

Michael Kline: Today is Veteran's Day 1984. I was asked to call you by Bob Earl. I spoke to him down at the newspaper. He said without hesitation, "Call Bill Adler." What I am interested in talking to you about is kind of what – there are a lot of contention about this dam obviously. There has been and there –

Bill Adler: Well, there has been. I don't think there's very much anymore. That is to say the dam's being built and most of the people, their property's been purchased. I think for adequate sums, from what I'm told. I think the major part of the bitterness is over with now. As best I can tell, I think it's a little bit – we're stirred up here a week or two ago over the forced removal of one lady and her son from their home. But that's the first thing that has happened of –

MK: Was that (Barbara Hevner)?

BA: Barbara Hevner, yes.

MK: What was that all about anyway? What was your understanding of that?

BA: Well, (Delores?) and I just gotten back from Italy. We were gone for three weeks when that happened. So, I wasn't aware of it until we got home and read about it in the Democrat. From what I read in Bob's paper, they had purchased her property three years ago. After the Corps purchased her property, they generally give the owner a period of time in which to vacate. It usually will amount to several months, maybe a year. It depends, I think, on circumstances and what they need the property for. But anyway, they do have a period of time. Over the three-year period, from what I read in the paper, she had been asked on numerous occasions to give up the property. It was now the government's. They had paid her money, but she didn't leave. I think at some period, shortly before they arrived on the property, they had informed her once again. I don't know exactly what the substance of the communication was. I'm not sure how much of that was said in the paper. But anyway, they arrived on the property one morning. We're being interrupted here with the recording. Story, while they arrived at her home one morning around 11:00 a.m. According to how her story read, she and her son were just up or barely still in their bed clothes. The marshal arrived and some, I think, a woman along and some other gentleman as well. As politely as they could, they said, "We're here to tell you that you've got to leave the house." A little scuffle ensued of some nature and then they chained her. Actually, put a chain around her, I guess, I don't know whether handcuffs or not, and her son too. Brought them into the county jail, put them in jail at least for a few hours until they managed to notify somebody who was a friend to come and get them and take responsibility. Barbara's husband died a few years ago. Her husband, (Willard Hevner?), and his father, or maybe his grandfather had bought this property. I thought it'd been in the family longer than the story indicated it. It seems to me like sometime after the turn of the century, they gain wonders to the property. They had an orchard that they were – a commercial orchard, at least at one time. I don't know if it's amounted to anything in recent years, I'm not aware of it. But her husband died. Her husband had been active. In fact, he was an employee, I believe, of the Soil Conservation Service and was a great believer in small watershed dam approach to solving flooding problems. He died a few years ago, and I don't recall now what he died of. But Barbara and her son continued to live there. Barbara was of the opinion, the Lord had come to her and had told her that she was to stop the dam and use any means that she could. I don't know

whether that had something to do with a little concern on the part of the officers, as to whether or not she was mentally sound and if she weren't, what she might do. But anyway, it's perhaps –

MK: Apparently, the idea being that if the Lord speaks to you, you are not a balanced person or –

BA: Well, I don't think that exactly. But do you know, people who engage in violent acts oftentimes use that as an excuse if for having committed assassinations, [laughter] and why. It was upon instructions of God. I suppose if I were a law officer, I'd be a little concerned about approaching somebody who believes that God has approached them personally and has given them instructions on actions they should take. So, anyway, they had a little scuffle and got a lot of publicity, and it's an unfortunate thing, but maybe it's all over now. I suppose it is.

MK: The property had been purchased three years –

BA: Three years ago. She'd been given many, many opportunities.

MK: Was there any particular reason for having them out now? Is there some immediate plan for that?

BA: I don't know. I don't think that the water is on. I think that's to be a part of the recreational area. But –

MK: The winter is coming.

