

Rocky Flats Oral History Collection

A collaboration of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum
and the Boulder Public Library

Carnegie Library for Local History, Maria Rogers Oral History Program

www.boulderlibrary.org/oralhistory

Note: After the introduction below is a list of those interviewed with brief abstracts. See the web site www.boulderlibrary.org/oralhistory and click on Special Collections (upper right) and then click on Rocky Flats to see the list. Click on the name to read the transcript and listen to the interview. From this web site, you can also do key word searches.

INTRODUCTION

The Rocky Flats Special Collection is a group of 126 oral histories, conducted from the late 1990s to 2006, that focus in-depth on the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, which was located 8 miles south of the city of Boulder.

Rocky Flats was a key part of the nuclear weapons complex charged with implementing the nuclear "deterrence" policy of the United States in the Cold War against the Soviet Union. The plant, opened in the early 1950s, manufactured the plutonium pit that is the explosive detonator of a hydrogen bomb. Initially, the plant was greeted as a boon to the regional economy. Workers at all levels flocked to the plant: it was at the leading edge of nuclear science, and it offered excellent pay, opportunity, and a patriotic purpose. Because of high security, outsiders knew little about the plant. Starting in the early 1970s, following a serious fire in 1969, Rocky Flats became a focus of media attention and environmental, peace, and community-safety activism, as well as community and political controversy. In 1989, it was raided by the FBI for alleged environmental crimes, and production was halted. Production was officially ended in 1992 and cleanup was initiated, continuing until 2006, when the cleanup was certified as complete.

Included in this collection are interviews with a broad range of persons and covering a broad range of topics:

- **Current and former workers** (including production workers, managers, union members, and whistleblowers) talk about their work and their perspectives.
- **Topics relating to this nuclear plant**—such as working in gloveboxes, experiencing camaraderie, fighting two fires, avoiding criticalities, becoming contaminated, adapting to high security and safety regulations, and dealing with health issues (including beryllium disease)—are discussed in detail.
- **Peace and environmental activists** who protested during the '70s, '80s, and '90s discuss reasons for their concerns and details of their activism.
- **Regulators from state and federal agencies** discuss oversight of the plant and of the subsequent cleanup.
- **Key politicians** are interviewed, as well as citizens from the surrounding communities who were actively involved with community oversight during production and in the lengthy cleanup.

Earlier interviews were conducted by Dorothy Ciarlo, a volunteer with the Maria Rogers Oral History Program of the Boulder Public Library. In 2003, an agreement with the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum provided that oral histories collected for the museum's future use would be archived at the Carnegie Library as part of its oral history program. This large group of about 90 additional oral histories was paid for in part by a State Historical Fund grant from the Colorado Historical Society that was obtained by the museum. This latter group of interviews was conducted by Dorothy Ciarlo, Hannah Nordhaus and Nancy Nachman-Hunt. The interviews were transcribed by Sandy Adler. Archiving of the interviews was completed by Susan Becker, with assistance from Barbara Dolder and Daniel Robinson. Thanks also go to the other members of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum Oral History Committee—Kim Grant, Ann Lockhart, LeRoy Moore, Pat Buffer, and Steve Davis—for their varied and important expertise and assistance.

Abstracts

OH 0991: Len Ackland Len Ackland, a journalist and journalism professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, talks about his career and more particularly, his involvement from the 1970s to 2000 in reporting about nuclear weapons in the United States. His writing covers scientific, technological, environmental, social, historical, and ethical issues and concerns relating to nuclear weapons and their production. He discusses in-depth the research and writing of his book, *Making a Real Killing: Rocky Flats and the Nuclear West [2000]* that provides insight into the history and controversies relating to this nuclear weapons plant in the Denver area.

OH 1441: Rocky Flats Activists This recording documents an event held on October 28, 2006, on the site of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant at which the teepee, which stood on the Rocky Flats railroad tracks during the year-long 1978 protest, was donated for use in the proposed Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. Activists who worked for the closure of Rocky Flats through many different approaches (civil disobedience, scientific studies, community organizing, governmental pressure, etc.) gathered at this October 2006 event for an afternoon of songs, speeches, and donations of money and artifacts for the museum.

