

ROZ PAUL and TOBY CANTINE

March 11, 1996

Tape 2, Side 1

R.P.: What year did the freeway go in?

ELEANOR PHINNEY: We came in '68, and they were building it at that time. They were still steamrolling, and I don't know if the bridge was built then. It probably was.

T.C. I thought - she says that once it's in, you don't worry about it. Well, personally, I think it's one of the most - really, I still think it's one of the worst things they could have done in terms of taking an area and changing it from a place which was rural, was agricultural, it was a place where you would raise your children and a place where you would have your garden and you would have your recreation and you would have some strawberries growing for commercially and some beans growing commercially. And to change the area into a commercial area. Well, it's totally fine to have commerce. It's part of progress. I still think this is part of, quote, unquote progress. But is it really progress? I mean, why does the whole world have to be another Los Angeles?

I don't like Los Angeles; I live there because I have a job there, but it's not really - why does the whole world have to be like that? Why can't there be some kind of plan made, an overall plan?

I'll give you an example of what I'm talking about. You take - at least when I was in England, what they had was a rule, which was the green agricultural area can't be used for anything but agriculture or left alone. If there's a forest, you don't touch it. We have personal private property; how can you make a rule like that? It's zoned that way. You can't touch it. Can't we just go

to the Planning Commission and change the zoning? No, it's set that way. You don't change it.

What I was thinking is, you know, someone has to somewhere draw the line and say, "Well, besides looking for an immediate buck in the form of selling your property where the property value goes up and you can make a million from a property that you paid 10,000 for - that's great, fine, wonderful that you made that much money, but somewhere what are you going to spend the money on, where is there going to be a life - some value into which you can place your million dollars that you've now taken?"

Well, if everywhere becomes another Los Angeles, who wants to live there and who wants to spend his million dollars in that location, I'm thinking. So I'm thinking that, you know, you go, "Well, I can't stop it. It exists. I'm not going to go and start fighting for environmental - I mean, yelling and screaming. What good is that going to do, right?" But somewhere along the line someone has to make a plan which says, "This area is going to be kept this way. Like it or not, that's the way it goes."

And you go, "Well, but this is a democracy, so-called, okay?" Well, people have to agree that there's going to be an improvement in the quality of life and it's more important than the seeking after money. How to ...

M.O'R.: Well, of course these days we are sort of moving in that direction with the urban growth boundary and ...

T.C.: I don't see it. I don't see it. Drive down there and you'll see. Drive down by Wanker's Corners, and you'll see supposedly there is this planning, and you also have this horrible city, which I have to tell you, I should be loyal to it, it's West Linn, they don't have any planning in there. They just build -

seems like everywhere you go they're building another stupid house with no trees, no green belt, just ugliness.

R.P.: Toby, the thing that was important with the freeway was that it spearheaded the Tualatin Valley Homeowners Association, and a lot of people have the idea that they wanted to retain their way of live, and we very strongly worked to keep very strict zoning because wherever you have freeway you have access to development, and they curtailed that - they were instrumental in curtailing the developments along the freeway on that stretch of I-205 - I don't know how far it stretches - it doesn't have - you won't see billboards. It curtailed the billboards and it curtailed the development.

T.C.: Well, so far, but see, there's no permanent ...

R.P.: I understand.

T.C.: What I'm just saying is my idea is that someone needs to say, "Look, we're going to have this plan, and this is how it's going to be, the whole area, and no one's going to mess with this because ecologically this is the way life should be."

R.P.: That's right.

T.C.: No one's actually said that, so what we do is - I'll give you an example. West Linn is moving closer and closer to my parents' house. Twenty years ago West Linn was three miles farther to the east than it is now, and right now it's just within walking distance of where we are. Well, who's to say that West Linn won't come and take over my parents' house in the next couple of years? Well, Rozzie says it won't happen, but why wouldn't it happen because they'll just come and take over, and they have no concept of planning.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: You haven't been here. The planning is there, and the Lower Tualatin Homeowners League was the predecessor

to the CPO's, but they still exist as private. And we fight urban expansion.