BA: Sooner or later there's going to be a confrontation, I suppose –

MK: Winter is coming on though and –

BA: I think she'd been advised by many different people at different times. "Why don't you go ahead and accept the inevitable and do it?" She just wouldn't do it. I don't know why they made the move to bid at this time. Except I must say that based upon what I know of their record, three years is about three times as long as anybody's been permitted to remain on the property after it's been purchased. So, I guess somebody felt it had to come to an end.

MK: Is not the Corps required or encouraged or whatever, to aid people as much as they possibly can in relocating and to soften this blow as well?

BA: I think that's the case. I think by and large, that has been their activity here. I'm not privy to what prices have been paid for property. But I've been told by people who are, that some of this property has been selling for two and even three times what it might have been realistically valued at. I'm not saying everybody got those kinds of prices, but I think by and large people that I hear of are pretty well pleased with what they got paid. Some did take it to court, did not accept the Corps' offer and maybe got more money by further negotiations than going to court. I think some of the people – and that is (Ralph Chapter?). Are you familiar with Ralph? I think Ralph is one of the federal commissioners. I'm not sure what the title is. But anyway, one of

those appointed by the federal court in Elkins to commend property if property owners weren't satisfied with what the government's offer was. They will sometimes then put that in the hands of commissioners – at least that's what they're called in the state – to decide if in fact the offer's been fair and if not –

MK: Like a referee.

BA: Sort of that. I'm not sure whether Barbara's property was still involved or not. But some amount of the property was maybe twenty percent of the landowners elected that course. That's not exactly answering the question you asked me. I think that beyond that –

MK: I just wondered why now –

BA: Well, for example –

MK: – why it was so important to move them now since it does not seem like there is any immediate –

BA: Well, the dam is under construction of course, as you know.

MK: Yeah. Except this is out of her property.

BA: Well, that's right. Although, and I mean, I don't know. Maybe it's just standard policy to get the land cleared and to have it all, without any interference that might occur in the future. I have no idea what the circumstances were, specifically in her case.

MK: Have you ever been to Cades Cove?

BA: Cades Cove? No.

MK: In the Smoky Mountains?

BA: No. I've never heard of it.

MK: It was a park that I think was started back in the [19]20s or [19]30s. There were a number of families still living on that land who were practicing – whose lives were as they had always been. Who lived in hewn out houses and spoke an old language and did things the old way. They gave these people lifelong leases to stay on there. I do not think they were permitted to improve the property or upgrade the property. They had to leave it as it was, but they were allowed to stay on.

BA: Well, that would not have been the case here. The land that's been purchased for the dam is typical of Aurora, West Virginia land. It's no different from the land in Upshur, Randolph or Braxton County or anywhere else around.

MK: Nothing particularly special about it.

BA: Nothing unique about it. They employed a company to come in and do a historic preservation study, I suppose you'd call it. They came up with all kinds of buildings and so forth, with some significance. They thought it's a bunch of nonsense. I'm a student of local history and my predecessor is much more knowledgeable than I. Could never locate any land or any sites in Lewis County to speak of, that had historical significance. I think some of those firms find it – because they're employed to find it, if you like. Make something out of little or nothing. Find an old hewn log cabin or barn, let us say, and establish some significance to that. Whereas there may be dozens upon dozens upon dozens of them in the state of West Virginia. To me, something that is historically significant is something that people from outside the community would find it interesting, and not just the community itself. So, I'm always suspicious when somebody tells me something has historical significance, if it's not going to bring somebody in here from Louisville, Kentucky to pick a town and to marvel over or to wander over or to rejoice in. Nobody from Louisville, Kentucky, I don't think would rejoice in anything in the area of this take. The only thing of historical significance in Lewis County that I can think of is Jackson's Mill. Beyond the fact that Stonewall Jackson lived there as a boy, you don't get much history in that either. There is other history of Indian warfare in the area, but, up in Hackers Creek, not in the area that's involved in the dam. So, I'm somewhat cynical about that.

MK: Yeah. What about the community itself being a very rural agricultural community? It's a passing scene here in West Virginia, would you not say?