OH 1256: Caron Balkany Caron Balkany, co-author of the book, *The Ambushed Grand Jury*, talks about the Rocky Flats Grand Jury and the process of researching and writing a book about the alleged cover-up of environmental illegalities at Rocky Flats.

OH 1168: George Barrie George Barrie, a former machinist at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, describes a glovebox accident that resulted in his ingesting plutonium/ameridium and talks about his current illnesses and his inability to obtain compensation for his illnesses.

OH 1270: Donald (Don) G. Bingman Don Bingman, who worked in the accounting, salary, and benefits departments at Rocky Flats from the early 1950s to 1975, talks about Dow Chemical's management style, safety procedures at the plant, and the challenges of integrating women into production jobs.

OH 0959: Bob Bistline Dr. Robert Bistline, a nuclear physicist, discusses in detail his work in health physics at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant from the early 1960s through the plant clean-up. He describes the lung counter he developed for detecting plutonium in workers' lungs and his studies of the effects of plutonium on workers, including development of the plutonium registry. He speaks of the inadvertent tritium release at Rocky Flats, and his role in dealing with the 1969 fire at the plant. He discusses chronic beryllium disease at Rocky Flats and the epidemiological studies that he conducted. He discusses secret meetings with a group of

activists, which led to the formation of the Health Advisory Panel. Finally, he discusses his feelings of responsibility for the health of the workers at Rocky Flats.

OH 1334: Bob Bistline This is the second interview recorded with nuclear physicist Dr. Bob Bistline. In this interview he continues to discuss his work to safeguard the health of workers during the production phase of work at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant and also discusses his similar efforts during the cleanup phase, as well as his work to help create accurate health records for former workers so that they will be eligible for compensation benefits, where appropriate.

OH 1281: Charles (Chuck) Bogard Chuck Bogard talks about working at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant from 1955 to 1995 in building and plant design and engineering and, later, as a shift superintendent/emergency director. His interview includes discussion of plant, building and equipment design features and modifications that contributed to plant security and safety.

OH 1269: Herbert (Herb) Bowman Herb Bowman discusses operations at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant from 1951 to 1975. Topics include management by Dow Chemical, safety at the plant, buildings on the site, the Cold War era, and more.

OH 1268: Alice Brace Alice and Ron Brace discuss their work with the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Rocky Flats Fire Department, beginning in 1993, including the design of the fire fighting systems for Rocky Flats, descriptions of buildings on the site, and challenges presented by the cleanup of the site.

OH 1268: Ron Brace Alice and Ron Brace discuss their work with the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Rocky Flats Fire Department, beginning in 1993, including the design of the fire fighting systems for Rocky Flats, descriptions of buildings on the site, and challenges presented by the cleanup of the site.

OH 1273: Robert (Bob) Brady Bob Brady, who worked at Rocky Flats from the plant's beginnings in the early 1950s until 1988, talks about the various jobs he held, his experience of an accident that resulted in him ingesting plutonium, the plant's safety procedures, its role in winning the Cold War, and the many positive aspects about the plant as a place to work.

OH 1210: Jacqueline (Jacque) M. Brevier Former Rocky Flats employee and whistleblower Jacque Brevier talks about working at the plant, the reaction of other workers, the union, and other management to her whistleblowing activities, and her role in the Grand Jury investigation of Rocky Flats.

OH 1427: Janet Brown In this follow-up oral history, Janet Brown, a disabled Rocky Flats worker, discusses the proposed federal compensation bill for sick Rocky Flats workers, her contact with Representative Mark Udall, and her feelings about nuclear weapons and her role in their production.

OH 0940: Janet Brown Janet Brown, a disabled Rocky Flats worker, describes the neurological illness that caused her disability, and her work to help other disabled Rocky Flats workers retain their medical benefits. She also discusses her career at Rocky Flats, in which she started as a machinist in 1982 and ended as a Product Engineer in the '90s when she had to stop work.

