

THE MARIA ROGERS Oral History Program

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011



FEATURED INTERVIEW

What's New?

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

The interviews archived this quarter cover a wide variety of subjects. Our series about Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry continues, with interviews that delve into the group's advocacy and resettlement work and also bring alive the immigrant experience. There are interviews that describe hard rock mining, farming, women mountaineers, resource conservation efforts, consumer protection, and the crossroad between artistic and political involvement. Other interviews look at the history of Marshall, Frasier Meadows, and the 1947 project that resulted in the resurfacing of the Barker Dam. We hope you will spend some time with these or some of the other 1,600+ interviews in our collection, learning about Boulder history and meeting some fascinating men and women.

OH 1547V. This recording was made at the **Hotel Boulderado** during a luncheon at which the invitees recalled their experiences at the Hotel Boulderado at various times during its 100-year history. Speakers include **Dee Demmon, Don Hume, Betty Chronic, Virginia Patterson, June Howard, Gwen Winterberger, Dick Dorman, Sandy Hume, Frank Day, Gina Day, Sandy Hale, Laurel Mckown, Mary Ann**



◀ Cynthia Taylor has been director of the Consumer Affairs Division of the Boulder District Attorney's office for 27 years. Her interview, conducted by Shirley Steele, is both an interesting discussion of the changes in consumer protection over the years and a practical primer for important consumer protection challenges about which every consumer should know.

Mahoney, Silvia Pettem, Dan Corson, and Dorothy Sage. Topics range from childhood memories of the hotel to recollections of the original stained-glass ceiling above the lobby, adventures in hotel management, special events at the hotel, special guests (including ghosts), historic preservation, and more. Discussion facilitated by Beverly Silva. Filmed by Bud Leonard, Transcribed by Diane Baron.

OH 1650V. **Patricia Marshall** talks about her upbringing in Kansas and her relationship with her grandfather, Elmer Frasier, who bought property on South Boulder Road from the Avery Dairy and then bought and developed the Frasier Meadows subdivision property. She lived on the Marshall property from 1982 to 1997 and describes the property in detail, including buildings, ditches, and wildlife. Sixty acres of this property later was sold to City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks to become part of Marshall Mesa Open Space. By Martha Dick. Filmed by Megan Bowes. Transcribed by Phyl Thomas.

OH 1651V A-B. Judge **Roxanne Bailin** talks about her role in the initial founding of Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry and her motivations for being part of the project. She first discusses a 1987 trip to the Soviet Union, from Dushanbe to Moscow, with fellow BASJ member Rebecca Bradley. During the trip, Bailin and Bradley made secret contact with Jewish refuseniks, including Naum Meiman. Bailin later discusses her interactions with Jewish émigrés living in Boulder, including one family she met on her initial trip to Dushanbe. Her narrative details her role as “The Judge With a Truck” driving around Boulder to collect furniture and house wares that were stored in her barn for use in setting up homes

for Jewish refugees BASJ brought from the former Soviet Union. By Brandon Springer. Filmed by Felicia Furman. Transcribed by Diane Rabson and Brandon Springer.

OH 1653V. **Janet Roberston** talks about the summers of her youth spent in the Colorado mountains and the community of Meeker Park, her love of Colorado and its mountains, and her involvement in mountain exploration throughout the world. She discusses her career as an author and chronicler of the lives of women mountaineers, her work as a photographer, and her observations of and support for the growth of women’s involvement in mountaineering. By Mary Williams and Felicia Furman. Filmed by Felicia Furman.

Visit Us: In Person or Online

⇒ Listen to and/or view any of our 1,680 interviews at the **Carnegie Branch Library for Local History** of the Boulder Public Library, 1125 Pine St., Boulder, CO 80302.

⇒ Visit us online four ways!

1) Go to **www.boulderlibrary.org/oralhistory** to listen to our interviews online and read their summaries and transcripts.

2) Learn the latest about newly archived interviews and other oral history resources at our blog, **boulderoralhistory.wordpress.com** (you can sign up on the blog site for an email subscription to new posts).

3) Listen to our podcasts on iTunes at **www.tinyurl.com/MROHP-iTunes**.

3) Or visit us on Facebook, **www.tinyurl.com/MOROHP-FB** (if you are a Facebook member, become a fan of our page to automatically see our new posts).

⇒ Search 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 and include the words “oral history” in your search.)

OH 1656V A-B. **Jennifer Heath** describes her childhood as the daughter of a U.S. diplomat, in which she lived in many countries and received a non-traditional education, an upbringing that led her to her life of involvement in the arts and international affairs as an artist, writer, editor, and curator. She discusses her work as an art and dance critic; the creator of numerous art and radio shows; the author of several books; and the founder of programs such as the Seeds for Afghanistan Program. She also discusses the history and politics of Afghanistan, one of the countries in which she lived while growing up, and her analysis of the Boulder arts scene. By Felicia Furman.

OH 1658V. **David Robertson** worked as a miner in hard-rock mines such as the Caribou Mine and the Good Friday Mine in the 1950s and later as a geologist in a mine in Missouri before returning to Boulder in 1963 to work at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). In this interview, he describes mining equipment and techniques, and discusses mine safety and danger, illustrated by stories of his experiences in the mines. He also talks about working for Roy and Alice Holubar, travels in Alaska, and working in the then-new NCAR building in the 1960s. By Felicia Furman.