BA: No. Well, I don't think that – let's say it's not unique in that respect, if it's a [inaudible].

MK: Well, no, not unique.

BA: Well, in Lewis County, for example, let me see if I can come up with the figures. In 1954, this is hasty recollection here, but I've looked at these statistics in the past. I think 192,000 acres of land in Lewis County were so called Farmland, engaged in some form of agricultural pursuit. By 1974, twenty years later, before any land was taken to the dam that had been cut to 92,000 acres, so that 100,000 acres roughly had been given up from farming. So, to that extent, if you say a former way of life is sort of dwindling away, that would be true and not only through Lewis County, but through generally in West Virginia farming. Much less land is being farmed now than it was in the past. But those are economic decisions that are being made and have been made. If people can't make money farming any longer, they're going to move into some other pursuit where they can make money. That's what's been happening in Lewis County. In the case of the reservoir area, there were maybe out of the 20,000 acres that's been acquired, maybe three or 4,000 acres you would genuinely call a farm. But most of the rest of – let's say three quarters of it was simply grown-up woodland, bush land, and vacant land, really. The balance would be in small, what I'll call farmstead or homesteads where you've got a house and a few acres around it, and the man is teaching school, or he works for the phone company or works in a glass plant, or he works for the gas company. His main economic –

MK: Or as in the case of Barbara.

BA: Well, in the case of Barbara, I don't really have Barbara – what Barbara has done.

MK: There is a small nursery down on that property.

BA: If in fact it was still used for that purpose, I'm not aware that it was. I could be mistaken about that. But her husband was essentially employed by the government in that job, and that's really where he made his living. Had to have made his living there because he couldn't have been making –

MK: When did he die? Was it ten years ago?

BA: It could be. I don't know. It could be that long. Time gets away from you. But I doubt it. It would not seem to me that Willard's been dead that many years, but it could be. But essentially, most of the people who lived in the area were engaged in something other than agriculture really to make their living. There were three or four exceptions. The Jewels, (Jack Langer?), [inaudible] I think were rather prosperous farmers. But even –

MK: (John Radebaugh?)?

BA: The (Radebaughs?), yes, they were another example. I don't know either though, how much of their income was based on royalty from gas wells on the property. I'd rather suspect that a good proportion of it was too – it was gas. The gas development began in this county about to turn the century. There's almost every part of this county does have gas underlying it, and most of those farms did have gas wells. So, I'd rather imagine that a proportion of their income came from that too. It's pretty tough to make money in agriculture in West Virginia, wherever you are. Ninety percent of all the agricultural income in this county was beef cattle raising. It wasn't crops except what they would grow to feed the cattle in the wintertime, hay and maybe some corn. But the actual dollar figures when you look at what they sold was beef cattle.

MK: But beyond the dollar figures, of course, there are people's gardens, and there are –

BA: Well, there are gardens, but I've got a garden in my backyard.

MK: A whole rural lifestyle, that is hard to put those –

BA: Well, ninety percent of the people who've been displaced by that project have moved elsewhere in Lewis County, and most of them in a rural area, and they've got gardens there. Some of them may have better land than they had to start with, maybe have better homes than they had to start with. So, their way of life hasn't really been disrupted for the most part. Their locale maybe, but obviously, disrupted. To the extent that some of them had old family home places of numerous generations, there was a hardship. A great love for that particular property, and memories that can't be replaced, obviously, by moving someplace else.

MK: How many families were there like that, do you suppose? Who would fall into that category?

BA: I don't have any idea, but it could've been fifty, I suppose out of 200, or let's say twenty to twenty-five percent of them may have had that kind of background.

MK: Is 1,800 people an accurate figure –

BA: No.

MK: – of how many have been displaced?

BA: Grossly inaccurate. It's inaccurate by 200 percent. At one time, a very accurate count was made of 919 people actually living in the area. The number of families seems to me it was in the neighborhood, 250 families, 919 people. Some of those would've been people who lived here all their lives. Some of course would've been relatively –

MK: Within this 20,000-acre area?

