

THE MARIA ROGERS Oral History Program

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010



FEATURED INTERVIEW

THE MARIA ROGERS ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM now has a Facebook page and a blog, which we are using to provide up-to-date information for you about:

- the latest interviews and special collections added to our archives,
- links to videos and podcasts made from our interviews,
- oral history how-to information and other oral history resources and events that our readers might find interesting.

See the "Visit Us" box at right for Web addresses for our blog and Facebook pages.



◀ Listen to Rona Wilensky, former principal of New Vista High School, describe the birth of the non-traditional school, how it has grown, and what it has accomplished in the past 17 years. See p. 2 for more information.

to plan locally for the effects of climate disruption. By Timothy Plass. Filmed by Leland Rucker. Transcribed by Jo Walsh.

OH 1581V. Gwen Koelling's family has lived in the Boulder area since 1874. In this interview she details the history of the Firth and Stone

families; tells about various family businesses, including the Racket Grocery, the Firth Market, and a meat locker

New Interviews

This issue describes **eighteen new interviews** that have been added to our collection, available online and at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History.

OH 1564V A-B. Cindy Carlisle served as a Boulder City Councilperson for four years, and as a University of Colorado Regent for six years. She also campaigned, in 2008, to become a senator in the Colorado State Legislature. In this interview, she discusses all of these campaigns plus the many issues that she dealt with during her time in office. City issues included protection of open space and the local environment, creating a non-activist bubble around women's health and abortion clinics, and enactment of a fighting words ordinance and a gay protection ordinance. Issues for the CU Board of Regents included the Quality for Colorado program, South Campus development, stripping Ward Churchill of tenure, and a Title IX lawsuit against the Athletics Department. She also discusses the partisan nature of CU Regent politics, and muses about the need

Visit Us: In Person or Online

⇒ Listen to and/or view any of our 1,650 interviews at the **Carnegie Branch Library for Local History** of the Boulder Public Library, 1125 Pine St., Boulder, CO 80302.

⇒ Visit us Online: Go to www.boulderlibrary.org/oralhistory to listen to our interviews online and read their summaries and transcripts. Get the latest about newly archived interviews and other oral history resources at our blog, boulderoralhistory.wordpress.com, or on Facebook, tinyurl.com/MOROHP-FB.

⇒ Or search the Boulder Public Library's online catalog to find oral histories by topic: <http://www.boulderlibrary.org> (Click on "Find Books and More," then choose "Boulder Carnegie: Local History" for the scope of your search.)

plant run by her family; and describes growing up in Boulder during the 1930s and 1940s. By Martha Dick. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon. Transcribed by Penny Heiple.

OH 1582V. Helen Winsted was born in South Dakota in 1914, grew up in a strict, religious, farming family, and arrived in Boulder in 1963. She has been a member of the First United Methodist Church since coming to Boulder and was involved in creating, helping to guide, and participating in many of its programs, including the Love in Action program, United Methodist Women, and BUMMP (Boulder United Methodist Mission Partners). She describes these programs and their accomplishments, discusses one of the central philosophical issues with which the church dealt (the issue of gay people in the ministry) and talks about the importance of church outreach work to help make the world a better place. By Anne Marie Pois. Filmed by Anne Marie Pois and Sue Brighton. Summary by Susan Becker.

OH 1583V. Barbara Reed, who has lived in Boulder since her childhood in the 1930s, describes some of places in Boulder where she has lived, including on Columbine Avenue, Eight-Mile Corner, and Grant Place. She then focuses on the Becker Subdivision neighborhood, where she has lived since 1958 in a house designed by her husband on 18th Street, between Balsam and Cedar. By Timothy Plass. Filmed by Leland Rucker. Summary by Susan Becker.

OH 1584V. June Howard grew up on a farm in Kansas during the Depression. She won a scholarship to the University of Kansas, which she attended during World War II; married; and then moved to various locations in the U.S. with her engineer husband. They first moved to Boulder in 1946, then returned in 1955. In the 1950s, they had a young family and lived in the then-new Martin Acres and Newlands subdivisions. Life in those housing developments is described in detail. She also talks about the developers of the Martin Acres subdivision, George and Everett Williams. She outlines how her life as a woman changed from the 1960s onwards as she became involved in a teaching career and local politics. June describes the huge political changes in Boulder during the 1960s and 1970s. By Timothy Plass. Filmed by Leland Rucker. Transcribed by Dido Clark.

