

Stonewall Jackson Dam Removal  
Francine Snyder Oral History  
Date of Interview: November 9, 1984  
Location: Lewis County, West Virginia  
Length of Interview: 02:23:49  
Interviewer: MK – Michael Kline  
Transcriber: NCC

Michael Kline: We're with Francine Snyder. What do you call this place right in here?

Francine Snyder: Canoe Run. That's the Canoe Run area.

MK: Two days ago, on the seventh, we did an interview here, Hugh Rogers and I did with Barbara and Bobby Heavner. Even though the interview lasted for four and a half hours, I still can't – it's fun to have questions. Well, what a story.

FS: Yeah, damn flight period. The Skin Creek area that haven't moved. Louie and Beth live on about a 350-acre farm. They own a piece of it with Louie's dad's place, probably one of the finest farms in West Virginia. It's just a gorgeous place. It's just been really rough on Louie and Beth and (Jan?), unlike Barbara. Barbara had [inaudible] a hot shot lawyer out of [inaudible]. He got a good bit of money for his place. [inaudible] It's kind of ironic. It's scheduled for one of the park rangers' residents, I think. So, they haven't been too hostile to make Jack leave. Because as long as he's living there, the house is somewhat [inaudible].

MK: They're going to run him off and then give it to a park ranger?

FS: Right.

MK: There's a place called Cades Cove in North Carolina. It's in the Smoky Mountain. Have you ever been there?

FS: No.

MK: Anyone down there to make a park out of this place, they got all the families in this cove stay.

FS: Yes. The Park Service will do that. Corps won't. You know, especially in the recreation lands and the wildlife mitigation, it made sense for the people to have to leave, then the DNR to take over, when the farmers are the ones that have kept the area good for wildlife. It's not the DNR that does that. So, when the farmers leave, the land will grow up. The DNR will have to bring crews in to clear off the land and plant food for the wildlife. Make more sense. Typical state government, federal government. Where do we want to start? Want to start with Barbara's story?

MK: Sure. Why don't we start with that?

FS: When she was condemned, when Barbara was condemned, we had a farm condemned at the same time. She just chose not to have anything whatsoever to do with it. So, every approach they tried to make to Barbara, she just totally ignored them. After the condemnation, you know, she hasn't been the only person that stayed in the area. A lot of people still stayed past the date they were told to leave by. Up until this time, except for one incident where they tried to evict a tenant, and they finally backed off on that and gave him a few more months and agreed to – he agreed to leave then at the end of a certain period. So, when she first received a letter telling her that the Corps was moving for writ of assistance, which meant the eviction, she called me. I told

her that at this point, you know, even though she hadn't participated before, she really needed to get legal advice. Because I wasn't sure what the legal procedure would be if she didn't show up at that hearing, you know. So, she did talk it over with her lawyer, and he agreed to go to the hearing for her.

MK: Was this (Brook?)?

FS: This is Brooks, yes, no lawyer, as far as I'm concerned. Well, he went to the hearing. At the time, the Corps filed an affidavit with a court. They said in that affidavit that the reasons they wanted her to leave for were, one, that she was in the way of Route 30 construction; and two, that she was setting a bad example for other people that they wanted to leave in the project area, for those people would say, "Well, Barbara's still there. Why should we have to leave?" So, later, we pointed out to them the fact that Route 30 is at the other end of the county. She's nowhere near Route 30 and, you know, that they would never need that property. It would be years and years before anything is done to that property. At that time, the lawyers might have been able to have done something to hold it all, but Brooks just didn't move on doing anything for her in that line. So, then she received a letter telling her that that the writ of assistance was granted and that she would be evicted. So, it wasn't but a few days after she got that letter then, that the federal marshal showed up for the first time. There was no date on that writ of assistance either. It didn't say you have to leave by, you know, November the 20th or November the 10th. There was no specific date on it, Michael.

MK: You saw it?

FS: Yes. John (Provolt?) looked the stuff over for. So, when the federal marshal then showed up, of course, Barbara was pretty frightened at this time. I mean, she's been brave through the whole thing, but she was scared to death.

MK: I was sure she was.

FS: She called me – after each one of these steps, she called me and told me what would happen, you know? She called me that day, and she said, "Well, he was here." I said, "Who?" She said, "Satan." I said, "You mean the federal marshal?" She said, "Yes." "So, what did he say, Barbara?" He told her that, by golly, they had to leave, and that if she didn't leave, that he would have her arrested and that everything in her house would belong to the federal government, which is just blatantly untrue. He said that they put her stuff out on the road. He just said all kinds of harsh things. He threatened the dog, and whether he actually came right out and said the dog would be killed or if he just led them to believe that that would happen. He just said everything he could to frighten them into leaving. That's what he did. He made it just as – you know, made himself not nice, but he made himself extremely harsh. I think his method was to frighten her into leaving on her own. So, at this point, then we got in touch with Bob Wise's office, and I called West Virginia legal services plan and asked John Provolt to look into it, to see, one, if there was anything we could do legally to stop it and, two, to apprise the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Corps the fact that this was an unusual situation, that Barbara wasn't refusing to leave out of stubbornness, but that she had this deep-seated religious conviction that it was wrong for her to leave and that it wasn't a normal situation. If they would give us enough

time that maybe we could talk her into leaving on her own. I mean, from our point of view, the publicity of it would have been wonderful, you know? I mean, they couldn't have done anything better if we'd have scripted it out for them to have made themselves look like the real villains that they are. But I was worried about her mental health. Because she really – she told me I needed to have the same faith that she had and that she really had put her trust and faith in God and that she was never going to have to leave there. I was really concerned about what would happen to her mental health, you know, if this happened this way. So, Bob Wise's office talked to (Steve Cohen?), who is an assistant with him. They called the U.S. Attorney's Office. You'd have to ask him who the lady was he talked to, but he did make her aware of the situation. She did agree to grant some time. John Provolt also talked to the U.S. Attorney's Office and pointed out the misstatements that the court had made in the affidavit they filed for the writ of assistance. The U.S. Attorney's Office's response was, "Well, we own the property. We really don't even have to give her a reason for leaving." They filed an affidavit. We could fight it all we wanted, and eventually the outcome would be the same. They're the landlord. They own the property. They can do anything they damn well pleased with it. Legally, they were – that was the way it was. It was their property. We all had failed. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Mucklow, told John Provolt – from legal services – that there wasn't anything sacred about – see, the federal marshal had told Barbara that he was coming on like the following Friday. I don't know if she told you or not, but it was the anniversary of her husband's death. She thought that they had picked that date on purpose to hurt her that much more. I don't know. I mean, I wouldn't put it past them, but – so, he said the U.S. Attorney's Office agreed there wasn't anything sacred about that date and that, yes, they wouldn't press the eviction for a while. Obviously, they failed to notify the federal marshal's office. John Provolt was concerned that that might be the case, and he himself tried to contact this Ron Donnell to let him know that we were watching and that, you know, these kinds of tactics wouldn't go – he didn't get a hold of Donnell. He did talk to another federal marshal in that office. So, the federal marshals office knew that it was going to be a pretty rough situation, and that, more than anything, I think, moved to convict – convince me that they handled this whole eviction just as brutally as they could, and their object being to frighten other people in the project area into leaving.

MK: So, there's this problem in my mind. Barbara signed the check that they sent.

FS: A problem with the money, yes.

MK: So, legally –

FS: It doesn't matter if you sign the check or not, Michael. All that –

MK: I understand that. But she had knowingly sold her property to the Corps.

FS: That was done when her property was condemned. Whether she agreed to accept the money or not makes no difference.

MK: It doesn't?

FS: No. Many people have their money still sitting – for years, she had that money still sitting

in the court in Elkins, you see. The money itself, whether she accepted the money or not, has nothing to do with the eviction itself. They could make her leave any time, from the time – from the day they filed the papers in federal court. That's all they have to do, is they simply file a paper that says this property now belongs to the federal government. Then they publish it in the newspaper. There's a few other little legal things that go along with it.

MK: But this has been their argument, right? That she had signed that check –

FS: They didn't make that argument until after the fact.

MK: Until after the fact, okay.

FS: Right. That didn't come up until –

MK: But it does put a hole in her whole position, doesn't it, in a way. Because here she says that she's responsible to this higher power. That's what she tells the Marshal. That's what she tells everybody. I don't operate according to what you all are laying down for me, because I'm in touch with this higher power, and that's where I get borders.

FS: Right.

MK: But then she takes the money. She deposits it in an account and begins drawing interest off of it. She's really operating on two standards there. It could be argued, couldn't it?

FS: Yes, I think so, in a way. What happened was as long – until her condemnation was settled, that money just sat in Elkins. Now, she had every right to use that money all along. That money was hers. Once it was deposited in the federal court, it belonged to her. She could have withdrawn that money and used it at any time. But she didn't. She did it with the idea being, in her mind, that the dam would be stopped, the money would be returned, and the property would be hers again. So, then after her condemnation was settled – after the condemnation was decided by the Commission, by the commissioners, the Corps sent the check to her attorney. She didn't request that the money be sent. It was sent to her attorney, and she had 90 days whether to accept it or return it. You see, if she would return it, then she would have lost it. She would have lost everything.

MK: I see.

FS: So, her attorney then, knowing that she couldn't accept the money and still keep her pension and that she didn't want the money and that she didn't want to sell her property to them, the best thing they could come up with was to deposit the money in an account and start getting interest on it, you know. They had to do something with this check that they didn't ask for that but was forced on them, or she would have lost everything. It was, in a way, I suppose, the best thing they could have done, you know, at the time; and in a way, it was the worst thing. I mean, because she was still hoping that she could save her pension.

MK: How could she have saved her pension?

FS: Well, because, you know, there was some question and there was question from the Corps that – you know, it was a situation, say, like capital gains tax, where she'd have taken that money and reinvested it in, like, property, you know, that wouldn't have affected her pension.

MK: But if you let it sit and then be drawing the interest off of –

FS: Yes. But she had gone ahead and invested in, like, property – I mean, at the same time, you have to remember that politically, we have Bob Wise moving in Congress. You know, we had gotten the dam stopped in the House of Representatives. There was a lot of hope, Michael –

MK: I know, yes.

FS: – that this thing would be stopped. She didn't want, of course, to be in the situation where, there she has another piece of property and, you know, nowhere to go then, if the dam stopped, not have any money to buy her place back. So, it was a different attorney, I think. I know it's awful to say, but I really believe this. It could have been handled a whole lot better if she'd had somebody different representing her. Any of the attorneys worth their salt had to have known that simply by endorsing the check, she was accepting it, and there was her pension was gone right then. But either he didn't, or he didn't tell her. Or if he told her, she wouldn't accept it or whatever. But money has never been the issue in Barbara's mind. I mean, the money into that thing was forced on her. Because they sent the check to her. Then she had this check. She had to do something with it.

MK: \$60,000, for it to buy not only a home place, but a whole business –

FS: Wasn't very doggone much.