T.C.: I know you fight it, but it isn't very successful.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Yes, it was. They were going to creep right over the [indiscernible].

T.C.: You have to look at it, though. You see what you see.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: The ideals are really trying to be fulfilled.

M.O'R.: Well, I think that what's happening now is another question. But anyway, there have been attempts to plan.

T.C.: Not very effective.

R.P.: We have an extraordinarily strong citizens planning office - what is it called? - organization that has a lot to say. We are extraordinarily more than probably any city or state in the union with the strength of the grassroots.

M.O'R.: But let's bring it back to the freeway here as it came in. Did either of you see any impacts on the river itself when they were building the bridge and putting the freeway over it?

R.P.: Well, just the idea that it - the whole aspect became much more urban rather than rural. You know, it had that aspect.

M.O'R.: It was just the impact on the general area?

R.P.: Yeah. And my dad came to visit, I remember, and when he saw the road going over the freeway on Johnson Road - he's an old-time craftsman, an old guy, and he looked at that and he predicted, he said, "You're going to have a city here." And my heart fell and I said, "I don't want a city here." But he saw it. He saw what the freeway was before it even - it was just being started, and he looked at it, and it gives you the idea of a lot of expansion and growth, and a sense of interruption the tranquility, which of course that's what - I've read this in so many communities that that's happening. But that happened here.

T.C.: Yes, it's even happening in the Midwest where the farms are gradually phasing out. I was gone for about 20 years, and when I drive around here I don't see any farms. I haven't seen a farm around, where 20 years ago there was a farm on the corner, another farm across the river, another farm over here, another farm over there. I tried to find a place where there was any kind of farm. There isn't even any berries being grown anywhere. There's nobody even growing some strawberries.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: There's a farm right at Wanker's Corners. There's a farm on Johnson Road that she's still doing ...

R.P.: Yeah, we know the Fialas. Yeah.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: The Fialas are still farming, but it's too expensive.

T.C.: Another thing that needs to be done is see if the area can - the property taxes should be set up so that the taxes are such that it would be the amount that it would cost if it were a farm as opposed to how much it would be worth if you subdivided it in and put it into ...

R.P.: There is a farm tax arrangement.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: And Becker, right across the road on Johnson Road, has run his cattle.

T.C.: So they allow them to have farm tax as opposed to ...

ELEANOR PHINNEY: They're under farm or timber.

R.P.: Yeah, timber.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: But this isn't really what you're looking for, is it?

M.O'R.: Well, one thing I was going to ask about that's sort of along the lines of what we're talking about now is do you think that even though the freeway went in, do you think that any of the concerns that people expressed affected the way they built the freeway? I mean, I noticed, for instance ...

R.P.: Oh, yeah. No billboards.

M.O'R.: Yeah, that's right. You mentioned that. And what about the freeway exits, were they limited at all? Because there doesn't seem to be a large number of exits on this freeway between I-5 and the bridge.

R.P.: Well, you'll notice that at Willamette they are developing, but that's within the city limits. What happens within city limits you can't control, you know, because the city has its own planning. So that encourages the city exits to get commercial, the way they did out there in Willamette with their McDonalds and whatnot. So the city will expand along the freeway, and the freeway - like the truck drivers, they don't have a rest stop anymore, so they come and I think they use McDonalds. I'm sure that's what happens.

T.C.: You mean the truck stop.

R.P.: The truck stop. They don't have the truck stop on the freeway at West Linn.

So there's a lot of commercial within the cities, but I don't think there's commercial in the unincorporated. Isn't that true, Eleanor, off the freeway they don't have commercial in the unincorporated area because that's ...

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Just - Wanker's Corners isn't commercial, but the lower Tualatin Valley keeps out undesirable ...

R.P.: Yeah, they keep watching.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: It would have been nice to have that service station and three little stores with parking there, the homeowners defeated it. They defeated the station that had already put up their sign, gas station. This is a very powerful organization.

See, when some development is going to happen, notice goes out to the nearby neighbors, and so all of a sudden you have a new member temporarily that hates whatever's going on.

R.P.: Right. Yeah, there's a lot of stuff that goes on that they would know about.