OH 1585V A-B. Ray Imel, Jr., has had family in Colorado since 1873. In this interview, he discusses family history including his grandparents' homestead above Jamestown, his childhood in Jamestown, and his father's involvement in hard-rock mining. He also talks about other family business ventures, Boulder during the post-WWII years, and the Carolyn Heights subdivision, where he has lived since the 1960s. By Timothy Plass. Filmed by Leland Rucker. Transcribed by Tara Kelly.

OH 1586V. Architect Bill Deno, who has had a distinguished career as campus architect for the University of Colorado at Boulder, begins this interview by describing his previous, twenty-year career in the neon sign business. He then goes on to talk about living in Martin Acres in the 1960s, just after he, his wife and family moved to Boulder. He describes many aspects of the subdivision and life there, including a description of the houses, the street layout, and the landscaping, as well as the social life and the mix of people in the neighborhood, the lack of crime, and methods of trash disposal. He also discusses some aspects of 1960's life in Boulder in general, such as transportation, shopping, social aspects, and the relatively less hectic lifestyle compared to lifestyles in the early twenty-first century. By Timothy Plass. Filmed by Leland Rucker. Transcript by Penny Heiple and Bill Deno.

OH 1588V A-B. Robert Dacey moved to Boulder in 1959, where he has been involved in advertising, community service, and art. He discusses starting two advertising agencies; life as a businessman in the 1960s and '70s; his involvement in several public service and government initiatives including Healthy Communities; living in several Boulder neighborhoods and in Longmont; and his later paintings and artistic endeavors. Interviewed by Joyce Gordon. Transcribed by Jennifer Raines.

OH 1590V. Rona Wilensky took New Vista High School from being a gleam of an idea to becoming a 300+ student, nontraditional high school that recently finished its seventeenth year in Boulder under her stewardship as principal. Shortly after Rona Wilensky "graduated" from being principal of New Vista by retiring, she talked about the planning and creation of the school, its underlying principles, its nontraditional elements,

its approach to serving English as a Second Language students, the community support it has engendered, and its successes. She also discusses some of the controversial and contentious political struggles that the Boulder Valley School Board experienced during the 1990s and the general social-cultural climate for students in Boulder. By Joyce Gordon. Transcribed by Elaine Chang.

OH 1591V. In this interview, **Mary Wolff** talks about the history of the development of Boulder's Eco-Cycle. She served on the Eco-Cycle Board for many years and talks about the changes in the organization during those years, when it went from being run by committed but inexperienced volunteers who often were perceived of as hippies to a highly professional and knowledgeable staff and volunteers. She recalls the beginning of the relationship of Eco-Cycle and Western Disposal and how it has evolved. She discusses the political difficulties and victories involved in turning Eco-Cycle into a viable and important adjunct to services provided by the city and county of Boulder. She also has been part of the implementation of the Zero Waste concept and the CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle material) programs, recent additions to extend environmentally sound waste management in Boulder. Conducted, recorded and transcribed by Shirley Steele.

OH 1592. In this talk, recorded at Naropa University, **Dr. LeRoy Moore** discusses the life history of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant from the point of view of his own political evolution; the history of the plant itself and of activism against the plant; and the issue of health and safety problems posed by the plant, its cleanup; and the current plans to have it operate as a wildlife refuge open to the public. The talk finishes with a question and answer session with the audience.

OH 1593V. Poet **Andy Clausen** talks about his work, his views about contemporary poetry, and reads three of his poems: "Now We Won," "What It Will Be," and "My Happy Place." By Pat Cypher. Filmed by Ann Gillis. Summary by Anne Marie Pois.

OH 1594V. Poet **Janine Vega** speaks of her work as a poet—including both her own writing and her work in various outreach programs, such as prison poetry

programs, work in the schools, and plans to publish an anthology of poetry that has been written by people in the prison system. She also talks about and reads eight of her poems. By Pat Cypher. Filmed by Ann Gillis. Transcribed by Elaine Chang.