MK: There was no way they could relocate it.

FS: It's going to take everything she's got. See, half of the money, of course, is Bobby's; and half of it is hers. The property was owned jointly by them. It was willed jointly to them by Barbara's husband. So, then they're in the situation where it would take every penny they have to relocate themselves in a like situation. Then she doesn't have anything to live on monthly then. I mean, that \$300 a month she got made the difference between those two making it and not making it. They could augment their income, you know, well enough to get along with what they sold from the nursery and what they could raise in their garden. Plus, Barbara does embroidery work, and she sells that handwork. So, they got along just fine. They would have continued to have gotten along just fine if the government had left them the hell alone. But now here they are confronted with the situation, and not only having to go against their belief, their religious belief, that the project was going to be stopped – they just were in total conflict between, now, what do you do with the money? What could she have done? I'm sure Brooks advised her that she couldn't not accept it, or she would have lost it forever. Of course, as it looked more and more like we weren't going to be able to stop the thing – I mean, if Byrd got a lot more hyper in Congress and really did the act that he did, you know, as it got to look blacker and blacker, there she is. She's got the money. We know what to do. I'm sure that Brooks

advised her to do what she did. So, in her mind, in a way, she never really did get that money, even though, you know, Bobby was using part of the money. I don't know how to explain how you feel about something like that that happens. You just have to put yourself in that kind of a situation. On the surface, it sounds one way. But yet here you are. This is everything that you own in the world. You didn't get enough for it. You're going to lose your pension. I think she was to the place where she tried to salvage whatever she could salvage from it. At the same time – so on the one level, she was being practical. On the other level, she was going along with her moral convictions, I suppose you could say. Yes, it's a real problem. It just was handled badly. Just handled really badly. Of course, she didn't tell us at the time anything about that money. She kept telling me that she didn't know where the money was. She knew that once people knew, she was going to lose that pension. That's why she did that.

MK: Well, she told me yesterday that she still had all the money and that if the dam was stopped, she said she'd give it back to them quicker than they had given it to her.

FS: Yes. That's absolutely the way she feels about it.

MK: So, that, I took to be a summary of her.

FS: Other people felt the same way.

MK: Are there other people in the same financial position? Do you think?

FS: Probably not as badly off as Barbara.

MK: But whose pensions –

FS: So many of our people, you see, are older, and they're dealing with Social Security rather than the Veterans. It's because of the kind of pension that she got. See, she's too young for Social Security.

MK: She's 50, right?

FS: Yes. So, she's got a long ways to go before they could get any help in Social Security. The Veterans was the only thing open to her. She would never dream of getting food stamps, to going on welfare, something like that. You know, that's a whole different thing, you see, from the Veterans pension, which she felt she was entitled to.

MK: Well, of course, she was entitled to it.

FS: Whereas in her mind, food stamps or welfare would be welfare. She would never do that. I see where she's coming from. In her mind, it's perfectly justified. But it lost her an awful lot of sympathy because people just – you'd have to put yourself in the place of depending on knowing that it's one thing you have. You've got \$300 every month coming in, guaranteed, and that if you got sick or Bobby got sick or whatever happened to you, that money would still come. The faith, losing, that security, was just more than they can accept. Yes, she'd give the money back in a

minute if she could have her place – everybody would. Most everybody in this project area said the same thing. When we were working on writing a deauthorizing bill, hoping we could get the project stopped, that was the main thing that we were interested in, that the landowners were able to buy their property back. They're people that even if the house was gone, they'd take the land back in a minute.

MK: Well surely.

FS: But then several of our people have been condemned and have their money sitting in the bank. They've never touched it, probably not as much recently that they're gone ahead with the dam construction. But all along, that's what people have felt, that they weren't going to bother that money. They gained a little bit of interest, finally. You know, Maxwell had it there for a while with that money was – the money is deposited by the Corps with the court and held on deposits or like an escrow account.

MK: The court draws the interest from it.

FS: The court wasn't even drawing interest from this money for a long time. I mean, Maxwell was just setting it out at different banks in the Elkins area. The federal government wasn't receiving interest on it.

MK: That's crazy.

FS: Yes. But now the law says that that money has to be drawing interest. Because, you see, say you own a house and a piece of ground. Let's just take a simple case, say – and don't even count your farm. You own a house and a piece of ground. Your house is condemned at 20- or \$30,000. It's never enough to replace what you have. It's hardly ever been enough in this project area, so that some people have had to go out and assume a mortgage, you know, to try to get another place. But then, in the meantime, from when your place is condemned and when your condemnation trial comes up and is litigated, almost everybody has gotten more money going through trial. So, you don't have any idea until that point how much money you have to get another place. I can give you an example of, say, (Freida Fisher?), who was condemned at \$14,000, her house. I think she eventually got like \$30,000 from the court. Well, she couldn't take \$14,000 and do anything with it. She had to wait until her condemnation trial was settled. It doesn't make any difference to the federal government. Because you have to leave if they want you to leave when they tell you to leave. It doesn't have anything to do with when your condemnation trial is settled, and you know the final amount you have to work with.

MK: I guess the point of all this is that Barbara still has every dime of the money the court gave her and would, in the next five minutes, give it all back to them.

FS: I think she'd give all that money back –

MK: Just to get her place.

FS: – just to get that land back, right. If she could just get her nursery back. Yes.



MK: I was over there, day before yesterday. They backed the dozer around that course through several of the beds of fruit trees and so on, when they were knocking the house down.

FS: Did she tell you the story about her dishes, about finding her broken dishes?

MK: Yes. I saw some of the broken dishes.

FS: See, that was one of the points that we had such a hell of a time trying to make the Corps and the movers understand. Those dishes were a wedding present to Barbara, and they were extremely meaningful. Those were things that she had food in the refrigerator. It wasn't worthwhile to them to empty the food and pack the dishes. So, they just destroyed it. Yet, those dishes were part of that original wedding set that she had gotten. I kept telling them there would be a pile of newspapers, and they didn't want to pack them. Well, I knew that she'd kept all the articles ever published about the dam. If she got a newspaper about it, she kept it. That's what those papers were. But they weren't going to pack that because that wasn't meaningful to them.

MK: Well, they'd like to have seen it destroyed anyway.

FS: Well, they didn't want to have to do the work, that was for sure. So, the long and the short of it was – and to me, the bottom line of the whole thing – is that through Bob Wise's office and through the legal aid service, they knew that this was an unusual situation, and that this woman needed help and that we were willing to do everything we could to get counseling, her minister – you know, to have support people there. Yet, ten days later, they moved in and evicted her in one of the most brutal fashions of any eviction that I have ever heard of in all my dealings with Corps projects across the country. It was just absolutely brutal. I mean, they started out by scaring her to death. So, she wasn't even sleeping at night for fear they'd come at night. Of course, I had told her that she didn't have to worry, that they had told us that they wouldn't be there. They wouldn't come that Friday. She could relax. That they were going to give us some time, so maybe we could get this thing worked out. It's true. She probably wouldn't have left on her own anyway. But had I been there, or her attorney been there, you know, or any kind of help for her been there, she wouldn't end up being handcuffed and chained. You know, Bobby wouldn't have bruises up and down his arms. They would have been treated with a little dignity. That's exactly what the Corps didn't want. The federal marshal admitted to one of the reporters, a television reporter, she asked him why the phone was damaged. He said, "I didn't rip it out of the wall." She said, "I know it wasn't ripped out of the wall. I saw for myself that the phone cord had been cut. Why did you do that?" He said, "Because we didn't want her to call for help." They didn't want anybody there. They wanted to make an example of this lady and her son. Of other families that they could have chosen to do the same thing to, they picked the most vulnerable, the people that were least able. There was no man in the family. So, you know –

MK: A widow and an emotional –

FS: A widow and an emotionally dependent son. They did it on purpose. Her house, of all the houses in the area, it'll be five, maybe ten years down the road before anything's done there. So, we're looking at a long, long time. Across the street from her, Weiss Brothers have their

construction area. A trailer said the utilities – there wasn't any need to cut the utilities or to change the utilities in any way. The road couldn't be blocked off because the Weiss Brothers Construction Company were using it. There was absolutely no rhyme or reason, except, as they said in the affidavit, that Barbara was setting a bad example for other people.

MK: Because she wouldn't deal with them.

FS: Because she wouldn't deal with them and because she wouldn't leave. On the one hand, when they say – and this has been a constant battle between us and the Corps. They say, "Well, she's already lived there, what, three years. We've let her live there, three years." We have let her live in her own house, mind you, for three years. We, on the other hand, say, "Yes, but it'll be another five years or so before you need that property."

MK: What will they need it for eventually?

FS: It's in the Recreation Area.

MK: Means?

FS: Means they don't really need it, but they don't want her there. To quote the DNR, "She is an undesirable encroachment on their recreation complex."

MK: They said that?

FS: Absolutely.

MK: Where?

FS: In writing. The DNR wants the Corps to buy out all the extra land that they can because they don't want people like me living on the edge of the project. They consider us undesirable encroachment. That's why they won't even consider the idea of Barbara being allowed to live there even after the project's completed. Mind you, we're talking about a recreation complex. There's no cabins or lodges. We're talking about campgrounds and some concession stands. That's all there is with this recreation complex. It's not Pipestem where you have a big lodge and facilities like that.

MK: Well, will the land be used for hunting?

FS: [affirmative] But it is now. I mean, Barbara begs people to come in and hunt on her – because she has a nursery and a garden, and the animals need to be controlled. So, this situation isn't any – won't be any different. You can see several houses around where they force the people to leave, but those houses are still standing there. They haven't needed them for several years. We've tried to make the Corps understand that as far as we're concerned and by law, under the Uniform Relocation Act, they have to do everything that they can do to ease the burden of people who are being relocated because of a federal project. In this area, where you're dealing with 65 percent of the people in this project area are over 65, so they were dealing with an

extremely elderly population. They were in the same position as Barbara. Only they chose to finally leave before they were thrown out. They're elderly. Another five years will retire Mr. (Hicks?) from farming period. I mean, it makes all the difference in his life, and they won't grant him that extra time. The tragedy of it is the land will just set there. Nothing happens to it except it's allowed to grow up. Where now, as long as Johnny's cutting the hay and planting crops, it encourages the wildlife. So, the DNR will want the people out. The land will grow up. Then they'll have to hire bulldozers to come in and brush hogs, to clear the land, and plant food for the deer population. That's happened in Braxton County. It's taken a lot of money to make the area the way it was when they made the people leave. That's tragedy. They explained it to me, beginning with [inaudible] in the dark. Because I was real concerned when John Provolt called the U.S. Attorney, that was the first thing he said, "Well, she got her money." She said she didn't get her money. I was afraid that maybe something wrong was going on. Of course, as soon as she called me that she would lose her pension, I said the same thing everybody else said, "I can't believe that you would lose your pension because you were forced to sell your home and got that money." But it's absolutely true. She received a letter yesterday. She said she lost it.