BA: Within the 20,000 acre, that's right. That's all the people that were – I don't know where they ever came up with 1,800 people to start with. It was a guesstimate, I suppose it was.

MK: Guesstimate.

BA: This made no sense, really. Let's put it this way. That land makes up eight percent, I think, of the land in Lewis County, it's the 20,000 acres. Well, 1800 people would be ten percent of the population. You know very well the ten percent of the population doesn't lie. I mean, eight percent of the land when the greater part of the population is in the immediate western area in the urban area of Western and its suburbs. So, no, it made no sense logically to think there were 1,800 people out there. But as I say, a very active account was made one time. This was probably a little after land acquisition had begun. I think they included people who had already moved. But there was obviously a little bit of a turnover in any community over a period of time. So, nine hundred roughly would've been the right figure. Eight percent of the land in Lewis County amounted to only – it's an astounding figure, \$17,000 in property taxes. I'm talking about ad valorem taxes. I'm not talking about personal property taxes. An almost insignificant sum of money in the budget of the Lewis County school system or county government. A very accurate study was made of that particular thing to determine what the laws would be. There used to be a great concern about that. Why taking eight percent of the land of Lewis County, you're going to destroy the tax base. Well, it's [laughter] the salary of one teacher is about what it amounted to. It's insignificant. One utility plant relocation, the equitable gas compressor station that was at Brownsville, practically where the dam site itself is just slightly up front. That's been relocated to a little stream called Copley. In fact, it's not even on Copley, it's on the Copley Road, but the stream was on the side. But anyway, the new investment in that plant, taxes that will be paid from that new plant, something like three times, just that one plant alone. All the tax, ad valorem tax that is attributable to the 20,000 acres were taken for the dam. As a matter of fact, I wasn't aware of this. I found out last year. So, the federal government does make some payment to Lewis County in lieu of the property taxes lost from that. I don't think it's a whole 17,000. I wasn't even aware they did that though. But of course, when you think about the fact that ninety percent of the people relocated elsewhere in Lewis County, some of

them in new homes, I think for the most part, in better housing than they had before. Probably, the new ad valorem tax base exceeds what was lost from the property taken to start with. I can't say that's absolutely true, but just looking at it and looking at where people have moved and looking at the homes they've built, well, it appeared to me they're probably paying higher taxes now than they paid before. Of course, whatever their personal property taxes were before haven't been lost. They still have automobiles and motorboats and household furniture, whatever there may have been. So, I think there's actually something of a net gain to the county from a tax standpoint. As you can tell my interest in this matter, primarily economic and not necessarily. Well, they're humanitarian standpoint of the great damage done in Weston over the years from floods. But –

MK: Could you tell me a little about that?

BA: Well, I suppose I have often said, I've written it. Weston is possibly the most frequently flooded town in the state of West Virginia. Floods occur in Weston on the average of once a year, and have been as long as we know. There are very accurate records since 1929. Since 1929, there's been an average of one flood per year. The records prior to that time aren't that good. Although I have researched the old newspapers, and I find myself that probably there were just as many floods prior to 1929 as there had been since then. No reason why there shouldn't have been. Floods have increased in severity, obviously, as property values have risen and newer homes and newer buildings have been put into the floodplain. Weston, by the way, should never have been located where it is, but it was located there. It's in the floodplain of three streams. The better part of Weston is all the downtown business section floods. All the public schools, the main public schools flood, the major churches in town are subject to flood. The parochial school, I mean, the Catholic church, the Catholic school are in the floodplain. The fire department is in the flood plain. Two of our major industries are subject to minor flood damage. Of course, they experience disruption of production. All the employees have to go home when floods occur so they can get home before the water gets too high. Several millions of dollars of damage have occurred over the years to properties in Weston from flooding. The fact that Weston floods so often and so badly is, of course, what generated the demand for flood control in Stonewall Jackson Lake, all began there. Aspects of recreation, water supply and water quality were secondary, I think, to Westonians. They will be important to us in the future if they manage to generate some economic impact.