OH 1532: Patty Calhoun Wes McKinley and Patty Calhoun tag team as narrators in this recorded discussion about the Rocky Flats grand jury. The occasion for their dialogue is the 20th reunion of Rocky Flats activists, and the event takes place at the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. Wes describes how he came to be on the grand jury (serving as foreman), the grand jury's role in criminal accusations against Rocky Flats contractors, and how the grand jury

became embroiled in controversy. Patty Calhoun (*Westword* editor) tries to fill gaps where Wes is unable to speak freely. Her magazine was first to publish a version of the grand jury's special report, and numerous investigative articles followed. The last portion of this audio includes a Q & A exchange between members of the audience and Wes and Patty, much of which is difficult to understand and hasn't been fully transcribed.

OH 1315: Kenneth (Ken) W. Calkins Ken Calkins discusses his work as a chemical engineer and building superintendent at Rocky Flats from 1955 to 1989. Includes discussion of plutonium processing and recovery, safety at Rocky Flats and the 1969 fire.

OH 1393: Robert Card Robert Card discusses the cleanup of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant and site from his perspective of having been the CEO of Kaiser-Hill, the contractor that reduced the cleanup from a planned seventy years and \$37 billion to an actual eleven years and \$7 billion. He talks about Kaiser-Hill's innovative approaches; relationships with workers, people in nearby communities, and community activists; and describes some of the buildings involved in the cleanup.

OH 1212: Alfonso (Al) Louis Cardenas Alfonso Cardenas, a former Rocky Flats sheet metal worker who worked with beryllium and now suffers from berylliosis, talks about his experiences at Rocky Flats, the impact of the disease on his life, and workers's efforts to receive compensation for the illness.

OH 1180: Jock (John) Cobb Dr. Jock Cobb describes his research and activism regarding Rocky Flats and the health effects of radiation exposure from the plant, including a study that measured plutonium in the tissue of deceased people who had lived near Rocky Flats. Other radiation-related issues discussed include contamination of Rocky Flats workers, improper monitoring of radiation badges at Rocky Flats, risks of plutonium exposure, political pressure on people who spoke out against Rocky Flats practices, and citizens' groups efforts to monitor Rocky Flats.

OH 1006: Glenda Conder Glenda Conder worked at Rocky Flats from 1978-1995 and became heavily involved in the union after going through an arbitration with the company. She discusses what it was like to be among the first women hired at the plant, the details of her arbitration, and her involvement in the union.

OH 1286: Robert (Bob) P. DeGrazio Bob DeGrazio describes his 38 years at Rocky Flats as a chemist and as manager of Building 79, the Research and Development building.

OH 1254: Robert (Bob) R. DeIPizzo Bob DeIPizzo talks about working at Rocky Flats as a lab technician and lab supervisor from 1959 to 1995. He describes the technical aspects of the work he did and discusses safety and security at the plant, as well as some of the things that made it a good place to work.

OH 1388: Eugene DeMayo Eugene DeMayo describes his work as a volunteer member of the Sierra Club with regard to Rocky Flats, including lawsuits filed to force Rocky Flats to comply with environmental protection laws, and work on citizen advisory groups that proposed cleanup standards and suggestions for future use of the land.

OH 1326: LaVerne (Vern) Dingman Vern Dingman talks about working at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant from 1955 to 1992, in jobs that ranged from classified materials specialist to facility manager for Building 707. Among the topics he discusses are the cleanup after the 1969 fire, Rocky Flats as a good employer, secrecy and safety at the plant, management of workers, and use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

OH 1358: Max Dixon Max Dixon talks about his work at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant from 1967 through the cleanup. He started out as a janitor; worked as a shop clerk; in the labs, analyzing material, air and water samples; and ended his career as a foreman, supervising lab technicians. He comments on the union at Rocky Flats, safety procedures at the plant, and the role of Rocky Flats in the Cold War. He also describes Building 881, in which he worked.