MK: Did the Corps know she was getting that pension?

FS: Yes. She explained that at some point to the Corps.

MK: You think they could have had any hand in alerting the –

FS: I'm not sure if they did or if it was publicity. You see, Barbara kept saying, "I didn't have any money." If she hadn't said that, then it wouldn't have become such an issue. It wouldn't have become an issue if Ron Donnell hadn't tried to cover his rear end, you know, by thinking, "Well, here, she was frauded or something by our attorney, and now I'm going to be the hero in this thing." That's why the whole thing became public. I really believe that she kept hoping all along, and other people had, that the project would be stopped. The money would be there. Give them back their money, and that would be the end of it. That's the way we wrote the deauthorizing bill that anybody that was in condemnation at the time – I mean, the whole thing was just simply dropped, and the title to their land was returned to the owner, to the original owner.

MK: Well, so, what happened on October 23rd?

FS: Civil rights were suspended in Lewis County. You know, when you deal with the Corps, after a while, you get sort of paranoid. So many things happened. You're not sure how much of it is coincidence and how much of it the Corps. Orchestrates. Because I've learned in the last, what, seven or eight years of this damn fight that there isn't anything that they wouldn't do to achieve their goals, if it's pitting neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother. Anything they can do, they'll do. They have absolutely no scruples, and moral considerations don't enter into anything. I will say that the fellow that was in charge on the local level was much more considerate than this new fellow. A lot of this is coming because Kline, who's down there now, just won't cut the landowner a break period.

MK: John Kline?

FS: [affirmative] He's just been really hostile. I was in Huntington. My mother had had surgery for cancer, and I had gone down there for the weekend. On Tuesday then – I was kind of planning to come home Tuesday evening anyway, but late Tuesday, my son called me and told me that they had evicted Barbara and Bobby in chains. I couldn't believe it. Because I thought that we had a guarantee from them that they wouldn't do just that thing. So, I came home and started calling around to find out exactly what had happened and pieced the story together the best I could. I talked to the sheriff's office. I talked to Barbara's relatives and watershed people that were trying to gather things out. Basically, what happened was Barbara and Bobby had gotten up that morning late. Barbara said she got down, put a pot of coffee on the stove – maybe she's told all this to you. You want me to – anyway, she put a pot of coffee on the stove and became aware then that someone was there. There was a knock on the door. She answered it, and it turned out to be the federal marshals. Bobby's main concern at the whole – at the time was simply for his dog. Because Donnell had told him before – at least, Bobby understood that the dog would be destroyed, and Bobby was afraid that they were going to kill his dog. First thing Donnell did was to come through and cut the telephone cord – that was his first act – so that they couldn't call for help. Bobby then kept saying, "You're not going to kill my dog. You're not going to kill my dog." One of the marshals pushed him down in a chair then. He just stood up, and he punched the guy in the shoulder. You know, he's not the world's heaviest-set young fellow, and the federal marshal wasn't the world's largest federal marshal. But you could never possibly look at these two people and see them as any kind of a violent threat. You just couldn't do it.

MK: I came down here, day before yesterday, preparing myself for what Bobby would look like. I thought, after how I heard these marshals treated him, that he must be a demented-looking, very threatening-looking person, maybe very feeble minded with a sort of a dangerous posture about him. But that's not what I found.

FS: No, and they had three guns in that house, Mike. They had rifles. They had shotguns. If they were going to be violent, these federal marshals wouldn't have gotten to the doorstep. If it hadn't been for him scaring Bobby about his dog, Bobby wouldn't have gotten "violent". He wouldn't have taken a swing at him. It's probably the only person Bob Heavner has ever hit in his entire life.

MK: Can you tell me a little bit more about Bob, what you know of him?

FS: Yes. He's 23. He's just got real close ties to home. Partly because his father is dead, and his mother depends on him. But you never hear Bobby without Barbara or Barbara without Bobby. Barbara belongs to my Home Demonstration Club, and Bobby belongs to our Home Demonstration Club. They go everywhere together. They do everything together. They're never separated apart. Bobby did work at – last summer, maybe the summer before he worked on that summer youth project. He did leave Barbara and worked out like that during the summer. But he's just extremely dependent on her. I don't know how to say this without – you know, I don't want to be denigrating to him. So, I just leave it up to you to do – use it however you – I mean, I know how you feel about the same situation, labeling people and stuff, but Bobby isn't able to live out on his own by himself. He doesn't drive a car. He had an accident, and he was

physically hurt. So, he's not real strong – he's not strong physically, and he's not strong mentally. But because they live in a community, and everybody knows Barbara and Bobby, you know, they were able to get along just great. She had her regular customers, you know, people that came and dealt with her, year after year. She had her regular markets where she, you know, could market her stuff. Bobby was real involved with FFA in school when he was in a vo ag program and did extremely well in it. So, they were really competent – if you took Barbara and Bobby Heavner and put them in downtown Charleston to live somewhere, people would think that they were strange. But they're not strange – you know, they're not that strange around here. Everybody knows their limitations and their idiosyncrasies, and you just take that into account when you're dealing with them. Barbara can't drive at night. So, you know, in order to get to meetings and things at night, she'd ride with my family. So, you just made sure Barbara got a ride if it was something to do with the watershed or whatever.

MK: How would you describe the way Bobby looks? What does he look like?

FS: Who is it, Michael, that does these – the prints of the farmer and his wife standing there holding a pitchfork? You know that "American Gothic"? That's Bobby Heavner. He's tall.

MK: He's a rural Gothic person.

FS: Absolutely. He's tall, but he's real thin and long legged and long jointed. He talks a lot like that Festus character on the old *Andy Griffith Show*. You know, he's got that kind of speech. But you can't find anybody clear on dates and details than those two. They've got remarkable memories. I mean, Barbara can tell you what the weather was like on a specific day of a year. I mean, they're really incredible when it comes to those kinds of details. You just couldn't look at this kid and visualize him as any kind of a violent threat. I mean, and had they not provoked him as badly as they did, he would never have done anything, I don't believe. But I mean, he was worried about his dog because they thought he was going to kill – you know, he thought the marshals were going to kill his dog. That's what he was the most concerned about at that time. Barbara told me, you know, they wrestled him to the ground and put the handcuffs and the chain around – put the handcuffs on him and a chain around his waist. She said they told him that he had to kneel. They wanted him to sit there and kneel. He's got a bad leg, and he told him he couldn't do that. They just wouldn't listen. But I saw him afterwards, and he does – he had bruises up and down both arms, and he had a black eye. Then it was ludicrous to think of them putting chains and handcuffs on Bobby. But to think of them doing it to Barbara, I mean, she couldn't be -- she couldn't weigh more than 110 pounds, I don't believe. There were three of them. There were two men and a woman. There was a matron there. Coming through Weston on their way, Federal Marshal Greenaway told me that he finally talked Donnell into calling the state police. Donnell refused to call the sheriff's office. He finally talked him into calling the state police. But they didn't bother to wait until the state police got there to do anything. By the time the state police got there, they had already done – you know.

MK: Donnell was directing the raid.

FS: Right. The raid [laughter], yes. The eviction. He's the head Marshal or whatever. Anyway, he's just Greenaway's. Of course, Greenaway tried to make out like he didn't approve

of the way the whole thing was handled. He admitted that to me. I asked him flat out. I said, "Well, how did the telephone cord get cut?" He said, "I don't know." He said, "Mrs. Heavner asked me – she told me that she wanted to call her attorney. I went in to check out the telephone." I said, "Well, why did you feel the necessity to check out the telephone if you didn't think something had happened to it. I mean, obviously it was her phone. She knew it was in working order." He said, "Well, I had to check to make sure there weren't scissors or a knife or some weapon that they could use to hurt us." I said, "I think that's ludicrous." I mean, they searched their clothing. They treated them just like some kind of murder criminal. They told them they were under arrest but didn't tell them what they were under arrest for. They just came in and said, "You're under arrest." We know a fellow up in Upshur County who's Yugoslavian. He was a freedom fighter during the war, worked – fought with the underground. He was telling my husband, he said, "This is the way it happened there. This is just the kind of thing that they do there." You know, they use unnecessary force, scare people half to death. Cutting the telephone was, in my mind, one of the worst things that they did. Because it's all it would have taken was any of the neighbors to have been there, and the whole situation would have been different. But they didn't want witnesses. They didn't want her neighbors there. They didn't want her attorney there. They didn't want the state police there. They didn't want the sheriff there. Even a criminal, you sat there and read their rights to them. You know, they didn't even bother to do that with them. They told them, in effect, that they didn't have any rights and weren't going to let them get dressed. Bobby told me that he said, "Well, we're not decent to go in public." The federal marshal told him they weren't going in public. I mean, anything they could do to make the situation brutal is what they did. They wanted to set an example of these people, and they set an example of them. Only I think they set the wrong example. Because I think it's going to do nothing but encourage people to be that much stronger. You're not going to do to me what you did to Barbara and Bobby Heavner. Again, the bottom line was that there wasn't any necessity for any of it. She's not in the way of construction. She's not in the way of the water. They're two harmless people, and they just should have left them the hell alone. They just didn't have the right to do what they did to them. I understand, and I verified a lot of this from talking to the sheriff's people, that even after they got them to jail, they didn't take the chains and handcuffs off and weren't going to let them make any phone calls. It was only because the sheriff's deputy removed the chains and the handcuffs. Barbara told me – did she tell you she was going up the stairs, and the chain fell off? She said, "I just stepped out of it." Of course they put it back on her. But they were terribly frightened. The sheriff told me, you know, when he got there – because by this time when the sheriff got there, it was afternoon and had nothing to eat all day. He had food fixed for them. Of course, Barbara said she was too upset to eat. So, they were just pathetic, you know, to see the two of them like that in that situation is just pathetic. Then after I had found out everything that I could find out about what happened, I then got on the phone and called Colonel – first I called another fellow – his name that I cannot remember it right now and have to look it up – that was in the Real Estate Division. Well, he didn't know anything about it, you know, that same story. Well, I dealt with the Corps long enough that I know exactly who to get a hold of. So, I made him give me Colonel Wilson's home phone number. Colonel Wilson is in charge of the Huntington District of the Corps of Engineers, and it's the Huntington District who's in charge of the real estate acquisition. So, I called Colonel Wilson. Well, he was well aware of everything that was going on. He just had his facts wrong. But he knew that this was going to happen. He told me that he had instructed them to have a moving company there and that everything was to be taken out but the walls. He

told me that the sheriff's office was overseeing the eviction. The sheriff's office knew absolutely nothing about it. The federal marshal told me that the Corps left it up to the court to decide what to do with Barber's property and that at first they were going to put it out in the street. They were just going to take everything out of the house and put it out on the road, which is what they do in the D.C. area, which they have control of. According to this particular Marshal, it was because of him and a few others said, "Well, you can't do that. Let's, you know, get a moving company and have her stuff put in storage." So, you see, got all kinds of conflicting stories about who did what to whom. I told Colonel Wilson that all I wanted was a guarantee from him that the house would not be destroyed until all of her belongings were out. Because Barbara's relatives had been told, and the movers later verified to me, that they were told to pack up what they deemed valuable. There was a Corps employee sitting on a bulldozer ready to destroy the property. The only thing that kept the house from being destroyed that same evening was the fact that the idiot federal marshal left, the Corps employee left, and the movers were not supposed to be there without the federal marshal being there. So, they left. Otherwise, they would have packed up what they deem valuable, and the house would have been bulldozed that same Tuesday night.