MK: Had you considered the alternative for having a smaller dam?

BA: Well, I can't say that we considered it because the big dam was proposed, and it was the lifesaver thrown to us. No serious proposal was made by anybody for substituting small watersheds for the large dam until the large dam became a reality. That occurred in 1974 when Senator Randolph introduced legislation in the Congress that was passed that – well, let me backtrack. Earlier, legislation had required ironclad contracts between the state and the federal government for the state's participation in recreational development. The state had to guarantee the money. The state of West Virginia, by its constitutional limitation, cannot do that, as you may know.

MK: Cannot go into debt.

BA: Cannot go into debt. So, Senator Randolph introduced legislation that absolved – if that's the word – the Stonewall Jackson Lake from that particular requirement that occurred in 1974. At the same time that that occurred, the people in the upper Westport area got busy and formed the upper Westport River Watershed Association and began to agitate for substituting small watershed dams for the big dam. Either they didn't look at the reality of small watershed dams from an economic, practical standpoint, or they chose to ignore facts if they had any, that those of us who were anxious to get flood control one way or another. I assure you, we would've been just as happy to have had the problem solved by small watershed dams as anything else. Except that the big dam was already moving. The proposal for a small watershed as a substitution came along after a lot of progress had been made. We didn't want to see any more time lost. Then as we looked into the matter and consulted with the soil conservation people themselves, we learned that small watershed dams were quite impractical from several standpoints. First of all, they don't begin to give you the same degree of flood protection. They have practically no recreational value at all. They would give you some additional water quality. But worse than that, the local community would be required to pay fifty percent of the cost of a small watershed system. We're talking millions of dollars, and there was no such kind of money in Lewis County to pay its local share. The big dam is going to be paid for, let's say, a hundred percent by the federal government. Now I say, let's say a hundred percent. There is a requirement that the water supply that will be made available to the town of Weston for domestic and commercial industrial use will have to be paid for. It can be paid for over a fifty-year period, a long drawn-out thing so that we're adding pennies to the monthly water bill for people to pay for that.

MK: What is that actually going to cost?

BA: I don't remember the figure, and I'm not even sure there is a current figure on that. As a matter of fact, there never has been an agreement reached between the federal government and the city of Weston. So, I don't know whether they're going to ignore it and forget about it or what, but there is no agreement to that effect. It was a proposal made at one time. But the dam is being built at the height. The water's going to be there when the city of Weston, although it's not a city of water system. It's a private corporation and the water system begins with drawing water out of the river. Whether the government's going to say, you can't have it or not, doubtful to me. But, anyway, the whole point of the small watershed dam is that a really comprehensive system would've cost Lewis County people one way or another, many millions of dollars. I don't think people in Lewis County were about to stand, to pay millions of dollars for it, when the federal government was willing to do the other project, let's say solely at its own cost. To all intents and purposes, it really amounts to that. Although those facts were stated time, again, the people in the watershed area kept saying the smaller watersheds were a feasible alternative. Beyond that, there is very little money in the cell conservation services budget for small watershed projects today. We were told that it would be eight years in the planning alone. Eight years in the planning alone to come up with a plan for small watershed dams. I don't think they've even built any small watershed dams in West Virginia in recent years, because that particular budget is so very small. The only money they've had for years is planning. Now, this is information told to us by the soil conservation people themselves, who would have a vested interest in building small watershed dams. But they told us realistically it was a near hopeless alternative. So, we gave no credits to it, whatever. Got a little slightly sore throat. Excuse me.



Go ahead.

MK: Tell me when you've talked enough. Bet the recreational aspect of it had a lot of appeal too.