OH 1500: Barbara Donachy Artist Barbara Donachy describes her awakening to the threat of the nuclear arms race, piqued by a vivid dream. Barb talks about using clay pieces to demonstrate the big picture of nuclear proliferation: quantity, cost, and social implications. Her installation, *Amber Waves of Grain*, replicates the US nuclear arsenal during the height of the Cold War. Barbara also explores the topics of nuclear waste, nuclear inheritance and guardianship, and the Cold War legacy that will be passed between generations. Her daughter, Sarah Bardwell (then 16 years old), is interviewed during the last third of this oral history. Sarah talks about her vision of the future and humankind; what she is learning in school; what peers her age are thinking; and how nuclear proliferation factors into her imagination.

OH 1137: Daniel Ellsberg This oral history was recorded while Daniel Ellsberg was in Boulder for the University of Colorado World Affairs Conference of 2003 and for an informal reunion of persons who participated in the 1978 protest and civil disobedience at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Mr. Ellsberg discusses his participation in that protest and gives information about the relevance of Rocky Flats in the larger context of the nuclear arms race.

OH 1530: Daniel Ellsberg

This interview was recorded at the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center during a weekend of activities commemorating the 1978 demonstrations at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. Daniel Ellsberg is asked to explain his personal knowledge of U.S. military policy in general, and nuclear weapons in particular, which came to bear on his participation in the Rocky Flats sustained civil disobedience. Ellsberg describes his fears of nuclear proliferation, the neutron bomb, and the possibility of an accident that would have planet-threatening repercussions. He becomes emotional discussing the death of a close friend—attributed to radiation exposure—and correlates that loss with what transpired in 1978's year-long occupation of the train tracks leading into Rocky Flats. Much of the second half of this recording explores Ellsberg's recollection of how the blockade moved from a short symbolic action to one of extended protest.

OH 1457: Paula Elofson-Gardine In this interview, sisters Paula Elofson-Gardine and Susan Hurst tell the story of how they educated themselves about the environmental and health effects of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant on the neighborhoods surrounding the plant. They describe how they became activists, repeatedly challenging the plant administrators and calling for the closure of the plant. They detail many instances of contamination problems during the life of the plant and discuss their tactics and the resulting harassment that they experienced.

OH 1457: Susan Elofson-Hurst In this interview, sisters Paula Elofson-Gardine and Susan Hurst tell the story of how they educated themselves about the environmental and health effects of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant on the neighborhoods surrounding the plant. They describe how they became activists, repeatedly challenging the plant administrators and calling for the closure of the plant. They detail many instances of contamination problems during the life of the plant and discuss their tactics and the resulting harassment that they experienced.

OH 0958: Patrick Etchart Patrick Etchart, who worked at the Rocky Flats plant since 1984, discusses his work as public affairs officer dealing with the media and the public, and its

challenges. He speaks of the FBI raid in detail, details the history of the problems with the "903 pad," and gives his thoughts about clean-up.

OH 1316: Frank Farinola Not available to the public until the year 2020.

OH 1317: Richard (Dick) Fox Richard Fox discusses his work for the Colorado Department of Health in monitoring of emissions at Rocky Flats and enforcing compliance from 1989 through 2000. He discusses the types of emissions monitored, methods used, findings, and the process of working with employees and management. He also discusses the design of Rocky Flats' buildings, the FBI raid, the public's concern about radiation, the attitude of the media, and the cleanup.

OH 1359: Fred Fraikor Fred Fraikor, who worked in the Physical Metallurgy Research and Development section of Rocky Flats beginning in 1965 and was the Acting Director of Material Science, talks about many aspects of work at the plant in this wide ranging interview. Included is discussion of Rocky Flats as a research environment, safety at Rocky Flats, descriptions of buildings, the model shop, and various innovative programs, among other topics.

OH 1023: Shirley Garcia Shirley Garcia describes her experiences as one of the earliest female chemical operators at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, starting in 1982 until the late 1980's. She speaks in detail about working in glovebox lines and describes a particularly hard experience being contaminated. She discusses working in the solar ponds during the FBI raid, the accusation of illegal incinerator burning, her move to environmental waste management work, and her current work with the City of Broomfield to insure best clean-up of Rocky Flats.