MK: Which federal marshal was it that was overseeing the eviction?

FS: Ron Donnell.

MK: Oh, he was.

FS: Right. The next day – kind of disjointed, but I couldn't get Colonel Wilson to positively agree that the house would not be bulldozed until we got the rest of her belongings out. He kept telling me that they had been instructed to remove her belongings, but when, in fact, the court was the one that was overseeing the eviction, the federal court in Elkins. The Corps supposedly had nothing to do with it. The same time, then I got a hold of people from Bob Wise's office. Then the following morning, they began calling the Corps to ensure the same thing. Friends and neighbors came in Tuesday night and tried to get as much out as we could get out ourselves until the movers had said that they wouldn't move anything that was still connected. So, they unplugged the refrigerator, unhooked the hot water tank, you know, the big appliances, so that the movers at least would move them out and started taking what they could from the outbuildings. But it was just an overwhelming thing to do, you know, try to get all her stuff moved out before morning. Then the following morning then, Wednesday morning, I called Colonel Rothblum – he's the new colonel in Pittsburgh – and apprised him of the situation. He knew nothing about any of it. I told him I felt, since the Pittsburgh district was overall in charge of this project, that they really ought to know what's going on and that these tactics just were horrible. He in turn then said he would get back with me. Wilson was to get back with us. Bob Wise's office did get through to them. In the meantime, my husband went down, Wednesday morning, to Barbara's house to make sure that the bulldozers weren't going to run until, you know, they got their – whatever they had to get from the Corps. When he got down there, he'd been down there, Channel 5 television station was there. He stopped and talked to those people for a bit. Then all of a sudden, two state policemen showed up that they had had word that there was some kind of a disturbance. Well, Matt didn't think too much of that. He chatted with the state police for a while. In the meantime, I was home on the telephone to the Corps personnel,

and I got a call from Sheriff Hall. He had had a report that my husband and Joe Grant, another watershed person, were at Barbara, keeping the movers from packing up her belongings. So, not more than two minutes later, my husband pulled into the driveway. I said, "What's going on at Barbara's?" He said, "Well, nothing. Nobody was down there but Channel 5." I said, "Well, the sheriff's office got a report that you and Joe Grant were down there keeping the moving company from packing up." Of course, Sheriff Hall came out to check the situation out. He didn't tell me who had made the complaint. On the record, he didn't tell me. But I'm positive that it was the Corps had called him with this big, wild story about all this stuff that was going on that wasn't going on. So, of course, Sheriff Hall was extremely angry that he had to take time out to drive up there. Colonel Wilson then, in the meantime, called back and said that there was somebody from the federal court who was coming over to oversee the moving of Barbara's things and that the House would not be bulldozed. We'd explain to him that the road was horribly muddy and was just impossible to get trucks up to the house to move stuff out. The moving van was already up there, and the dozer, and that we needed some time for things to dry up and whatnot, so we could get all her belongings out. He agreed to a reasonable time. I then called John Kline to make sure that he had gotten his orders from Colonel Wilson. Well, he said that he had. They're so often deaf and dumb, you just have to make sure of these things. Then Sheriff Hall then had talked to the federal marshal and arranged for me to be there and some of his deputies and the federal marshal and the moving people to see if we could get some of the things out that Barbara would need right away. I mean, they had no clothing. She didn't ever winter coat. She didn't have her medicine. She didn't have any of her papers. You know, things that she needed to live on in the meantime, until she could get another place, she didn't have any of that. Ralph Hall saw that. That all went smoothly then. The one federal marshal who had been in on the eviction, this Greenaway, came back and – I don't know if you've ever – I spent the day between I didn't know whether to cry or to throw up. But to go through somebody's personal possessions like that, looking for what, looking for clothes for her to wear, trying to find her personal papers, that was awful. That was the worst thing I've ever been involved in in my life, just a total – you just felt awful, was just a total lack of – it was just an invasion of privacy. You wouldn't even go into a good friend's home, you know, and sit down maybe and wait for them or do anything like that. Here we are, a federal marshal, a sheriff, deputies, and moving company people commenting on this woman's personal belongings. You know, the moving company people would say, "Well, what do you think? Should we pack this stuff up in the pantry?" "Or what about this pile of newspapers? Doesn't seem like much to me. Should we pack that? Oh, she must have had 20 pairs of shoes there, or she did –" it was just sickening, just beyond – I can't even explain how horrible it made a person feel. But, I mean, if I hadn't done it, then she wouldn't have anything. Everything would have gone to Shinnston, and she wouldn't have had any of her clothing or – and the things that we picked, of course, weren't – I mean, we end up getting – what the movers did was they went in each room with big boxes, and they just put everything in that room into boxes. There was no order to anything they packed. They just started putting stuff in big boxes, and that box would be marked living room or master bedroom or kitchen. So, you really didn't know what was in any of the boxes, only that you knew what room that they had stuff come out of. So, it was just a monumental task trying to find their clothes. Well, as it turned out, you know, some of the clothes that were in Barbara's closet weren't the clothes that she was wearing. She had her good stuff stored in a closet in another room, which we didn't get. Poor Bobby never did find his underwear. We never did get his checks, his personal checks, and things like that. We never did find them wherever they had gotten packed. I did find a file cabinet that I



hoped had her personal papers in. All of her bills, everything that was due, you know, all of her monthly bills, the kind of thing she had on the mantle in the living room, or she had out on the dining room table, we never found that stuff. So, she has to go through all that business about, you know, getting bills sent to her again. Sure, on the one hand, you can argue that she knew this was coming. I mean, that's what the Corps kept saying. She knew this was going to happen to her. But she didn't really know that. Because she never believed that it was going to happen to her. She wasn't alone, Michael. A lot of our people, until it actually hit – I mean, after forty years of hearing about this thing, you know, the dam is going to be built, the dam is going to be built; people, at first didn't believe it. Even after the construction started, there was always that hope that it would be stopped, and they wouldn't have to leave. So, until you're out, you never really do believe it. Even if it wasn't Barbara believing, it wasn't what God wanted her to do, facing up to the idea that you had to leave your home and everything that you cared about in the world for a state park, I mean, it's beyond your comprehension. You just can't face up to it. Some people have done better than other people. But one of these days, I'm going to sit down and tally up the death count. Because right around Barbara, there were two old fellows who lived in a trailer within a stone's throw of Barbara's place. They were condemned and forced to leave. They didn't live out the year.

MK: What was their name?

FS: George and Teddy Bond.

MK: Tell me a little bit about that.

FS: George and Teddy, their family were one of the original settlers of the Roanoke area. George and Teddy Bond were two brothers who lived together. They lived in a small trailer. They had a nice barn there, and they had Jersey milk cows. I think both of them had served in service. George had a had a discharge, a conscientious objector kind of discharge, I think, from the service. My husband's 38 years old. He said that George and Teddy seemed like they were old when he was a boy. But they were up in their 70s. George had this long white beard and white hair and blue eyes that just looked like they were shining all the time. Just two of them – of the nicest, most decent old men you can ever imagine. They milked their cows, and they sold butter and cottage cheese and things like that for extra money, you know. They raised a big garden and had free gas, like a whole lot of other people that got along just great on a little bit because of where we live. So, of course, they were like everybody else and thought that it would never happen. They'd never have to leave. Eventually, the court condemned the property and told them they had to leave. They moved into a house in town, I think, near a brother of theirs. But within a year, both George and Teddy were dead. Another story, another lady that lived in the area, Annie Hefner, 92, years old at the time when the project geared up. She lived in her house with the help of a lady from the state hospital who was out on a work program that they had. This lady from the state hospital lived in and cared for Annie. Annie had one son who lived in some state somewhere else, whom she had signed her house over to already, unfortunately. Well, several times the neighbor people had kept – she was old, and she was sick. Her only desire was to be allowed to die in her own home. Well, they came one day. They put her under sedation. They took her and put her in a rest home. I think she might have lived two weeks after that. I mean, she was going to die anyway. That house stood there, I know, two

years, maybe three years after she died. They didn't need it. They've never touched that property. Nothing has ever happened to that property. There wasn't any reason in the world why she had to leave that. Two or three more years, she would have been dead. She would have had her one wish, to die in her own home, the only home she ever knew. Jack and – I was telling you before about Louie and Beth Langer, friends of ours who live over there. Louie's mom died a few years ago of a heart problem. Elinor, she was probably as closely tied to the land as any woman I know. She fished. She collected rocks. She collected arrowheads. She just had one fantastic collection, arrow heads. Her kids were grown. You know, most of her farm work was done, except for canning and keeping the garden. That's what she spent her time doing was that kind of stuff. She lived in absolute terror of this project. She wouldn't even put the radio on for fear that she'd hear something about the dam. So, after some of the other of us became involved in the dam fight, hers was one of the homes that we could take people to and say, "This is the way we live. This is the kind of people we are, and this is what's going to happen to us." She had a magnificent house that sits up on a little hill overlooking Skin Creek. The house is well over 100 years old and has the original poplar paneling in it, you know, all wooden paneling and fireplaces in all the rooms and just a beautiful old farmhouse. One evening, we had a watershed meeting. We had hired an attorney from Washington, D.C. who was going to undertake a lawsuit for us. We all had dinner together at Jack and Elinor's house. Then we went to the meeting. She watched my kids. Came home, picked up my kids, and she never woke up that night. She died. She was late 50s, early 60s. It was the strain. I mean, you know, eventually, yes, she might have had a bad heart, and she was going to die anyway. But the strain of going through what she'd gone through just hastened her death. I mean, she just internalized everything. She lived in fear. She swore to me one day, she said, "They can cut my electric, and they can cut the telephone. They can do whatever they want, but I'm not going to leave here." We had another lady, within a week, I believe, of Elinor, that died, that had extremely high blood pressure, (Ellen Senate?). Her doctors told her that she couldn't go on, you know, living with that kind of tension. Ellen Senate had gotten up at the first land acquisition meeting in Weston and had gotten up and asked the Corps. She said, "I just want to know. Are you going to shoot me, or are you going to drown me?" This Colonel idiot – I forget which one it was. We've had four or five of them since the project started. I forget which one it was at that time. He said, "Well, we're not going to do either." She said, "Well, you're either going to have to shoot me, or you're going to have to drown me. Because I'm not going to leave."

MK: Who was that again?