BA: Well, not so much locally, I don't think. So, I say primarily we were concerned about getting flood stopped. Now it has a greater appeal as time goes on, because as a former businessman here, and I'm retired, but certainly the business community is concerned about, the economic future of Lewis County and does see a great potential benefit from the recreational development. But personally speaking, I don't have a boat, don't intend to buy a boat. I don't fish. [laughter] So, I'm not personally interested in that. I think people outside this county probably are much more interested when the plans that the department of Natural Resources had for the recreational development began to be made known. A great deal of interest began to be exercised in the project by people outside Lewis County. That is to say, people who were interested in fishing and in boating and what one can get off of a large impoundment of water. So, I think there's more interest in that outside of Lewis County in terms of numbers of people than it is, than there is actually in Lewis County.

MK: Are the dollars, though, generated going to stay here? Dollars generated from that recreational business? Do you predict the –

BA: You look at Grafton, you look at Sutton Dam, and it doesn't appear that the large numbers of dollars are generated by those projects or Summersville. But on the other hand, there are many people who come into those communities every summer and the weekends. Their populations are certainly swollen by a few thousand people. They do buy gasoline, and they do buy some food and some bring it with them, I suppose, depending on how long I'm going to be there. There's bound to be some benefit from it. I don't think it will be a major concern. On the other hand, I think that – let's say Sutton has not exploited, its Braxton County's two lakes, if you like. Or Gassaway or Burnsville, have exploited them as much as they might. There've been some new motels built in those communities, which I suppose in part their customers come from people who come in to enjoy the recreation. But the old saying, if you build a better mousetrap, the world will be the pathway to your door is not really true. You can build a better mousetrap, but you still got to exploit the fact you have. Now, I think there is a spirit within Lewis County in its business community to begin to exploit the recreational advantages of Stonewall Jackson Lake. I think we'll see more benefit here than I have noted, at least in other projects of this kind in West Virginia. The Chamber of Commerce is initiating a study to determine what's been done in most successfully in projects of this kind in other areas outside of the state of West Virginia. So, we can try to incorporate some of those kinds of plans and ideas in the thinking and the planning that goes on here. I'm very much interested in that. But that's only in the very earliest stages of study. I do believe that one can do an awful lot more than has been done so far by projects at this time. I think the figures that are often put out by the Corps of Engineers about the numbers of visitors that come into these projects is exaggerated. But on the other hand, I'm sure will benefit if we have the right push on the part of the local community wanting to see it happen.

MK: Has there been a projection of about how many new permanent businesses will locate

here?

BA: Not that I'm aware of, no. The opponents have said that the area is not conducive to industrial – bring them employed about 1,100 people, one's around six hundred people, one around 500. We have a silk label plant here in Weston.

MK: The label that you have in your shirt, maybe in your coat jacket.

BA: A lot of those are made here in the plant, employing around a hundred people. So, there is a small industry in Lewis County. There is no small industry in Lewis County that's dependent upon the water, because there never has been any adequate water supply here. We did have, by the way, we had the core of our plant consider Lewis County as a location, the one that's in Buchanan. You're familiar with that plant?

MK: Yeah.

BA: Showed them this site right here, which I owned at the time, which is now the golf course right beside our house. They were very much interested. It had everything they were looking for except water. They told the water company how much water they needed on a guaranteed basis, on a daily basis. The water company says, "We can't do it. We don't have it." So, that was an industry which perhaps we lost because of the lack of water. I'm not saying that they might not have made – if the water had been here, they still might have made a decision to locate Buchanan or somewhere else. But at least we know for certain that the basic reason they turned down that location was no water or not enough water. That plant – I wish I could remember the figures for you – seems to me is that they're in Upshur County. That one client is currently paying about \$175,000 a year in property taxes. It employs roughly three hundred people. The payroll's about four million. It was a real plum and maybe plants of that kind can be attracted to Lewis County when there's plenty of water flowing down the river. I certainly hope that it will help us get some additional plants in here.

MK: But no one had got them located.