OH 1204: Shirley Garcia Shirley Garcia who managed hazardous waste at Rocky Flats and now works as environmental coordinator for Broomfield, discusses both of these jobs as well as the need for long term monitoring of the Rocky Flats land and continuing education of the public about Rocky Flats.

OH 1318: John A (Art) Geis Art Geis discusses the wide variety of work he has done at Rocky Flats from 1983 to the present (2005), including work in plutonium metallurgy, upgrading of building procedures for the cleanup of the site after closure, and management of safety programs post-closure. He also discusses security procedures and safety at the plant, the work environment, and the importance of the plant's mission to the success of the Cold War.

OH 1297: Donald (Don) Getman Don Getman worked at Rocky Flats from 1961 to 1990 in positions that ranged from janitor to building manager. He discusses many of the buildings at Rocky Flats, safety at the plant, the Life Is Fragile campaign, the mission of the plant in relation to the Cold War, the cleanup after the 1969 fire, the FBI raid, and the protesters.

OH 1501: Joe Goldfield Joe Goldfield helped expose the quantities of plutonium, and contingent dangers, which were concealed during Rocky Flats cleanup assessments. Joe died in 2002; much of this interview is carried on with Roslyn Goldfield, his wife, though Joe's work remains the focus of conversation. The narrators discuss Joe's education, advocacy, ethical determination, and lifetime efforts to create safe work conditions—Joe helped design the first HEPA filters for face masks. Johns-Manville corporation is a focus of discussion, along with Joe's research and writings.

OH 1378: Mark Graf Mark Graf, who worked at Rocky Flats from 1982 to 2004, details his actions as a whistleblower due to concerns he had about nuclear safety and security issues during the cleanup of Rocky Flats. He also discusses the classification of information at the plant, radiation contamination issues, buildings that were on the site, and the role of nuclear weapons in the Cold War.

OH 1207: Thomas (Tom) P. Grumbly Tom Grumbly, former Assistant Secretary for the Environment at the Department of Energy, talks about overseeing the cleanup of nuclear materials at Rocky Flats in the 1990s.

OH 1368: Steve Gunderson Steve Gunderson discusses the cleanup of the Rocky Flats site from the vantage point of his role as the Rocky Flats project coordinator for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. As project coordinator, he was responsible for managing the state's regulatory oversight of the decommissioning of Rocky Flats under the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement. He also discusses emergency preparedness at Rocky Flats, prior to closure, and describes the buildings and site in detail.

OH 1502: Raymond Guyer In 1958, Ray Guyer was hired as an Assistant Chemical Operator at Rocky Flats. He was 20 years old when he was hired, and he continued to work for Rocky Flats for the next 40 years. Eventually he landed in the Research and Development department and developed processes that earned two patents. In this interview, Ray describes numerous aspects of his working experience: facility security, conditions of secrecy, conditions of safety (or lack thereof), as well as the step-by-step process of converting liquid plutonium nitrate into plutonium "buttons," the war-head triggers. Ray was vociferously opposed to what he saw as intentional mishandling of inventory, waste material, and government documents. This stance led him to early retirement in 1995 and then got him rehired, that same year, presumably to help with effective cleanup efforts. Ray was let go after he continued to speak bluntly about environmental and health hazards.

OH 1385: Joe Hebert Joe Hebert describes his work at Rocky Flats in industrial engineering from 1974 through the demolition of the buildings after plant closure. He talks about a wide array of subjects including building design, management of the plant, safety and security procedures at Rocky Flats, working with the union, women in the workforce, and protesters.

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

OH 1164: Timothy Holeman Tim Holeman, policy advisor in environmental issues to Governor Roy Romer at the time of the FBI raid of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, talks about the raid, environmental safety issues at the plant, and the role of the Governor's office in improving safety, regulatory oversight, and advocating for the closure of the plant. He also describes steps taken to protect Broomfield's water supply from radioactive contamination.

OH 1369: Howard Holme Howard Holme was the attorney representing landowners in a 1970s lawsuit against operators of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant and the U.S. government alleging that the release of hazardous substances and radioactive material diminished the value of surrounding property. This interview includes details of the lawsuit, discussion of studies on potential health and environmental risks from the plant, and descriptions of the effects of the 1957 and 1969 fires.