FS: Ellen Senate. She was in her 40s, and she had high blood pressure. Her doctors told her that it was going to kill her. She couldn't – that kind of tension, that kind of strain, that kind of emotion was bad for her. But then she – you know, what are you going to do? Government didn't give a damn. She died within a week of Elinor Langer. Those are just ones that come, you know, readily to my mind. I don't know how many there have been, but there have been an awful lot of people's lives who – people – it's not that they weren't ill or that they weren't going to die, it's that they could have lived a lot longer, you know, without the worry of this project hanging over their heads. These people aren't mobile. They're not the kind to pick up and go from job to job. Most of them were older, and they're just established in a rural environment. You might have – in our family, you know, there were several relatives that all lived around each other. There was a lady that lived up Canoe Run here, whose property wasn't taken by the

Corps, but her son and his wife had to leave. Well, Clara was in her 80s, and she lived alone in the house. Because every day, Jim could come up and check on her, and her family was close. Well, when Jim and Marie left, Clara had to leave too. So, they put her in a trailer there on property that they bought. But it was never the same for her. She's been unhappy ever since. So, it wasn't just – you know, it didn't affect just Jim and Marie who lived there, but it affected, you know, their family around them too. So, it is really hard to tell, if you wanted to get into numbers, actually, how many people altogether were affected by this project.

MK: But the dynamics, the social dynamics in a rural community are – it sounds, from the way you're telling it, that these things are very fragile, but that they work.

FS: Oh, yes, they work. That's why you have communities. That's why people live in communities. You know, we don't have a tractor. We didn't have a big tractor or any haymaking equipment, but George and Ruth (Post?) down the road did. George was in his 70s. George couldn't get up and fix his roof anymore. So, my husband would do repairs on George and Ruth's place. In return, we'd had the use of their tractor, you know, and their farm equipment that we couldn't afford to buy. Well, we don't have them anymore. I mean, there's nobody now that lives between us and the school at Roanoke, which is going to be moved soon too. So, it means, you know, if I'm in town and I'm late coming back, I could call Ruth and say, "Would you get the kids off the school bus and keep them there until I get home?" You don't have any of that. You know, the kids have to walk a half mile to get onto the school bus. If the weather was bad, they waited inside at George and Ruth's. They don't have that anymore. I mean, there's probably a million things like that that we could talk about that you lose when you lose the community. What do we get in its place? What's the quote that the Corps uses? The Corps has a quote, an environmental impact statement. It says, "Small rural towns and scattered farms will give way to a large transient population looking for recreation and relaxation." Well, I mean, who wants to raise their children with a large transient population looking for recreation and relaxation? I mean, how much better to raise your child with older people that have a value system that your kids can identify with and learn from. You could talk to George Post, and he'd tell my kids that he knew their great grandfather. He could tell them stories about their great grandfather and their great-great-great-grandfather even. That gives stability to children. That gives the continuity to life to them. All that's gone.

MK: Well, what finally happened to Barbara and Bobby's house? What's going on in that part of it?

FS: Well, I can't really give you an eyewitness account of what happened because the Corps blocked the road with a huge pile of dirt, so nobody could get down there. At some time – because they didn't bother to tell anybody they were doing it. But at some point, the house was bulldozed. Everything was pushed into the basement. Dirt was piled over on top of it. There were other things that we had wanted to get out of there. I assumed, by a reasonable amount of time, they'd give us a few weeks anyway. I don't know exactly when it happened because they've [inaudible]. They might have come in the middle of the night to do it. That's usually when those kinds of actions take place, aren't they? Ku Klux Klan kind of things. So, the house was bulldozed. We still have – she still has potatoes in the ground that we need to help her get out as soon as the weather dries up. She has some coal and some wood and her nursery stock to

get out of there. But they wanted to make sure that Barbara and Bobby couldn't return to the house. That's why they did that. They bulldozed that rapidly. But now, mind you, other houses all around there that are still standing, that weren't bulldozed down.

MK: With people living in them.

FS: Yes, some with people living in them but some standing empty that weren't bulldozed down. The only reason theirs was bulldozed down was because that was part of making an example. They wanted to frighten people. This is what's going to happen if you don't cooperate with us.

MK: We claim to be a God-fearing Christian nation. Yet here was a woman who said, "There is a higher power in my life than the Corps or the courts or any other social agency. There's a higher power in my life that has asked me to be a steward of this land and who has control over what I do." This seemed to be the thing that scared the Corps and the courts, Judge Maxwell and all the big politicians. This was perhaps the greatest threat of all to them to be told that there was a Supreme Being.

FS: Yes, that could very well be. Barbara told me one time, and that was a really fascinating point of view. She believed what they were doing to her, not only was in violation of God's will, but was also in violation of the Constitution. Because the Constitution guaranteed her the right to practice her religious beliefs as she saw fit, and that by removing her, they were in fact saying that your religious beliefs don't count, that you can't do that. So, she really kind of viewed it, you know, along the lines that they were violating her constitutional right to do that.

MK: Well, her religious beliefs were all tied up in this piece of property too, in the land itself, which she saw herself as being the steward of this land, which had been in her husband's family for who knows how long. The nursery business, I guess, was started back in the last century.

FS: Yes. I think Barbara's husband's family were some of the original settlers in the area that settled the Roanoke area, the Heavners and the Bonds, my husband's family, the Posts, the Arnolds.

MK: So, what are Barbara's prospects now? She's living with her old father, is she?

FS: Yes. Her father's elderly and not well. There's an elderly aunt living there, not well.

MK: It's in town?

FS: It's outside of town. It's not right in town. Her prospects – Barbara tells me the Corps relocation lady or one of them had been trying to talk her into moving into an apartment in town or into the high rise, you know, federally subsidized housing in town. Well, there's no way that they – that she and Bobby could do that and get along. I mean, Bobby's future was in the nursery. That was something that he that he could succeed at and that he was very able in. Hopefully, we'll be able to find them a piece of ground someplace and – when the government will allow them to take out their nursery stock and have something to be able to start over on. It's going to be tough.

MK: How many bedrooms are there where she's staying now?

FS: I don't know, Michael.

MK: You haven't seen the house?

FS: No, I don't think they're really pressed for room. I don't think that's as much a problem as three different families in one – you know, three different families, and you know how older people are set in their ways and difficult. It's difficult living there like that. It's just not their lifestyle. It's not what they're used to. She and Bobby had lived by themselves for several years and had their own ways of doing things. Her dad has his own ways. I know she told me that meals are real structured in her dad's house. You have to eat, you know – lunch is ready, say, at 12:00. You've got to eat at 12:00. It's the little things that make your life your life, you know, that she's lacking. She and Bobby are great listeners to the radio. Bobby is a real devotee of the tape recorder. He tapes everything. He's taped, probably a whole lot of stuff on the dam issue. He tapes President speeches. They like to stay up late and watch the late news. They can't do that there. But they've been coming out as often as they can, trying to get some of their nursery stock. I really am worried about that. This is exactly the way the Corps operates. You know, our place was condemned at the same time as Barbara's, and we simply maintained that we'd be glad to leave if they relocated us. But there's no way to relocate. You find us another pine – another 80 acres of pine patch along the river, you know, doing what we were doing, and we'd take our cattle off. But of course, they couldn't do that and weren't willing to do that. We didn't see any need to take our cattle off. But the contractors came in to do some gas well relocation, and they kept cutting the fences faster – they cut them faster than we could rebuild them. Then they'd cut cherry trees and leave them laying around. Of course, wilted cherry is poisonous to cattle. Then they got a court order to make us leave and won't let us – wouldn't let us use any of the pine. Now, mind you, this pine trees are going to be cut. I mean, you know, they're going to be cut because it's in the water area. So, they're absolutely worthless to anybody but us. Because we make, you know, oh, I don't know – maybe a fourth of our income comes from those pine trees. Of course, like I say, any way to put the pressure on you to make it – to make you cooperate with them more. So, they will not let us have the right to shear those pine trees. I mean, all it does is improve the pine to shear them, right? But they won't let us do it. They condemned our – you know, we filed a lawsuit through West Virginia legal services. Because we felt the Corps wasn't following federal law in dredging and filling in the river and getting – you know, their whole procedure was all screwed up. So, we were parties to a lawsuit. It was just after the lawsuit that was filed that we were condemned a little ahead of schedule. The court commented on that. The decision came down in our favor with the Supreme Court, and Justice McGraw commented on the fact that it seemed like that they had condemned us, you know, for the sheer sole reason of trying to get us to back out that lawsuit. It didn't work though. It got to be a standard joke, I guess, if you want to call it that, a saying around a lot of our people. Now, we talk about wanting to do this and wanting to do that. Somebody would say, "Well, you can't do that. The Corps won't let you do that, or the Corps won't let you do that. Or you're not supposed to do this." We'd laugh. We'd just look at them and say, "You know, my husband said, 'I thought – a long time, I thought the very worst thing they could do to me was to take the farm. Once they took the farm, they had done the worst thing they could do.'" So, our people

would say, "What are they going to do? Take our farm? They're going to take your home away from you? What can they do?" They've already done their very worst. Putting you in jail or anything else they want to do to you doesn't compare with taking away something that you care a lot about, destroying your community, and changing your whole lifestyle.

MK: I heard you comment before that there was some very old timey qualities about this community because of the fact that the dam had been a threat for months.

FS: For so long, right. See, the project really started back – even as back as the – far back as the twenties, they talked about a main stem dam on the West Fork River. Then in the thirties, one was authorized. Then it had to be deauthorized. But it was in Harrison County. Well, Harrison County didn't want the dam. They thought about building it at West, and West didn't want the dam. So, you know, they pushed it as far upstream as they possibly could. So, for well over forty years, people have heard about nothing but this dam. Periodically, the dam fight would heat up. You know, the Corps would make a move to come in, and they would tell people, "There isn't any sense to build a new barn because the dam is going to be built. Or there isn't any sense to replace fence because the dam is going to be built." Consequently, the log barns were repaired instead of them being destroyed and new wooden ones built. The old houses were repaired, instead of newer, modern homes being built. So, the project was authorized in 1966. According to law, the Corps was supposed to have done a historic resource evaluation to determine what historic resources were here in the area. They should have done it in advance of the project, because they might have been able or might have been forced to, at that time, even redesign the project, to have saved some of these structures. Well, the Corps didn't bother to do that. It wasn't until in the seventies, we were finally able to force them – of course, the project was – land acquisition had already begun, and the project was underway. We were finally able to force them to hire a historic consulting firm out of Michigan. They did a historic evaluation of this whole area, and they were amazed. They were just amazed at the wealth of things that were here, from so many log buildings – doggone, near every farm in this area has a log barn or a log building on it, these a hundred and hundred-fifty-year-old log homes, barns with unique kinds of construction. The gas company was – or gas industry and oil industry were real big in this county, early in the 1900s. I guess a lot of construction – the bridges were built with scraps from the oil and gas well industry, you know, unique things like that. That particular firm came up with the recommendation that there were twenty-three sites, individual sites, and three entire districts that they believed were eligible for the National Register. The Corps then fought that every step of the way. It's been a battle between the Corps and the historic people. Eventually, the outcome of that whole business is we're going to be able to save one building, one log building that was the original post office in Roanoke. I think the people, old people, told me that Rutherford B. Hayes had even stopped there. It had been visited by presidents, visited by both sides of the Civil War. Union troops have been there. Confederate troops have been there. They are going to move that structure, and all the rest of them are going to be offered for public auction. It has to be bought by a nonprofit organization. If nobody wants them, then they're going to be documented and destroyed. Such a waste.