OH 1660V. Shaun LaBarre, director of ReSource Yard for the Center for ReSource Conservation and a City of Boulder deconstruction professional, talks about how ReSource went from “one gentleman and a pile of material on a dirt lot” to its current 10-acre, 12,000-square-foot warehouse location with the same mission: diversion of material from the landfill for reuse. He discusses the history of how the Center for ReSource Conservation and the ReSource Yard have grown: increasing services, becoming financially viable, and broadening ancillary programming in Boulder and across the Front Range. This interview includes a tour of the ReSource Yard and discussion of the kinds of materials brought in, how actual effectiveness in diversion from landfill is measured, and goals for the future. Recorded and transcribed by Shirley Steele. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon.

OH 1665V A-B. Anna Nemirovskaya and her family came from Uzbekistan to Boulder in 1993 as one of the families involved with the Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry (BASJ) effort. She recalls their life in the former Soviet Union and the factors that caused them to leave and come to America. She describes the adjustments to a new culture, new community, and new language and how these were managed by their own efforts and the support of the members of BASJ. She talks about the new traditions that have evolved in the family, uniting Russian and American customs; her work with the Russian Heritage group; and what her children and grandchildren have achieved in the past 17 years. She also expresses the family’s gratitude that they have found a new “motherland” here. By Shirley Steele and David Shneer. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon. Transcribed by Shirley Steele.

OH 1666V. Cynthia Taylor, director of the Consumer Affairs Division in the Boulder District Attorney’s office for 27 years, reflects on the history of consumer protection in Boulder: changes that have come about through the positive and negative effects of the growth of technology, new types of consumer fraud, the awareness of the importance of economic crimes

as a major factor in today’s culture, and the effects of globalization on consumer protection. She reviews approaches to delivering consumer protection, which have evolved and include mediation; task forces for community participation; training programs to increase awareness of such things as elder abuse, affinity crimes, and identity theft; more emphasis on law enforcement collaboration; and citizen education. She emphasizes that being able to help people and the variety of challenges more than compensates for the increasing complexity and volume of problems. Recorded and transcribed by Shirley Steele. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon.

OH 1667V A-B. Barbara Gould, the first Resettlement and Volunteer Coordinator for Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry (BASJ), recalls her experiences in this project, which brought Jews from the former Soviet Union to Boulder. She discusses how BASJ met the challenges consequent to integrating people from a different culture to this one and how the goal of helping New Americans become independent economically and socially was achieved with support from the BASJ staff and many volunteers. She also describes many of the intricacies of the immigrant experience. In addition, she talks about how her own interests in social activism evolved and her appreciation for the personal strengths and determination of these immigrants in the face of sometimes overwhelming challenges. She describes the practical aspects of making sure that the families had a safe and supportive environment when they arrived and throughout the process of becoming self-sufficient, and she delineates the social and emotional dynamics of resettlement issues that affected the process. Recorded and transcribed by Shirley Steele. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon.

OH 1669V A-B. In this interview, **Bernole Egeland** briefly describes his early years growing up in South Dakota and how he came to live in Colorado. The interview mainly focuses on Mr. Egeland’s recollections of the project to reface Barker Dam in 1946 to 1947. He discusses many of the technical details of the refacing project. The interview

includes the viewing of thirty-four photos taken by a project photographer during the refacing project. Mr. Egeland provides details about the content of the pictures and the processes that they illustrate. By Caitlin McKenna. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon. Transcribed by Diane Baron.

OH 1672V. Shirley Weisz discusses her work designing English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum for a variety of immigrant groups, including Cambodian, Hmong, Mexican, and Jewish-Russian. In particular, she discusses such work for immigrants who came to Boulder through the efforts of the group Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry (BASJ) and her role as supervisor of ESL tutors for the organization. She describes the process of tailoring ESL teaching to the specific cultural practices that each immigrant needed to learn, and she explains some of the practices and parameters that result in successful second-language teaching and learning. By Becky Rosenberg. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon. Transcribed by Kelly Crandall.

OH 1674V. Vernon Pepler grew up on a farm off Highway 66 in Longmont and has been a farmer all his life. In this interview, he describes both his childhood in a farming community and the process of sugar beet farming from planting through cultivation, harvesting, and delivery to local beet receiving stations. He also talks about growing red beets and peas for the Kuner-Empson Canning Company and the rise of brewing barley as a crop grown for the Coors Brewing Company. A water district board member for many years, Pepler also tells about the creation of the Long's Peak Water District and explains the history and complexities of water rights in Colorado. By Liz McCutcheon. Filmed by Bob Dornan. Transcribed by Phyl Thomas.

OH 1676V. This recording is of a **Boulder Action for Soviet Jewry rally** that took place on February 26, 1987, to support efforts to gain the release of the Jewish mathematician Naum Meiman and other "refuseniks" (Jews who had applied for and been

denied permission to emigrate) in the Soviet Union. Among the speakers were representatives of several Colorado senators and congressmen; state and local politicians; and Olga Plam, the daughter of Naum Meiman; all of whom speak of the plight of the refuseniks. A resolution of the Boulder City Council in support of the release of Professor Meiman is read by the mayor. The names of the refuseniks in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, are read by various notable Boulder people. The rally concludes with the singing of "We Shall Overcome," and lively klezmer music. Recording donated by Murray Richtel.

**Next volunteer meetings:
Mar. 12, Apr. 9, and May. 14
8:00 a.m.
Carnegie Branch Library**

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