M.O'R.: Another thing that happened right around the same time as the freeway, maybe a little bit earlier, was the building of the dam up here at Scoggins Reservoir. And I know that's miles and miles and miles upriver.

R.P.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: But I'm just wondering how that impacted things down here? What did you see happen as a result as that?

R.P.: I think the result was the cleaning of the river, the flow was better. Isn't that what cleaned out the algae, the Scoggins Dam flow? Flow control. And that really did, that cleaned out the river, that mainly. And I think as far as swimming there, it also made it safer. Of course, there was also the sewer business that had to be - another one of those.

M.O'R.: Well, in fact that was also right around the same time as Scoggins. There was a moratorium on building in Washington County until the sewerage agencies could get their act together.

R.P.: Yeah. Whatever it was they were trying to control, and we were at meetings with that about the sewage agency and the phosphorus and the algae.

T.C.: The other thing they had was you used to be able to apply for a permit to get irrigation from the river, and then at a certain point in the mid-60's, the rule came down saying no more irrigation. So only the people who already have access to the river. In other words, the neighbors next door have irrigation rights because they had - my parents maybe had gotten it, or who knows when it had been put in, but you can't - right now we couldn't, for example, irrigate our grass using the river, where the neighbors can irrigate their grass using the river because

there's a pump that pumps the water out of the river down there by the dam.

But so the rule came because they didn't want to deplete the abundance of the flow.

M.O'R.: Right. I guess it's not that people don't withdraw water from the river, but it's all spoken for.

T.C.: That's right. And there aren't any more permits available.

R.P.: And then the wonderful thing that happened was River Watch, that happened - when did the River Watch start; do you remember?

ELEANOR PHINNEY: That was me.

R.P.: She's been very active with all this stuff. She's the gal you should talk to.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Then the Riverkeepers took over. I was river watching, trying to just, you know, informally get people going.

R.P.: So there was a River Watch and then the Riverkeepers. They're just wonderful.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Are you in touch with them?

M.O'R.: Oh, yes. I interviewed Ron Bauer, and I'm also going to be doing Cathy Claire. Actually the Tualatin Riverkeepers have gone through a couple of incarnations. It was originally started, at least the story I have, by a man named Jack Churchill.

R.P.: Oh, yes.

M.O'R.: Do you remember Jack?

R.P.: Yeah, there was a lawsuit.

M.O'R.: Right. And so you know Jack?

R.P.: We were part of the lawsuit. We signed our names to that.

M.O'R.: Oh, really?

R.P.: We didn't get a penny for the million dollars that they got.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Is he still in town?

M.O'R.: No, he lives now down in Southern Oregon.

T.C.: What was the lawsuit about?

M.O'R.: Well, why don't you tell us what the lawsuit was about?

R.P.: Well, I can't remember the exact things; I don't have that technical mind. But they had been doing things wrong with their sewage effluent, and he caught them, and he said that they had to stop and he was suing them or order to get them to stop doing whatever it was.

T.C.: Who's "he"?

R.P.: Jack Churchill was a guy who was a professor at Lewis and Clark.

T.C.: And he was suing whom?

R.P.: He was suing the sewage agency, I believe.

M.O'R.: There were two suits filed, actually.

R.P.: He also became part of the Lake Oswego Council for a while.

T.C.: Now he was suing the sewage department because they weren't putting the sewage in correctly?

M.O'R.: Well, there were two suits. One was against the Environmental Protection Agency for not enforcing the Clean Water Act on the Tualatin River. The second suit was against the Unified Sewerage Agency for not cleaning their discharge - the conditions of their discharge.

R.P.: But he came and he needed some civilians, and we signed. We were part of the suit. Where did we get the million dollars here? We didn't get a penny. We didn't care.

T.C.: Well, you weren't looking for the money.

R.P.: No, and many times the television people came down and interviewed us. They came down one time to talk to us about, you know, the river and the sewage agency and all that, and the suit and whatnot. And it was just wonderful. There were gorgeous birds flying. It was just like they had come just for the television cameras. It was lovely.