OH 1595V. **William Boettcher** has lived in Boulder County since 1959 and in Longmont since 1964, where he has been the owner of BC Services, Inc., a collection agency and one-time credit reporting agency. BC Services, the largest family-owned business of its kind in Colorado, has grown to involve two of his children and several grandchildren among its 130 employees. In this interview, Boettcher, who has been inducted into the Boulder County Business Hall of Fame for his contributions to the business community and his numerous contributions to the non-profit community of Boulder County, describes the history of the collection agency and credit reporting industries, including their origins, the way they were changed by the use of computers, and how credit reporting was affected by the Fair Credit Reporting Act. He also details family history, including that of his four children. By Marvin Woolf. Summary by Susan Becker.

OH 1596V. In this wide-ranging interview about life in Boulder from the 1960s onward, **John Farr** discusses topics such as the insurance industry, the Colorado Ghost Town Club and the Boulder chapter of Ducks Unlimited, his work with the Boulder Junior Chamber of Commerce and for the Republican Party, and the history of the Gold Hill Inn. He also tells stories about a cast of Boulder County people as diverse as a gold pan miner, fly fisherman Hank Roberts, mountaineering equipment manufacturer Gerry Cunningham, hardware store owner Bill McGuckin, and Gold Hill Inn chef Joe Rogers. By Marvin Woolf. Summary by Susan Becker.

OH 1598V. **Steve Altermatt** began living in the Martin Acres neighborhood in 1987 and is intimately familiar with the history of the neighborhood and its housing stock because of his profession as a realtor, in which he has specialized in properties in Martin Acres. In this interview he talks about some of the negative images originally associated with the neighborhood as well as the many positive aspects of living there. He relates the

history of Martin Acres, ranging from descriptions of the several subdivisions and house models that make up the area; to the building of bomb shelters in the 1950s; the creation of MANA, the neighborhood association; the “Martin Acres Crack,” a crack caused in some of the houses by a 1963 earthquake; and the trend toward pop-top housing expansions. By Diane Rabson. Filmed by Tim Plass. Transcribed by Diane Rabson.

OH 1599V A-B. David Grimm was, in many ways, the voice of Boulder in the 1970s and 1980s: first through his radio work on KBOL and KGNU, and later through his decade-long position as Communications Director for the City of Boulder. In this entertaining and enlightening interview, David Grimm brings the Boulder of those decades alive by relating many irreverent and telling anecdotes of those lively years, including stories about politics in Boulder, environmentalism in Boulder, the Boulder-Dushanbe Teahouse, the construction of the Pearl Street Mall, the Halloween Mall Crawl, and various famous people who visited Boulder over the years. By Pat Cypher. Filmed by Ann Gillis. Transcribed by Penny Hieple.

OH 1600V. Long-time Boulder activists **Mary and Ray Sell** talk about their early lives, their move to Boulder in 1975, and their involvement with peace and social justice issues, which resulted in them being awarded the 1998 Peacemakers of the Year Award by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. The interview concentrates on the founding and subsequent operations of Left Hand Books, which has been run entirely by volunteers since 1979, and on the Sell’s work for health care reform. Interviewed and filmed by Anne Marie Pois. Summary created by Susan Becker.

OH 1601V. Cherry Sand is one of the early members of the Potters Guild, which celebrated forty years in Boulder in 2009. This is one of several interviews of members that document the history of the organization. Cherry describes how the Guild was started by nine interested women and how it grew to its present membership of seventy. In the beginning, the Guild had no permanent home; it now has land and an equipped building of its own. She recalls how this was managed financially. The latter part of the interview is a guided tour of their facility, which also offers insight into the process of working

with clay and glazes. She talks about her own artistic development and the long-time mission of the Guild to provide work space and opportunity for creative growth to its members and to the Boulder community. By Pat Cypher. Filmed by Ann Gillis. Transcribed by Shirley Steele.

OH 1606V A-B. Ted Tedesco, city manager of Boulder from 1967 to 1973, looks back with pleasure, humor, insight, and some nostalgia, on his tenure here. He begins by describing his background and early career as a jazz musician, followed by his decision to go to college and change careers. He describes himself as an “activist city manager” and details the role he played in managing issues such as the first approval for an open space tax, the defeat of prohibition laws, and the anti-Vietnam War riots in the late 1960s. He reflects on why he left Boulder and compares working as city manager in Boulder with his experience in San Jose. Interviewed and filmed by Tim Plass. Transcribed by Diane Baron.

**Next volunteer meetings:
May 1, June 5, and July 10
at 8:00 a.m.**

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