BA: No. Well, the dam is still under construction and things –

MK: But there is a date by which it is proposed.

BA: Yeah. 1987, I believe. But, again, I don't know what industry would want to locate here until they see the water in the river. I mean, things happen. We could go to war and the construction could be held for years to come or something of that nature. So, the prudent businessman will wait, I think, to see that the water is there before he makes the move. But it does give us another leg up in the tracking industry. We've got the interstate. We've got a very favorable gas costs here in Lewis County, at least as favorable as anywhere else in the state of West Virginia. Our real handicap is land. This was a good site here, about fifty acres would've been more than enough for cohort's needs. But land will continue to be our big handicap in tracking anything like a fairly large plant. But a plant that needs only three or four acres, when we've got plenty of that kind of land for them.

MK: I guess one last question. What is your vision for Lewis County? What do you see it becoming someday and how do you see this project as being a link in that –

BA: Well –

MK: – development?

BA: I think Lewis County has some potential as a recreational area. The dam will, I think, be the biggest lake – I believe the biggest lake in the state, manmade. The water quality should be quite good. If you looked at a map to see where that thing goes, it's quite incredible.

MK: It is 3,400 acres. If that is the right size, stretched up and down all those little –

BA: Yeah. It makes an awful lot of shoreline, a great amount of good fishing area and so forth. I don't know how much more of a hunting mecca it will be than the average part of West Virginia is already. You see that fence back here behind my house, that's to keep the deer out of the garden in summertime. I don't think we'll have any more deer as a result of the lake. But the future of Lewis County lies in the recreational potential of Stonewall Jackson Lake. It lies in a small industry. I think it lies to a certain extent in developing what history there is here. I said earlier the great history of Lewis County – this is one of the most historic regions of the Hackers Creek area is, and early frontier settlement and early white man front and Indian warfare. Some of the most historic events of the Western Virginia frontier occurred right here in Lewis County on Hackers Creek, which is up in the northern part of the county, far from the dam area. So, there's a great potential there, I believe, in development. As a matter of fact, the Chamber of Commerce years ago, it was the Western Chamber of Commerce. About ten, twelve years ago, it became the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce. About two months ago, we changed the name to the Historic Lewis County Chamber of Commerce. Because it is a part of our plan to emphasize the past history of Lewis County two hundred years or so ago and the Stonewall Jackson in Jackson's Mill. So, there is I think, a considerable potential here for tourism income. Small industry tourism income from the historical background and Stonewall Jackson Lake. It's a pretty nice community now. It's west and the great shortcoming is the fact that it has flooded so often, and that's discouraged people from making any reasonable investment in their properties. They don't paint up, they don't fix up. Not knowing that next week, it will all be ruined. The river as it flows through Weston has been our greatest eyesore. Until we got the sewage plant going, a terrible stinking mess in the summertime. But it can be converted now that we will have water control, I think, into a lovely park right through the center of the community. That's one of the things we are also going to work toward. Have you ever been to San Antonio?

MK: No.

BA: San Antonio did a marvelous thing down there. They got a stream goes through that middle of that town, and they just converted it into a magnificent park. It's somewhat bigger than what we're talking about here. But there is that potential of converting what has been our greatest liability as far as Weston goes into our greatest asset by landscaping that river as it flows

through town because we'll have control on the water. That's certainly something that we're very much interested in and I'm very much interested in. It's one of those projects we're going to have to have some governmental help on. We're going to be working with Washington and to the extent we can with Charleston to try to develop that, now that we're going to have some control. Weston can become one of the most attractive communities in West Virginia as long as I live and can spend some time working at it, I intend to.

MK: Good. Well, I certainly appreciate your time and it is nice to –

BA: Very glad to give it to you.

MK: – nice to have. If I can put some of the material I am gathering together into a radio program, a documentary, is it all right to use your material for that?

BA: Sure.

MK: Maybe I could get you to even –

[end of transcript]