M.O'R.: Let me ask you, Roz, to just give me a thumbnail profile of Jack Churchill. What kind of a person was he?

R.P.: Well, he seemed very knowledgeable. He did what he wanted, sort of aggressive going after what he wanted. He knew what he was talking about.

M.O'R.: Now, was it he that came to you to get you to sign on the lawsuit?

R.P.: Yeah. He came in person, yeah.

M.O'R.: Now, the other fellow that was involved in that, of course, was Jack Smith. Do you remember him at all?

R.P.: No. I don't know him. Maybe I do. I don't know.

M.O'R.: He's a scientist. Churchill was sort of the more political guy.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: He could talk so we could understand. Chad was filled with technical stuff.

R.P.: We would have nothing in common.

M.O'R.: So anyway, you signed on to the lawsuit?

R.P.: Yeah, we did. We were part of the lawsuit.

M.O'R.: Well, let's back up just a little bit. There were these events: in 1970 there was the moratorium, the building moratorium. Do you remember that?

R.P.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: What did you and your husband think about that at the time?

R.P.: Well, we just probably thought it was very interesting that this actually occurred, that things got so bad that they had to do that. It must have been very severe if they had to put that kind of force on builders who were chomping at the bit to get their guys working, you know. So there must have been something very serious occurring.

M.O'R.: Well, you know, it forced several small sewerage agencies here - there was the Aloha Sewer Works, there were dozens of them, and some of them not very well set up - it forced them all to go out of business and just the one entity, the Unified Sewerage Agency, was put in its place. And that led to the construction of this plant just upriver from you at Durham. I wonder if you remember anything about that plant going in?

R.P.: Well, I don't know. We went to visit.

T.C.: What's Durham?

R.P.: It's a town by Tualatin. It's a little township. I don't even know, is it really a place? It just seems like you pass through.

M.O'R.: It's almost Tigard.

R.P.: Anyway, what were you asking me?

M.O'R.: I was just asking you if you remembered construction of that plant at all?

R.P.: I just remember that it was being constructed. Then we went to see it, and it seemed very nice, nicely laid out and pleasant to look at.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Well, they put it in, but then with the lawsuit and everything it meant that all this phosphorus couldn't go in the river, and now they come from Durham up to the main one, I think they pump upstream from Durham now.

M.O'R.: But they still discharge from there into the river.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Well, during the winter both of them discharge secondary, but the tertiary treatment plant went in in Rock Creek, and so I think during the summer, you see, tertiary treatment has to happen before the water is released to the river.

R.P.: What is that box down there? I keep wondering. They come and check ...

ELEANOR PHINNEY: That's DEQ.

R.P.: I never know if they're a geological survey or - are they the sewage guys? We have so many people coming here.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: One of the best things that has happened is none of these bureaus knew each other before that lawsuit. Now DEQ, sewage agency, Clackamas County, Washington County, you name it, they're all working together to clean up the river. They're talking to each other.

R.P.: They come here, and we have visitors all the time. There are a lot of field trips, people coming, college people, the Riverkeepers.

T.C.: Interesting.

R.P.: Yeah, it's interesting.

M.O'R.: So let me just try to get back here to Jack and you joining the lawsuit. Did he come to the house and contact you?

R.P.: Yeah, he came here. He came here to have us sign. I don't know; Peter talked to him. He's the kind who would talk to Jack for a long time. They're probably two very chatty people. Peter would know better.

M.O'R.: Just as an aside, the million dollars that they won for that lawsuit is in fact paying for part of this history.

R.P.: Oh, for goodness sake.

M.O'R.: That's part of how they're spending the money.

T.C.: Very good idea.

R.P.: What was it going for? The purpose for that money was to help keep the river clean, actually.

M.O'R.: Right. It was money to remediate some of the environmental problems in the river, and then the oral history is public education and so forth. That's part of the total remediation.

T.C.: Absolutely, to make some people become aware. Are you going to write a book?

M.O'R.: Well, one of the first products that will come out of it, actually, is that the Washington County Historical Society now has a grant to create a traveling exhibit on the Tualatin River and they will use some of this tape as part of a little audio section that will be part of the exhibit.

