

THE MARIA ROGERS Oral History Program

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2007



We're Back!

Due to software problems, we were unable to post new interviews to our digital archive or web site for a couple of months at the end of 2006. But all is working again, and so our January/February 2007 newsletter issue contains descriptions of a whopping 27 new interviews that are now available.

Visit us at www.bplcarnegie.org/oralhistory to check out our more than 1,450 interviews. Or stop by the Carnegie Library for Local History (1125 Pine St., Boulder, CO) to view or listen to the interviews and use our research archive with supplemental information about many of our interviewees.

New Interviews

OH 1179V A-E. In this wide-ranging interview, **Robert Rothe**, who directed and did research in the Criticality Mass Laboratory at Rocky Flats from its inception in 1964, describes many aspects of the experiments he did to define criticality standards, talks about safety at Rocky Flats, describes in detail the building in which he worked and its demolition, and discusses issues related to the disposal of radioactive materials, among other topics. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1180V A-D. Dr. Jock Cobb describes his research and activism regarding Rocky Flats and the health

FEATURED INTERVIEW



Drawings made by Ann Jones that were turned into life-sized "costume templates" for the Ascot race scene in the Nomad Theater production of *My Fair Lady*. Discussed as part of OH 1418V A-B, an interview with former Nomad Theater actors and directors Saralu Diller, Jean Hodges, Frank Kreith, Carol Olin, and Jim Wolf.

effects of radiation exposure from the plant, including a study that measured plutonium in the tissue of deceased people who had lived near Rocky Flats. Other issues discussed include contamination of Rocky Flats workers, improper

monitoring of radiation badges, risks of plutonium exposure, political pressure on people who spoke out against Rocky Flats' practices, and citizen groups' efforts to monitor Rocky Flats. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1225. Bonnie Crumpacker describes the work of the Boulder Valley Clinic, where she was a volunteer for seven years. She also describes the political atmosphere of Boulder during the 1970s and her involvement with the Boulder Coalition for Reproductive Choice and NARAL [National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League]. By Lauren Gorence. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1231. Jill Gruenberg describes her work with MESA (Moving to End Sexual Assault) and the Therapeutic Riding Center, including her childhood, education, and other early experiences that led her to this work, the services offered by MESA, and a discussion of feminism and community activism. By Bret Engebretson. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1233. Betty Ball describes her life's work as an activist who put into practice the philosophy

of “one struggle, many fronts,” as she worked on problems and in settings as varied as Hull House in Chicago and environmental issues in California. In the Denver/Boulder area, she has worked with an alternative resource center for hippies and transients an anti-racism program, the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, a non-violence education program, and on pesticide issues. By Jennifer Davis. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH1241. Malaika Pettigrew talks about her formative experiences as an African American woman growing up in California in the 1950s and 1960s; her study of transpersonal psychology and African spiritual beliefs; racist attitudes encountered by her and her children in the Boulder schools; The Institute for African American Leadership, which provides leadership training for Boulder’s African American students; and the cultural diversity class that she teaches at Naropa University. By Jennifer Davis. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1310. Carole Matthews, who taught literature at Boulder High School for 27 years as one of the few black teachers at the school and worked with the University’s Equal Opportunity program, talks about her family history, racial discrimination she experienced as a child, her teaching experiences, and what it is like for black children to grow up in Boulder. She also reflects on other aspects of civil rights issues. By Kelly Hagen. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1311. Mildred Nilon describes her childhood in Montgomery, Alabama, including family history, schooling, and separate facilities for African Americans in the 1920s and 1930s; life in Boulder since 1956; her work as a librarian at the University of Colorado; and her husband, Charles Nilon. She also discusses race relations in Boulder. By Margot Gage. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1375V A-C. Jan Pilcher discusses her work as a citizen activist working on issues concerning public health and safety with regard to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, in particular, her work against incineration of radioactive waste at the

plant, the building of W-470 near the plant, and the reopening of the plant after the 1989 FBI raid. She speaks about her role as a community organizer, liaison to the media, lobbyist in the Colorado State Legislature, and organizer of a group of scientists to research and speak out about Rocky Flats. By Dorothy Ciarlo. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1388V A-B. Eugene DeMayo describes his work as a volunteer member of the Sierra Club with regard to Rocky Flats, including lawsuits filed to force Rocky Flats to comply with environmental protection laws, and work on citizen advisory groups that proposed cleanup standards and suggestions for future use of the land. By Dorothy Ciarlo. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1394V. Bill and Judy Hogan talk about the 600-acre ranch that they own, which was homesteaded by Bill’s great-grandfather. They also talk about the Rocky Flats Lounge, which is located on their land. Lounge owner **Wyman Stacey** joins the conversation. The interview includes a tour of the Rocky Flats Lounge, description of negotiations to grant the city of Boulder a conservation easement for the ranchland, and discussion of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant as a neighbor. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1396V A-B. Nat Miullo discusses his job working for the Environmental Protection Agency in charge of oversight for the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, beginning in the 1980s and continuing through the period of the FBI raid. Topics include jurisdiction negotiations between the EPA and the Colorado Department of Health, waste management practices at Rocky Flats, national security versus environmental issues, and the FBI raid.. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1397V. Peter Vayshenker describes coming to Boulder as a Russian immigrant in 1991. He compares life in Russia with life in Boulder, talks about adjusting to life in America with help from Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry, and becoming a citizen of the United States. By Joyce Gordon. Transcribed by Tim Crook.

