farmers, or the people, the interests that have that property, gave them a couple thousand bucks an acre for that land, which they're not farming anyway, it's just peanuts compared to what was voted for Metro for greenways. Yeah, it's just nothing.

M.O'R.: It could have a potential real positive benefit then?

A.K.: Yeah, really. But I don't know why they're not doing this. But anyway, that's ...

M.O'R.: Well, back momentarily to the '50s plan by the Army Corps. Had they been able to go ahead and build those flood control dams, would that have implied federal funding in those projects then, too?

A.K.: Yeah, that was strictly a Corps project, the whole thing all the way through. I don't remember anything in those that had anything to do with local financing. There might have been, I don't know. But it seemed to me it was the Corps was going to come in and do this, period. And from a point of view of flow augmentation, it would have been wonderful.

M.O'R.: You mentioned Johnny Frederickson and the others down there at that Roamer's Rest and Avalon. Was it principally those

commercial interests on the river, or was it generally the lower Tualatin folks?

A.K.: You know, I really don't know. Those are the two names that always kept popping up, and maybe because Johnny Fredericks was a ballplayer for Portland Beavers at the time and he was a personality, so to speak. Roamer's Rest had a gorgeous resort there, and it's all gone now, on the banks of the Tualatin.

M.O'R.: Did you visit the resort?

A.K.: I didn't go down at that time, but we had a job here recently where someone had purchased that thing, and they were going to develop it, and I went down and I thought we might be doing the engineering for it, but we didn't get the job. It was being partially financed by a friend of mine who's in the boring business, does conduits under railroads and things like that, a fellow by the name of Gonzales, and I don't know if that project ever went ahead or not. There was some wetland involved, and they were going to have to deal with that, and then of course, there was the riparian area they were going to have deal with. It might have been just a little bit more than they wanted to tackle, but I don't know if it was done or not.

M.O'R.: Of course, Johnny Fredericks and also the operator of Roamer's Rest, and I guess there's yet another place, Louie's, at that same location more or less.

A.K.: Yeah, could have been others.

M.O'R.: All of those places ceased to exist not too long after that, and it was partly because of water quality, I guess, was my understanding?

A.K.: Could have been, yeah, could have been.

M.O'R.: I think there was some hepatitis scare or something?

A.K.: Very logical, yeah, very likely.

M.O'R.: Is that, would that be something that makes sense to you as an engineer?

A.K.: It sure would. You bet.

But you know, the Tualatin River, as far as pollution was concerned, the dissolved oxygen in the river was low, bacterial counts were high. The Willamette River wasn't a heck of a lot better. The bacterial counts were incredibly high. Matter of fact, Clay Meyer, who happens to be a very close personal friend of my wife, he was - I'm not sure if [he was] Secretary of State at the time or State Treasurer. I think he was probably Secretary of State. And I was telling him after I'd finished these studies that there was some progress being shown, that there was really, by the measures that were being taken relative to sewage treatment up and down the Willamette River - not the Tualatin, but all the way up and down the Willamette - all these communities were being forced to put in good sewage treatment facilities.

So it appeared to me from the studies that we did on the Willamette in 1972 to '74 and those water quality studies, see, we looked at every stream in the state, every stream except in the Walla Walla River and the South Coast Basin, but there was good progress being shown in decreasing bacterial count, and he said, "Boy, you ought to write Governor McCall a letter and tell him," because that was his bag. He wanted to clean that Willamette up. Well, I never did. I didn't think McCall would pay any attention to me. So I let that go by the wayside, but I said, "Clay, you tell him if you want," and maybe he did, maybe he didn't. He and McCall were good friends.

M.O'R.: Well, I know there's still a lot more we could talk about, and I'm starting to get into a little bit of time trouble myself, so maybe we could call it a day today, but I'd like to make another appointment.

A.K.: I'm going to be back down here in about another hour and a half. I've got four cost estimates I have to get out for some projects, and so I've got to go back to work again.

M.O'R.: Well, I better give you a chance to grab some dinner before you have to come back.

So thanks for today's interview, and maybe we can schedule another time to get together.

A.K.: Oh, it's a pleasure. I've done nothing but just B.S., but it's been fun.

[End of Tape 2, Side 1]