OH 1173: Eugene (Gene) H. Ideker Gene Ideker talks about the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant from the perspective of his 25-year career there, which included jobs ranging from machinist foreman to Deputy General Manager of the plant.

OH 1172: Laura B. Johnson Laura Johnson talks about her 38 years of work at Rocky Flats, including administrative work for the president of Rockwell during the time of the FBI raid. She also describes many positive aspects of the Rocky Flats work environment.

OH 1380: Jeremy Karpatkin Jeremy Karpatkin discusses his jobs at Rocky Flats as Director of Communications and Economic Development (1995-1999) and Special Assistant to site manager and Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jessie Roberson (1999-2005). He talks extensively about public policymaking, improving the processes used for interfacing with community groups and local governments, and various aspects of the Rocky Flats cleanup.

OH 1531: Melinda Kassen Melinda Kassen offers a nuanced picture of the Rocky Flats cleanup, balancing activist concerns against the political underpinnings of site restoration. Melinda became involved in Rocky Flats in 1986 as a lawyer with the Environmental Defense Fund. She later chaired the budget committee of the Colorado Council on Rocky Flats and, in 1993, became environmental counsel to the House Armed Services Committee where she wrote legislation requiring the Department of Energy to do a baseline Environmental Management Report. Ultimately she returned to Denver to work for Rocky Flats cleanup contractor Kaiser-Hill. This interview details Melinda's participation in national dialogue about Rocky Flats; she shares her unique perspective as both outside activist and "insider" during the Flats' cleanup.

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

OH 1370: Burt Kelchner Burt Kelchner, who worked at Rocky Flats from the plant's beginnings in 1951, addresses the siting of the plant, safety at Rocky Flats, the plant's role in the Cold War, and the 1969 fire at the plant. He also describes the four original major buildings.

OH 1182: James (Jim) D. Kelly Jim Kelly, former President of the Steelworkers Union at Rocky Flats, talks about the challenges and accomplishments of the labor union, the experiences of women workers at Rocky Flats, and radiation, environmental, and health issues.

OH 1302: Bill Kemper Bill Kemper discusses his work on the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission in light of his earlier work as a radiological safety monitor at the time of the Bikini Island atomic bomb tests. He and Jim Stone describe some of the contamination problems that occurred at Rocky Flats, such as the problem with plutonium in the duct work and the improper forming of "pondcrete," and the False Claims Act suit filed by Jim Stone after he lost his job at Rocky Flats after whistle blowing activities.

OH 1208: Roman F. Kohler Roman Kohler talks about his long career at Rocky Flats. Topics include work conditions, safety procedures, other work that was done at Rocky Flats besides nuclear weapons work, and more.

OH 1505: Ken Korkia Ken Korkia started working as a technical assistant to the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission in 1990, and he was later hired as staff coordinator for the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board. In this interview, Korkia talks about developing a comprehensive awareness of what went on at Rocky Flats, and he details some of his contributions as an advocate for public participation in the cleanup process. Much of the conversation centers on access to information as well as the understandability of information. Korkia describes how citizens' voices and concerns get represented—or ignored—in budget priorities for Rocky Flats.

OH 1301: Ken Korkia Ken Korkia talks about his staff positions for the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission and the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board and the work done by each of these groups. He discusses the funding, processes, and accomplishments of these groups, including the reduction in the allowable amount of residual surface soil contamination from plutonium on the Rocky Flats site after the cleanup.

OH 1319: Edd Kray Edd Kray worked for the Colorado Department of Health at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant as an onsite representative of the Health Department during the decommissioning of the plant. In this interview, he discusses working in collaboration with Kaiser-Hill, monitoring worker safety during decommissioning of the buildings, evaluation of the cleanup levels and possible future uses of the land, and the role of Rocky Flats during the Cold War.

OH 1280: Delores (Dee) Krieg Dee Krieg, former head of the Transportation Department at Rocky Flats, talks about the challenges and satisfactions of that job. She also discusses a wide range of other topics about the plant, including the Cold War, those who protested against the plant, the FBI raid, and the cleanup of the site.