OH 1399V A-B. Tim Rehder, who worked as the regulator for the Environmental Protection Agency overseeing the Rocky Flats cleanup from 1995 to 2003, discusses the roles of the EPA and the Colorado Department of Health during the cleanup; the quality of the cleanup; how the soil action levels were determined, including his role in setting the ultimate levels; the job done by Kaiser-Hill as the cleanup contractor; and the safety of the proposed Wildlife Refuge. By Dorothy Ciarlo. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1400V A-B. Norman Warling worked at Rocky Flats from 1974 through the cleanup after the plant was closed down, mainly as a radiation monitor. In this interview, he discusses many aspects of that job, plus issues of worker safety at Rocky Flats, the role of the union, worker-management relations, the FBI raid, and the role of Rocky Flats as part of the Cold War effort. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1401V A-B. Don Sabec talks about his work at Rocky Flats from 1961 to 2004 as a janitor, process technician, and radiation monitor. He discusses safety issues at Rocky Flats, problems with radiation monitoring equipment and records, cleanup of the 1969 fire, the FBI raid, and adjusting to having women working at the plant, among many other topics. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Dorothy Ciarlo.

OH 1404V. Susan Lemp, who has lived primarily in Boulder since 1969, describes the work she did as a German teacher and then as a traveling ESL tutor, her interest in gardening, and her involvement with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. By Marvin Woolf.

OH 1405V. John Lemp, Jr., talks about living in the Carolyn Heights subdivision, his involvement with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and working as an election judge. By Marvin Woolf.

OH 1406V. Jean Dinwiddie talks about raising her family in Boulder, the Boulder schools, and volunteer work she has done in the community over the years. She discusses a number of excellent teachers that

her children had from elementary through high school. Volunteer involvement has included work with Boulder Friends of International Students, the Economics Institute's Friendship Family Program, RSVP's Carry Out Caravan program, and the Vaccines for Children Program. By Marvin Woolf.

OH 1407V. Charles Dinwiddie talks about moving to Boulder in 1958; his work at both First National Bank and Arapahoe National Bank; and his involvement in the Republican Party, the Optimist Club, Junior Achievement, First Methodist Church, and the Golden West retirement home. By Marvin Woolf.

OH 1408V. John Parker talks about the land he has owned in Marshall since the early 1970s. He discusses the history of that land and the surrounding area, including coal mining in the area, other ranches, wildlife, and water availability. Other topics include buildings on the ranch, water witching, grasshoppers, and the old train depot. By James Helmer. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon. Transcribed by Phyllis Mayben.

OH 1410V. Robert Ellingwood discusses the history of Boulder as a rock and mountain climbing center; mentions the development of stores such as Holubar Mountaineering and Neptune Mountaineering; and describes some of the specific climbs and trails in the area. By Wendy Hall.

OH 1416V. Elaine Andrew and her son, **Lynn Andrew**, talk about the Madison and Andrew families and life in and around Hygiene from the 1920s on, including beet farming, farm equipment, schools, businesses, the train depot, the Altona Grange, and Advent Town. Interviewed and transcribed by Anne Dyni. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon.

OH 1418V A-B. The Nomad Theater started in 1951 and was active from 1951 through the 1980s as a community theater; all participants were volunteers. The five narrators in this interview—**Saralu Diller, Jean Hodges, Frank Kreith, Carol Olin, and Jim Wolf**—acted, directed, selected plays, and did all the other jobs involved in making this theater successful. They talk about the many plays with which they

**Next volunteer meetings
March 3 and April 7
at 9:00 a.m.**

were involved; and memorable events and special challenges, such as doing professional theater with almost no funds for set building, costumes or other expenses. They remember other creative people who contributed to the play productions. They emphasize the discipline and team commitment shown by everyone involved with the Nomads as well as the impact of the theater on the Boulder community, themselves and their families. Interviewed and transcribed by Shirley Steele. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon.

OH 1421V. Roger and Barbara Stengel King talk about the history of the King and Stengel families, who arrived in Colorado in the 1860s and 1880s, and the families' farms at 1121 75th St. and 7996 Valmont Road. Included are discussions of dairy farming in Boulder County, steam engine threshing, beet farming, square dancing, two historic barns, and the landmarking of the 75th St. farm. Interviewed, filmed and transcribed by Anne Dyni.

OH 1422V A-B. Melinda Kassen discusses her involvement with Rocky Flats: 1) as an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund challenging Rocky Flats' plans to incinerate waste and pushing for Colorado standards for amounts of plutonium allowed in water and soil, 2) as a member of the Rocky Flats Monitoring Council, and 3) as Counsel for Legislative and Environmental Affairs for Kaiser-Hill during the Rocky Flats cleanup phase. By Hannah Nordhaus. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

OH 1423V. Joe Tempel discusses his leadership role with the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission as part of his activism in the larger issue of nuclear disarmament. He speaks of the difficulties of working with citizen activists, the scientific focus of the Cleanup Commission, the hiring of a technical assistant after an EPA grant was obtained, and the transition to the Citizens Advisory Board that became involved with the Rocky Flats cleanup. By Dorothy Ciarlo. Transcribed by Sandy Adler.

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A Boulder Public Library Program

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