R.P.: Fantastic.

M.O'R.: So you may hear yourself in the traveling exhibit when we get it off the ground here.

R.P.: That's fine.

M.O'R.: And I had the great pleasure, by the way, to interview Jack Churchill. He's a very interesting man.

R.P.: What is he doing with himself?

M.O'R.: He's sort of retired at this point. He's living down in Southern Oregon on the - I guess it would be Elsie River? Maybe it's the Rogue.

R.P.: Anyway, I read in the paper that he didn't get along with the other councilors. He didn't get along too well. He was maybe too aggressive.

T.C.: Who knows? Now, what's the next topic?

M.O'R.: Good question.

T.C.: How about the adventures of people going over the dam in their little boats?

M.O'R.: Sure.

T.C.: One of the major adventures was - when was it that happened, Rozzie, that story?

R.P.: Well, we personally rescued people who got stuck on the dam. See, this dam has a vertical undertow, I've noticed that myself, that's my own analysis. It drops down maybe - somebody said eight feet; I'm not sure. And when there's high water, it's impossible to get off that dam if you don't have a motor.

T.C.: Doesn't it go over? You can't go over?

R.P.: Well, you go over, but you get stuck. It's like you're pinned there. It's a vertical eddy.

T.C.: So what happens is that people in the wintertime, when the dam is down, will take their boat - you know, a floating trip down, and then when they get to the dam here, not realizing what they have run into, they'll try to go over it with a canoe or a motor boat or whatever they might be having, a rowboat or whatever, and they try to go over, and then they get stuck.

And so the story that my mom told me was that my father was sleeping and he heard some yelling, and he didn't know what it was, and my mom wasn't around. So he got up out of bed and ran down there, and he saw a guy out in the middle of the water.

So who did he call, Rozzie?

R.P.: Let me tell the story. You've got the story all weird.

T.C.: Okay. She called me and told me.

R.P.: Anyway, that was the number three rescue throughout the years.

M.O'R.: Okay. Well, tell me about number one.

R.P.: Number one - which came first? A rubber raft - this is some years back.

Anyway, I ran down there. That was before 9-1-1 was in effect. It was before 1980 because I was doing my report cards upstairs and looking out the window; I was teaching.

These three guys in a raft - or two guys in a raft, and my neighbor came and threw out a line, but they couldn't catch it. And so finally I called the Sheriff, and they came and somehow they threw out a line and got these guys in.

What happens, they were practically hypothermic. And they came and sat in my entryroom, and I had afghans all over them and brought them hot coffee and everything. I don't know who these guys were, but they worked in the District Attorney's Office. I think they were Assistant District Attorneys, at least one of them. Anyway, that was that.

The next time, some years later, there was a rowboat, and they had been hunting with their guns. The rowboat turned over, they lost their boat, they lost their guns, and I don't know how we got them rescued. My memory is not clear. But they got rescued, and they came and they sat in there with afghans and with hot coffee. They were kids; they were young men.

M.O'R.: Sounds like by this down you were getting the drill down, had the coffee ready ...

R.P.: And then it was February of '95, this guy - I don't know his name - he came, and he had borrowed Wesley Fiala's raft, borrowed it from the guy living up the river. And he's going out merrily to have a good time, and he got stuck on the dam. And my husband heard him holler, and we came and got 9-1-1. He was really stuck. We have a picture upstairs; it was in the newspapers, on the front page of the *Oswego Review* and the *West Linn Tidings*.

They had to bring a boat from down below, and that boat didn't dare get close; it's that heavy a pull that the boat had to be some distance even with a powerful motor. And they threw the line; he didn't catch it. The second time he caught it, and the picture shows him going like this.

[End of Tape 2, Side 1]

ROZ PAUL and TOBY CANTINE

March 11, 1996

Tape 2, Side 2

R.P.: So he came back this February, a year later. He came to see the flood, and he said - you know, it was still in flood. The water was up to right below those bushes there, and he ...

M.O'R.: That's where the water came to this past year?