OH 1395: Richard Lamm Former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm talks about the political issues raised by the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant during his administration, including potential public health dangers of the plant, reasons for closure of the plant, working with the union, the Lamm-Wirth Task Force, and how the Cold War and mistrust in government during that time period impacted Rocky Flats. He also discusses Project Rulison, environmentalism, the Democratic Party, and national security in the post-9/11 world.

OH 1332: Joseph Legare Joe Legare discusses his work as the Department of Energy (DOE) cleanup manager for Rocky Flats, from 1996 to 2005. He talks about the challenges and satisfactions of working with diverse community members and regulators to achieve an efficient, cost-effective, safe cleanup; overcoming community trust issues with regard to Rocky Flats; the innovative contract worked out between Kaiser-Hill and DOE; the role of the union and workers in completing the cleanup; and the safety of the proposed Wildlife Refuge.

OH 1355: Jon S. Lipsky Former FBI agent Jon Lipsky details the FBI investigation that he spearheaded into Rocky Flats environmental violations, which led to an FBI raid of Rocky Flats to collect evidence, a Grand Jury investigation of the subsequent charges, and ultimately to the closing of the plant. Lipsky also discusses his belief that there was a government cover-up of some of the violations and of the responsibility of certain individuals. He speaks of how the Rocky Flats investigation and his part in it affected his career in the FBI and about resigning from the FBI so that he could discuss the case more freely. He also describes his cooperation with Caron Balkany and Wes McKinley, authors of *The Ambushed Grand Jury: How the Justice Department Covered Up Government Nuclear Crimes and How We Caught them Red-Handed*.

OH 1506: Iggy Litaor In 1990, Iggy Litaor was hired by contractor EG&G to characterize the “actinides” (radioactive elements) in the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant soil environment. In this interview, Iggy describes the circumstances under which he was hired, the nature of his research, the remarkable events of May 17, 1995—when significant runoff occurred, and data from his soil-monitoring system showed that actinides are not immobile—and the dramatic fallout surrounding his dismissal when Kaiser-Hill took over for EG&G in June of 1995. Iggy makes the point that plutonium migration is a fact at Rocky Flats and is an environmental and public-health concern.

OH 1205: Michael (Iggy) Litaor Soil scientist Iggy Litaor describes the work he did at Rocky Flats that led him to the conclusion that plutonium could migrate, and had migrated, in soil that is saturated with water.

OH 1439: Ann Lockhart Ann Lockhart discusses her work first as a journalist, then as public relations director at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and her involvement with Rocky Flats. She talks in detail about her nine years of work on the Health Department's Historical Public Exposures Studies on Rocky Flats, overseen by a national Health Advisory Panel appointed by the governor, including the functioning of the group, community outreach, and ultimate findings.

OH 1443: Patrick Malone Patrick Malone, a Rocky Flats protester, discusses the experiences that led him to participate in the 1978 protest. He discusses in detail the initiation and continuation of the blocking of the railroad tracks for nine months, explains his role with the teepee that was erected on the tracks, and talks about his five years of Rocky Flats protest, including multiple arrests.

OH 1529: Patrick Malone This interview takes place during a walk from Boulder to Rocky Flats on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of 1978 demonstrations. Patrick Malone was well known for his participation in those activities, especially his construction of a teepee that became a symbol of the movement to halt weapons production at Rocky Flats. Patrick talks about his own history and how he got involved with Rocky Flats. He describes relationships with security guards, human-blockade strategies, and the process of getting arrested. He reflects on what was accomplished in 1978, the personal meaning of those events, and his current work in conflict resolution.

OH 1296: Claire Mathews Claire Mathews did administrative work at Rocky Flats from 1955 to 1960 and from 1975 to 1995, including work in the Medical Department and the Health Effects Department. She speaks about safety and security measures at Rocky Flats, describes health screening procedures and programs, and addresses policies and conditions for women.