MK: Real material, culture, gold mine.

FS: Yes. It's like if you think of children even that live in, say, Huntington and Charleston Park

or (Spark?), they sit in their little classrooms. They read about Abe Lincoln and his log cabin and stuff. Well, you know what, our kids lived with it. You know, right down from the school was a log cabin that, you know, was probably real similar to the kind of cabin Abe Lincoln grew up in. This area was a living history for these – for the kids that live here. Now, their history has become one – it took me close to two years fighting and finally got help from the state attorney general's office to get the Corps to bury the rubble and smooth out the Roanoke area. Because it was going to be several years until the school was moved. So, day in and day out, those kids got to travel through a town being torn down around them. It was like a war zone. My little girl's in the fifth grade. That's all she's known from Roanoke. That's all she can remember now, is construction and destruction. You know, from our house to the school, that's all that she's seen. Her house is being torn down, bulldozers running day in and day out. Those kids listen to those dozers running up on the hill behind them, where a road's being built. So, the least that the Corps could have done was, you know, the houses that were torn down, the materials salvaged from them. Anything that wasn't salvageable was left to lie. Well, you could imagine some of the things that people probably had in their basements and garages, everything from rat poisons to pesticides. A lot of stuff was just left. The water would get up a little bit from the river in Roanoke, and some of that would wash into the river. These kids had to live with that mess. That took me two years until finally, the Attorney General's Office put enough pressure on the Corps that they hired dozers to come in and bulldoze most of the rubble down. I mean, there were, you know, basements, foundations that kids were falling in and getting hurt. Two years, it took me just to get them to start cleaning up their mess. They didn't give a damn about the kids that went to school here. That's the way this project has been. Every small thing that you think that they would do just simply out of consideration for the area and the people who live here. Nothing's done by themselves. You have to fight them every step of the way. You have to fight them through lawyers. You have to fight them through the courts. You have to fight them through federal agencies. You have to fight them through state agencies. I mean, we've devoted, you know, half of our married life to fighting the Corps just to get done what they should be doing anyway. They came in here. They're supposed to have an orderly land acquisition plan, supposed to be published. You know, they're supposed to acquire property in a block. They're supposed to have a schedule, so people have some idea of what's going to happen, you know, to that – in the future, so they can make plans. They're supposed to provide relocation assistance. They're supposed to even provide psychological counseling. They've not done any of that. They came in, and they used segregation as blockbusting tactics, you know, where they'd pay one person in the area a whole bunch of money, one person in, say, you know, one small little area, a whole bunch of money for their property. Other people would get paid absolutely nothing. They'd pick on the widows – widows went first – and the poor people. Their first land acquisition, first piece of property they bought, they had a big show on the steps of the courthouse presenting this check to the landowner. The landowner who happened to be a pitiful old soul who got the farm for \$1 for living with an elderly man, you know, taking care of him until the man died. This other fellow got the property for \$1. It was well over 100 acres and a house and free gas, and it was 30-some thousand dollars. They really thought that was going to inspire people to sell. You know, they were real proud of it. Then press all around. It was just, you know, hit and miss there. Anybody that was – that they conceived of was weak until – those people that were holding out were left all alone. You know, their neighbors were moved out all around them. Then eventually, when they saw that it was hopeless and – you know, you live in a town like Roanoke. You see all that bulldozing going on around you. You live in that – you

know, midst of all that rubble. There's no store. There's no store between Weston and Walkersville now. There used to be a little corner – or not a corner, but up Route 19, there used to be a grocery store and a gas station. Now, there's nothing between Weston and Walkersville. So, those of us who live in the middle, I mean, if you need a, you know, quart of milk or a loaf of bread, you have to travel 12 or 15 miles to get anything. So, anything they could do to make life living here a lot tougher on you, they did it. Until you got to the point of Barbara Heavner, where only a few people left. Well, she was willing. She lived around all the construction. She lived with roads never being repaired, you know, bad roads. She lived with the loss of her immediate neighbors, but she was willing to leave anyway, if they had let her stay. There were a lot of people like that. I mean, they would have lived without electricity, Michael, if they would have let them stay. But they absolutely refuse to even consider such a notion.

MK: Where do you suppose the attitudes that they have exhibited toward you all, where do those attitudes come from? It seems that they think you're less than human, right?

FS: Yes.

MK: Is that from watching the *Beverly Hillbillies* on TV? Do you think? Or what is it? Where do those ideas come from?

FS: I think it's because they – the Corps of Engineers is one of the largest bureaucracies in the country. It's a department of the Army, but there are very few military – that they are the federal government, not the people. The people aren't the federal government. They say that kind of thing over and over again. We had hearings in Charleston during the legislative session one year, and one of the state senators asked Corps personnel why they were buying so much land. I mean, they're buying 21,000 acres, and at flood pool, the lake is only 3450 acres. So, they're taking an incredible amount of land that they don't have any need for as far as flood control goes. This fellow, name is Thompson from the Real Estate Division in Huntington, his response was, "Well, some of these people wouldn't have access in and out of the project area." The senator said, "Well, you'll be building roads for the park, won't you, or using existing roads for, you know, for the tourists." The fellow said, "Yes." He said, "Well, why can't they use those roads?" "We won't let them use the federal government's roads. I mean, even though it meant that they could live there and not have to be relocated, simply travel on a road, you know, that was designed for the tourists, they were taken. They were relocated. That's their philosophy. They don't have any respect for the landowner. They don't have any respect for individual rights. You know, your right to own property is not sacred to the Corps. It's the Corps' right to take your property. In a federal project, the R.D. Bailey dam in Wyoming and Mingo County, I believe it is – Wyoming County, at any rate – one of the big paper companies had a lawsuit against the Corps because they were taking thousands of acres of land for recreation. It went before a federal judge. During the process of the trial, the judge said, "You know, you're taking a lot of this land for recreation." The Corps' attorney said, "Yes." The judge said, "I'm not sure you can do that. I'm not sure that you could condemn all this extra acreage just for recreation." The Corps' attorneys' response was, "Judge, if the Corps of Engineers wanted to condemn the entire state of West Virginia, they could do it." That's their philosophy. You know, they're an entity unto themselves, responsible to very few. Now nobody seems to have any control over the Corps of Engineers. They just pretty much damn well do what they please. They interpret laws



the way they want to interpret them. It has nothing to do with the intent of Congress.

MK: I suppose local and state politicians are very anxious to get that kind of money, that kind of cash flow coming into a county.

FS: Yes, but, you know, I think this whole idea of why legislators and congressmen want federal projects isn't right. I mean, the idea of getting a big federal project in your area because it creates jobs, that's not why it's done. You get big construction projects in your district because the people that own the construction companies and the utility people who benefit, want the project. They're the people that are in control. They're the people that keep these politicians in office. It's not the five and the \$10 that the lady down the road contributes. It's all the money that's channeled, you know, and all the things that – all the kinds of perks that the congressmen and the senators get via these big companies, and the power, you know, makes a congressman feel real powerful. As far as benefiting the local are, that's not why they – that's not why they approve. We proved time and time again to Senator Byrd that this project was wrong, that it wouldn't benefit the local people. The General Accounting Office proved that it was wrong, that the benefits the Corps said would materialize wouldn't materialize. That made no impression on Senator Byrd. So, that wasn't the reason he was endorsing the project. But you turn around and you take a look at Equitable Gas Company. I sat down and figured that all the money that equitable gas company was receiving from this project, and it totaled \$25 million from a \$250 million project. They got a brand-new compressor station that we paid for. They got new wells drill that we paid. Miles and miles of pipeline replaced, new gas well, roads built. I mean, it just made out – we're subsidizing Equitable Gas Company and then turn around and pay these horrendous gas bills anyway. So, it's people like Equitable Gas Company that want this dam.

MK: What about the coal?

FS: Michael, the Corps says there isn't any coal here. Although I did happen to run across a letter where, when JF Allen company was building phase two of Route 19, the coal that was obtained from the roadway was split. 30 percent went to the contractor; 70 percent went to the Corps. So, this coal that didn't exist got sold. Of course, I'm not sure how much of that, you know, JF Allen actually reported to the Corps. People did not get paid for their coal. The property was purchased in fee, and that means you get one price for everything. If you have free gas, you don't get compensated extra for a lifetime worth of free gas. They use what they call fair market value, which means what they consider a comparable piece of property would sell for with a house sort of like yours and free gas. So, if you have free gas, you didn't get anything for it. So, not only did you have to give up your home and your farm; you gave up free gas. So, there you are, you're living on Social Security. You were able to, you know, increase your income a little bit by raising your own food and your own beef to butcher, you know, milking a cow, and you had free gas. You were sitting pretty good. But now you don't have anything. You don't get enough money from a house and a farm to replace – just enough to replace your house, that's about what it amounts to. Even if you weren't 70-some years old, you know, you wouldn't have enough money to reestablish yourself as a farm.

MK: I don't know the cost.

FS: They're not forced to pay replacement cost for your place. It's not what it cost you to go out and get another place like what you have.

FS: What would it cost to replace Barbara's orchard?

FS: I wouldn't have any idea. They've got thousands of trees. Well, some of it, you can't replace because some of those trees that they patented –

MK: Those old-time trees, yes.

FS: Yes. Some of the things are unique there. So, you couldn't even replace those. I read an article where just an average house in America today costs you \$100,000 to build. That's the average American home anymore is \$100,000. I mean, there's no way that she can – I mean, she had a two-story house with a full basement under it. She had several outbuildings. You know, she had her old septic system, all her utilities. You might be able to replace that, just a house, for what she's got. But you can't replace the house, 30 acres and her nursery for that. That's happened time and time and time and time again. The people in the project area, they had to settle – for selling a farm and a house, they had to settle for a house. So, they took independent people and turned them into dependent people. We were able to get some help from West Virginia legal services plan if we could find someone in the area that was income eligible. Incomes for legal services are extremely low. I think at that time, it was less than \$300 for two people. We have one heck of a time finding anybody here who was income eligible simply because of their lifestyle. You know, if you own your own home, and you got free gas, and you're raising your own vegetables, then you can get along real well on three or \$400 a month Social Security. So, we finally found one couple that, they lived on a – he was retired from the railroad, and they lived on a retired railroad pension. Legal services plan was real nice. They didn't count as income, the money that (Kyle and Nancy Bush?) made cracking out hickory nuts every year, because that was a good portion of their income. True.