R.P.: Yeah. And so Terry Allert, he came and he said - he came after a whole year. He said, "I want to take your picture for my mother, because she wants to thank you." So we posed for him. It was so nice to have him come back.

T.C.: Now I'm going to tell you that there was a way earlier incident of a person going over the dam than that, which was the guy who came and stole our rowboat in the 1950's. He came in and stole the rowboat, and he was taking it, and he went over the dam, and he fell out of the boat, and he was caught with - he had a life jacket on, apparently, but he was caught there, and he was screaming. And nobody was home here. So the neighbor, one of the neighbors who live down there, heard it eventually because he kept hearing the screaming. It was Jack Miller, the father of the kids.

And he came, but he didn't know what to do to save the guy, but he was a lifesaver swimmer, so he swam out to where the guy was. I don't know why he would do a thing like that, but he swam out to where the guy was because he couldn't think of any other way to save him. He dived in, and he swam out and he grabbed the guy, you know, like you would if you were a lifesaver and pulled him back to shore. And that was that guy, the guy who wrecked our boat.

The boat went through the mill race, and it used to be at the other end of the mill race that there was a broken ...

M.O'R.: Was this the \$20 rowboat we were talking about earlier?

T.C.: No, this was a canoe. He took the canoe over the top. I said rowboat; I meant canoe. He took the canoe over the top of the water. He fell out of it. It broke as it was going over because it's made out of wood and it broke as it went over the top of the dam. And there he was floating and screaming.

So the guy who lived down the river came running and dived in, and he was a trained lifesaver, so he grabbed the guy with some kind of hold, you know, where you put the head under your arm and you swim - I don't know how they do this exactly, but he brought the guy back to shore. The boat went floating through and used to be over at the other end of - underneath the little bridge used to be going across the mill race here was a broken canoe, the broken canoe you guys had.

R.P.: I didn't even remember all that.

There were two rescues this winter - two times of people getting stuck. There was a couple of boys. One time we were looking out the window - that was not too long ago. God, my time sense. It was this winter, before the floods.

One guy was running through the woods, and we tried to see where did he go, where did he disappear. And we were walking back, and two guys come up. And one of them is all soaked. And what happened was that one of them went over with his boat and the other one was going to watch him, but he saw the boat and the guy float down, and he went and got him, and they both came back. And their boat had disappeared.

So we took them both to Tualatin Park. We drove them to Tualatin Park, and the one guy was all soaking wet.

T.C.: Why did you take them to Tualatin Park? Because that's where they lived?

R.P.: That's where they parked. They had come from there. And then their boat showed up; some neighbor did rescue their boat. Anyway, that was the one.

And then the other one, our next door neighbor had seen him go, and this person floated - went over the dam, and the boat went there, and the rescue people were all the way down to the end of the loop, which is where the Indian powwow place is - you know, you'll see Indian tents and whatnot. All the rescue people were there, and they had floated all the way down and they were rescued.

T.C.: Why did they need to be rescued?

R.P.: Because they were floating in the river.

T.C.: They fell out of the boat?

R.P.: I don't know how it happened, but ...

T.C.: It's just unbelievable with these things. So the message to get across is, "Don't take your boat over the dam."

R.P.: Anyway, I must just add this to conclude this. I called agencies time and again and again throughout the years. I said, "You have to ..." You know what they have? Right at the dam they have a little sign that you can hardly read; it's so tiny, it's so high, it's so invisible. The dam is there, so you're there.d

T.C.: It says "dam." That's what it says on it.

R.P.: But you're there already. And so I've told at least 20 different agencies, and when this Terry Allert last year, I told the police, the sheriffs, I said, "We need signs." So finally I called everybody under the sun. Finally I called the Riverkeepers, and this was Rob Bauer, he got in touch with the Marine Board or somebody - he finally got the right person, and they're supposed to put signs above and below. I haven't seen them yet.

ELEANOR PHINNEY: Call them. They're down in Salem.

M.O'R.: Listen, I'm unfortunately now getting close to my next appointment at one o'clock and it's back in Portland, so I think now might be a good place to stop, but I would like to make another appointment.

[End of Tape 2, Side 2]