MK: Can you tell me a little bit about Bob Wise's efforts to save you all from this project?

FS: Yes. Our association with Bob Wise started years ago when he was an attorney in Charleston, long before he got into politics. One of the problems we've had in the dam fight all along is that most of our people aren't highly educated, and they're not professionals. We needed facts and figures and professional services to fight the Corps. So, it's been real hard to find hydrologists to back up with facts what the local people could have told the idiots all along, you know, about the river. There were things that we knew and that the people knew that, but we needed professionals to set – to ascertain the facts and to set them down. Bob Wise was an attorney in Charleston, and he helped us several times on legal issues, always gratis, never charged us anything for any of the help he ever gave us. So, he was somewhat familiar with the project all along. He was involved in the lawsuit where – we never have quite figured out the ins and outs of this deal. But the city of Weston, unbeknownst to most of the residents, has entered into a cost sharing agreement with the Corps in that they have to purchase the water supply section of the project. In other words, Weston is not getting a free water supply. It's going to cost the city of Weston several million dollars. We didn't feel that the city of Weston could legally enter into that kind of a contract. In other words, one government can't entail another

government, you know, or a future government into debt. So, we tried to litigate against the city of Weston in saying that it wasn't legal for them to sign the contract, which would have – let me back up to explain this. In order for this project to be built, the city of Weston and the state of West Virginia had to agree to enter into a cost sharing agreement with the federal government to pay their share of what they were getting out of this project. With the state, it was half of the cost of the recreation development. With the city of Weston, it was a portion – their portion of the water supply that would be stored behind the dam. West Virginia couldn't enter into a legal contract with the Corps, and the city of Weston couldn't enter into a legal contract with Corps. So, Jennings Randolph exempted this project from the legal requirements that the state and the city would have to have met. By the same token, the financial obligations still exists. So, while the state of West Virginia couldn't enter into an agreement with the Corps, they're still legally obligated. Because they wrote in a little section that says that the obligation of the state is contingent upon approval by the legislature and yearly appropriations by the legislature. That exempted them from the federal requirement that they had to enter into a strict contract, and also on the state level, allowed them to do – so, it was just so much monkey motion that allowed this to go on.

MK: When did Jennings do that?

FS: Let's see, it was back in [19]60 – I'm really rusty on some of my things. I'd have to look it up. Early seventies, I'd say. It was a rider that he attached to one of the Public Works appropriation bills. It simply said that the Stonewall Jackson Dam is exempt, you know, from having to follow this legal requirement. That was one of the big stumbling blocks in this project being built. Because the state couldn't enter into a cost sharing agreement with the federal government. Because it's illegal from one legislature to indebt, you know, a future legislature. We've always maintained it was illegal for Governor Rockefeller to sign that recreation contract, which indebted the state to do that. But because of the way everything has been worded, even though the state is obligated by law to pay their costs on the recreation agreement, the way it's all written up, supposedly, according to all the lawsuits we've been involved in, perfectly legal. So, Bob Wise undertook the lawsuit against the city of Weston, saying that it was illegal for them to enter into that kind of a contract with Corps. Lo and behold, the outcome of that lawsuit was that there wasn't any contract, that this exemption said that there didn't have to be a binding contract. So, the whole project has been like that, just one legal battle after another. Bob Wise undertook that lawsuit, free. As a state legislator then, we were before the legislature, trying to get the legislature, if nothing else, to recognize that they have been made liable for – the way we have it's over \$50 million now is going to be the state share of this project, and that's at 5.68 percent interest. So, I mean, the costs are incredible. He helped us in the legislature. Then when he was elected to Congress, you know, he was elected and used the issue as – you know, as part of his campaign, the fact that (Mick Staten?) voted against this project when we were in the second district. But then we were redistricted into his district, and the pressure was put on him. All of a sudden, he supported it. Bob then used that as a campaign issue, made it well known that he was opposed to This project, and he would do everything he could to fight the project. Still was elected easily. Then when he went to Congress, he began – we worked on two levels. One way to get a project stopped is to stop appropriations. He introduced an amendment which would have deleted funding for this project and was successful in getting it past the House of Representatives. Bob Byrd then put it back in in the Senate version of the bill, and it went to

conference committee. Bob Byrd used all of his supposed clout in Washington by calling members of the House of Representatives and putting pressure on them not to give in in conference committee. So, the money then was put back into the bill, and the project moved on. Bob has also helped draft a deauthorization bill so that if we were able to get the funding stopped that year, we could move forward quickly to get the project deauthorized and the land returned to the original landowners. He's helped us every time we've ever called on him for help, all the way down the line. He's done anything he could. You know, if it was an individual situation like Barbara's, you know, he helped. He tried to get the Corps and the DNR to back off in making the farmers leave. He's going to introduce legislation – one of the big reasons for building this stupid project was that – because there'd be all this local work generated. Well, local means Charleston or Marietta, Ohio or anywhere that that the worker considers is within commuting distance, so that the people who really lived in the county didn't get to work on this project, but the workers came from other parts of the state and even other states.

MK: Well, the people who lived here, I guess, weren't skilled enough too.

FS: Weren't any skilled labor involved. I mean, most of it – the highest skill was running a dozer, you know, or construction. I mean, that was all that's involved. Sure, the people have been – you know, worked for the gas company and done the same thing, or worked for the state road and done the same thing.

MK: Why couldn't they get jobs then, on the project, local people?

FS: Well, it was, for one thing, the local union was out of – one job was the local union out of Charleston.

MK: Oh, it's whoever won the contract.

FS: Yes, whoever won the contract, they hired the people. JF Allen is nonunion, and he's got the majority of the contracts on the project. So, of course, you know, he's going to work his boys that'll work real cheap. So, there was no – very little union work on this job at all. Bob is trying to tighten up that – one of the reasons we got the project here was because under the Appalachian Regional Development Act, the federal government was to encourage projects which would provide jobs in Appalachian depressed areas. One of the restrictions on these federal jobs then was that they give work to the local people. You know, 80 percent, I think, of the jobs had to go to local people. The loophole was a big definition of local. Local is anybody who wants to come in and work on a daily basis. You have a whole lot of people – as unemployed – as unemployment was so high, we just had an awful lot of – you know, there were a lot of people applying for the jobs. The people that would work the cheapest are the people that got hired, even though, under Davis-Bacon, they're supposed to be hiring, you know, under the prevailing union wage. They had a position on this road job that was called – was it a pre-apprentice? I think a pre-apprentice carpenter. I mean, I don't know how you can get, you know – I mean, if you have an apprentice, you have an apprentice, you know. Now, what's a pre-apprentice at a particularly small wage? Then they had workers who were – one day, you'd see him on a bulldozer. The next day, you'd see him, you know, building forms, which most local – you know, most unions wouldn't allow. So, there was just a whole lot of monkey business going on

with that. Bob Wise is trying to tighten up the restriction then on local labor, so that the local, meaning the county that's suffering the damage should get the benefit from a project. He's taken a lot of heat on it. I think part of the reason Bob Byrd got so hyper about this was the fact that he's scared to death that Bob Wise is going to be the next senator, and that Bob Wise has got – he's certainly got the popularity to beat Bob Byrd in an election. Bob Byrd wasn't going to sit by and watch this upstart, this freshman upstart, you know, stop a project that he had supported for a number of years. Byrd didn't give a damn that the General Accounting Office said the project was bad. He didn't give a damn that our House Subcommittee on Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources, that was one of the worst projects that they'd ever seen. You know, everybody who's done any – oh, what's the word I want to use – unprejudiced – the words slipping by.

MK: Unbiased?

FS: Unbiased, right, study of the project has concluded that it's terrible. But see, none of that really mattered to Byrd. What mattered was that he had supported this project, and Bob Wise was not about to demonstrate that Bob Byrd didn't have any clout in Washington. He jumped in with both feet. He made calls and did things that congressmen then told Bob Wise that they never have known of Bob Wise to ever did – or Bob Byrd to ever did. Timing was really bad. It was good to have Bob Wise. Sorry we pissed Bob Byrd off [laughter].

MK: Except that he wasn't doing anything anyway, right? Or he was working against you.

FS: Yes. The fact that even by doing nothing right, you were at that stage doing nothing. The appropriations kept going forward.

MK: What was Jennings Randolph's role in that skirmish?

FS: The same, he made calls. You know, in our book, anyway, Jennings Randolph is one of the chief villains in this whole thing. Because it was his manipulating federal law that allowed this project to be built. This project was authorized in [19]66. But construction didn't begin until the seventies. So, any of the laws that came into effect in the seventies, Randolph grandfathered this project from them, so that, you know, any of the new laws that were designed to stop the kind of project that we have, we didn't count under those laws, everything from the cost sharing agreement on recreation and on local water supply and just all the way down the line. The other villain then is Jay Rockefeller, as long as Arch Moore was governor. When the project first came up and they were designing a simple recreation area, and the project was 9,000 acres; Arch Moore thought it would be all right. It would be an okay project. But as the years went on and the project grew and the costs grew, Moore would not indebt the state to the recreation cost sharing agreement. So, all the time he was governor, he wouldn't sign the cost sharing agreement. Rockefeller took office in January. In March, he signed the cost sharing agreement and bragged that it was one of his first official acts as governor. He did it for this – and at the time he said this, although he tries to pin it more on the flooding now. But he did it because he wanted another state park. He said there were "a few" – that's a quote – a few nice farms that would be affected, but he was – and he was sorry about that. But that recreation was the salvation of West Virginia and that and that he wanted another state park. So, there you have

your biggest villain.

MK: So, flood control is –

FS: The dam started as a flood control dam because there was flooding on the West Fork all the way down the river. They've already built Tigar, and that controlled part of the problem. So, they wanted a dam on the main stem. Did you know that the Corps of Engineers has a plan for a dam on every significant river in the United States? I mean, these boys think far, far ahead. I mean, they'd like to control every single stream in this country. So, there were plans for a dam on the main stem of the West Fork River as part of the whole flood control project for the Ohio River. So, they got Tigar. They wanted the Rowlesburg on the Cheat River. They've got the Allegheny. Then they've got the whole system of locks and dams on the Ohio. This was simply to be one more piece in the puzzle. So, they authorized it, to begin with, as a flood control dam. It wouldn't wash economically that way. Then they added a water supply. It's recreation water supply, water quality control, and recreation. Water quality control means, rather than cleaning up the pollution at the site, you build a reservoir, and you flush the pollution downstream to clean it out. Of course, all the new pollution control laws that came out, what, [19]72, you know, they're supposed to take care of the pollution. You wouldn't think they'd need a dam like this at this end of the county to do that. So, technically, really, a lot of the benefits they claim are illegal under that 1972 Pollution Control Act, but we're grandfathered from it. So, the only way they could get the project to come out cost effective was to add this big recreation component. They have every man, woman, and child in Lewis County has to go to the project nine times a year to make their visitation figures. Generally, the Corps uses a 50-mile radius as their day-use area. In other words, they project that so many people a day will come to the project. Then they say each person will contribute X amount of dollars. That's how they come up with how beneficial a project will be, recreation-wise. On this project, they couldn't come up with enough population within a 50-mile radius. So, they threw in Parkersburg and Charleston. So, people are going to drive over here from Parkersburg to spend the day at a dam that has a lake that's shallow, that you can't swim in – swimming is illegal in this lake – that doesn't have any cabins or lodges, that's nothing but a campground and picnic area and horseback riding, which is what we do now. That's how they came up with this big recreation benefit figure. They just adjusted every year – every year we write off for the data that they use to justify what percent is for this, and what percent is for that, and how much money is going to be returned to the government for how much invested. Every year it changes. If they lose one aspect, if we were able to knock out one aspect, they'd simply increase another aspect. I mean, they just have this magic pencil, and they put whatever figures they damn well please, that makes the project come out to be cost effective. It doesn't matter if the General Accounting Office tells them that they're accounting is faulty. They go ahead and do it anyway, and Congress lets them.

MK: So, Jay said there would be a few nice farms that would be lost?

FS: Yes.

MK: What are the figures actually on –

FS: On how many farms?

MK: I mean, counting Barbara's place, certainly is a farm which –

FS: Right. We counted, at one time, anybody that lived on an acre or more that some part of their income – that a significant part of their income came, and they came up with, I think, 350 to 500 farms. I really couldn't tell you the exact number. I know that we had 30 full-time farmers in the area. [inaudible] I'm not sure I really want you to say this, but – well, I know, but I mean, they did fight hard. Barbara and them fought, you know, as hard as they could.

MK: As hard as they knew and with what they knew how to fight with.

FS: But you know, when we got involved, for example, the first thing that Peg Ormsby did was start a newsletter so that, you know, the people amongst themselves knew what was going on. Then we began to expand the membership, you know, until there's, what, 1500 people belong to the Watershed Association now. They're all over the state and all over the country. The people had begun to reach out. They had drawn in other agencies and other groups. But we got hooked up a little tighter with an Environmental Policy Center in Washington, you know, which is a group – one aspect of what they do is fighting dams. We went to the university, for example, and searched around until we found an economist that we could afford, which was real cheap, to do an economic analysis for us. I mean, we knew these things were true, Michael, but we couldn't prove them. We didn't have anybody amongst us knowledgeable enough to do the work to help us prove them. So, it was hard to get – it's hard to get an economist from West Virginia University interested, you know, in doing things. But, you know, we were able to get people like that involved. We had wonderful help from West Virginia Legal Services Plan. You know, we had the benefit of some of the best young lawyers in the state, free. We had a hydrologist from the university who was going to develop a watershed plan as part of a class project in one of his hydrology classes, so that we could prove that the idea of a watershed project would work. He only got so far on it because there wasn't enough data. The Corps didn't have enough data compiled on the water studies for him to have done – he couldn't go anywhere with it because he didn't have the information. Because the Corps hadn't done the information. It's been a hard fight. We had to fight on the local level, the Chamber of Commerce people. At one time, you know, the business community in Weston was vehemently opposed to this dam. Those people got older, and a new generation took over. To them, this was it. This was going to be the best thing that ever happened to Lewis County. At the same time, you have a decrease in the importance in agriculture after World War Two, especially. Farming was depressed. That was the salvation of this county, was to put this big federal project in, which would attract all kinds of industry here. Then there'd be jobs and plenty in Lewis County. We tried to prove to them over and over again by showing them what happened in other areas that had federal dams, that that pie in the sky idea that the Corps tries to sell them, you know, it doesn't work. Sutton, I mean, look at – all you have to do is look at Grafton, West Virginia. They've had Tigard dam since the thirties. What industry came to Grafton because of Tigard dam? You know, it didn't better the community. All you do is destroy the existing agricultural base. While it may not be – you know,

it might not contribute the same kind of tax dollars that a Weirton Steel does, but it's always going to be there. It's certainly steady and consistent. Then the people who live in the area

contribute to the local economy. You know, the federal government doesn't pay any property tax. Farmers don't pay as much as a big corporation would, but the federal government doesn't pay any. So, the local people, you know, they've lost the property taxes. They've lost the revenue from the farmers. You know, they haven't gained anything, and they won't gain anything. Industry will not come here because of this damn. It hasn't happened anywhere else, and this isn't going to be any exception. So, now the people in Weston who fought so hard for this dam are trying to get the river dredged below the dam, which is one of the points we made. If you would dredge the river and clean it out, you know, it would certainly help the flooding situation in Weston. They want to make Weston Historic District – which I think is an absolute joke, since they've destroyed some of the finest historic structures in the state – to attract business to shop in Weston. Because the malls in Clarksburg and Fairmont are stealing business as is happening in a whole lot of other cities and in the country, really. So, all the things that we thought could be done, besides building the high-rise dam, they're going to have to do anyway. Most people that supported this dam simply supported it because of the flood control, not because Weston had flooding. But never did they even lose a home. Not one house has ever been lost because of a flood in Weston. Not one life ever lost. I tried to make that point with Governor Rockefeller. He said to me, he said, "Well, we disagree on the dam." He said, "But I'm concerned about the people in Weston who suffer flooding." I said, "Governor Rockefeller, how many people have ever lost their home to the flooding like Barbara Heavner has because of the dam?" He said, "Well, they suffer damages." I said, "Not the same kind of damages that the bulldozer's done to her house." It wasn't flooding of such a magnitude that other things couldn't have been done to stop it. At one point, you know, we said to the core, "Why not relocate the houses and businesses in the flood plain? That makes the most sense. They're the [inaudible] the flood." Colonel (Bob Wilson?), Huntington District Corps of Engineers, [inaudible] in Huntington. You know, I found with the Corps, the best way to get anything done is to go to the top. Wilson knows about this whole situation, (down in Pittsburgh?) really didn't. I don't know what he's found out subsequent. [inaudible] Bloom is the new colonel in Pittsburgh. He's got his own number. If you just asked for the Chief Engineer, Colonel – here's his number, 644-6934.

MK: In Pittsburgh?

FS: [inaudible] 412. They don't have to ask anybody if they could talk or not. But Wilson, he was in on this whole thing from the beginning. He's the one I talk to if something gets out of hand.

MK: Tape recorded interviews seem to scare them pretty bad.

FS: Well, if you call and they refuse, that's all you can say is, "I called, and they wouldn't talk." I mean, they're foolish. This house was on Matt's mother's side. Then the other farm that I talked about was on his dad's side. I would think Wilson will talk. They generally will talk rather than not get their point of view.

MK: Who's the [inaudible]?

FS: His name is (Wendell Hayes?). You're going to love him.



MK: Okay. Good. Who's the president of the Chamber of Commerce?

FS: I don't know who the president is this year.

MK: But who [inaudible]?

FS: (Bob Earl?) from the local newspaper is good. He'll usually talk about the dam, his Editorial (Lives?).

MK: In favor of it?

FS: Oh, yes, for years. Although he's the only one in the newspaper office. Everybody else – one of his reporters told me Bob Earl and his dog were the only two supporters of the dam in the newspaper.

MK: What's the name of the paper?

FS: *Weston Democrat*. He's done a lot to hurt us, though, just in the way he slants his articles. When we were we were testifying in one judiciary committee meeting in Charleston at the legislature, he sat up front at the press table with his Support the Stonewall Jackson Dam – you know, it said Stonewall Jackson Dam Means Jobs, whatever buttons that they their side had on. He sat up in the press section that way. Then he reported the whole thing. But he reported it, you know, all from his point of view. He had wrong senators in it. He didn't even know who was doing what. [inaudible] I've written more letters to the editor against his journalist – I told him I thought it was a joke, calling himself a journalist. I mean, it's one thing – what you want to put in your editorial is your business, but when you report the news – the thing about it is that – I started to tell that when we suggested that they relocate the flood plain, they have this – one of their documents. It's called – it's 1965, I think it maybe is – forget the dates – Environmental Review. In it, it says that one reason that they didn't relocate – wouldn't consider relocating the flood plain is because they've discovered that it's psychologically harmful to relocate people.

MK: Who said that?

FS: The Corps.

MK: Was this why they didn't want to relocate the people in Weston –

FS: Yes [laughter].

MK: – in town. Is Bob Wise – where would he likely to be now? You have his Charleston office phone?

FS: Yes. All right. It's 800-642-3014. Somewhere, I've got his home phone number, 548-4548. He's really easy to talk to, anytime, anywhere.

MK: Yes. (Lucille Morgan?)?

FS: Lucille Morgan, out of his Charleston office, was the lady that actually called Colonel Wilson. She was as outraged as we were about the treatment of these people.

MK: Where is she from?

FS: Charleston. She's from down there somewhere, yes. Wouldn't make a damn bit of difference to Lucille what the political implications of anything were. If there's a problem, she'll get right on it.

MK: What about somebody who would talk to me who is due to be evicted? Who's next in line? Who are they going to go for now?

FS: I don't know who's next. There's several people over on Skin Creek. I know a fellow. He's in a kind of a bad situation now that I really would like you – you'd just really enjoy talking to this old guy. His name's (Aubrey West?), and he's a real character. He's gotten himself hooked in with this lady [inaudible]. Then he's hired hand died.

MK: What's his name again?

FS: Aubrey West. He doesn't have a phone.

MK: Oh. How would I find him?

FS: You would just have to go out to [inaudible]. We're going out – we're having a meeting tonight, small meeting and a covered dish dinner, if you want to stay around for that –

MK: I have [inaudible] Charleston.

FS: Oh, you have to go from here down to Charleston?

MK: Yes. [inaudible] Are you going to see him at that meeting?

FS: I don't know if he'll be there, but I could tell him that – you could see him anytime.

MK: But is he somebody who's going to believe in me?

FS: Yes. I figured he'll be – [inaudible] They came to talk to him about it. They told me, "Get the hell out. I don't want talk to him anymore." After every single other person is out, then he think about leaving. Of course, that's part of the reason why they want Barbara out. Beth and Louie, [inaudible]. They have a telephone. They're in the process of – on their dad's – well, he signed, you know, 7 acres or something over to them. They were condemned, and their condemnation is settled. I know Beth's been really frightened about what happened to Barbara. So, I don't know. At one time, you know, they said that they would only leave by being evicted. Of course, in the meantime, they're doing another house. I mean, they don't want to be put out with nothing to do. But they've been strong fighters of the dam all the way along. [inaudible]

She has a dairy. It's the place you could see – Aubrey West is the old man who lives in the house there at the festival. [inaudible] lives in the farm that you could see down [inaudible]. She's got peacocks and guinea hens. She's a real character.

MK: Mary Aspinall?

FS: Mary Aspinall. Her husband's name is William.

[end of transcript]