OH 1454: Pat McCormick Pat McCormick, a Sister of Loretto, describes the development of her political values through her early work in Latin America and tells about her twelve years of weekly prayer vigils and other actions of civil resistance with regard to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. She describes in detail a protest action in which she and another nun drove through the Rocky Flats gate and, while in a restricted area, poured human blood on crosses that had photos of the world's poor on them, resulting in her arrest and imprisonment for two months.

OH 1267: Robert (Bob) B. McFarland Dr. Robert McFarland talks about his involvement in the antinuclear movement with regard to nuclear power plants and Rocky Flats. Includes discussion of his 1980 run for Congress as a Citizens Party candidate.

OH 1206: Jerry N. McKamy Former Rocky Flats employee and whistle blower Jerry McKamy talks about his work there as a criticality safety engineer, safety issues at Rocky Flats, and his work on documenting the problem of "plutonium-in-the-ducts".

OH 1271: Wesley (Wes) McKinley Wes McKinley talks about his experiences as foreman of the Grand Jury that investigated the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant and about the book he co-wrote detailing that experience (The Ambushed Grand Jury).

OH 1532: Wesley McKinley Wes McKinley and Patty Calhoun tag team as narrators in this recorded discussion about the Rocky Flats grand jury. The occasion for their dialogue is the 20th reunion of Rocky Flats activists, and the event takes place at the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. Wes describes how he came to be on the grand jury (serving as foreman), the grand jury's role in criminal accusations against Rocky Flats contractors, and how the grand jury became embroiled in controversy. Patty Calhoun (*Westword* editor) tries to fill gaps where Wes is unable to speak freely. Her magazine was first to publish a version of the grand jury's special report, and numerous investigative articles followed. The last portion of this audio includes a Q &

A exchange between members of the audience and Wes and Patty, much of which is difficult to understand and hasn't been fully transcribed.

OH 1209: Edwin (Ed) McNamara Ed McNamara discusses his career in product engineering at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Topics include pit design and testing, security, health and safety at the plant, the 1969 fire, and what it was like to work there day to day.

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

OH 1118: LeRoy Moore In this oral history, LeRoy Moore discusses his development as a peace activist, leading in particular to his deep involvement with the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons plant. He talks about his arrest as a protester at Rocky Flats in 1979 and his subsequent trial, the role of Gandhian non-violence in his work, the "encirclement" demonstration at Rocky Flats, and the creation of the "Citizens Guide to Rocky Flats." He also speaks about the fast he initiated in July 1989, to protest continued nuclear production at Rocky Flats. See also a later oral history with LeRoy Moore, OH 1387V A-B.

OH 1387: LeRoy Moore LeRoy Moore describes the role of activists and community members in determining cleanup levels for radiation at the site of the former Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. He discusses the numerous advisory boards and study groups that have been part of the process, the politics involved in working with the Department of Energy, the decision-making models used by the various groups and by the government, and his analysis of the adequacy of the cleanup that was completed around the time of the interview.

OH 1288: Ron Newby This interview is a follow-up to an extensive interview recorded in 1998 (OH 945V A-D). In this interview, Ron Newby, who worked on the Security Force at Rocky Flats and as manager of that Security Force, adds information about changes in security at Rocky Flats over the years, discusses the 1978 and 1979 protests at the plant, and describes several of the buildings on the plant site, among other topics.

OH 1181: Lee Scott Newman Dr. Lee Newman describes his work on the development of a test to diagnose beryllium sensitivity and beryllium disease; his studies of the incidence of berylliosis in Rocky Flats workers; and worker treatment, safety, and illness compensation issues.

OH 1372: Harvey Nichols Professor Harvey Nichols discusses his experimental work on particle sampling for plutonium particles in the perimeter area of the Rocky Flats site; his concerns about health and environmental dangers posed by the plant, both during its operating years and residually if the site is open to the public as a wildlife refuge; his political work to convince lawmakers of the potential hazards; and his work on the topic through a critical thinking class he teaches at the University of Colorado.

OH 1392: Sonya Pennock Sonya Pennock discusses her job as a community involvement coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency, overseeing the early years of the cleanup of Rocky Flats. She talks about reasons for the closure of Rocky Flats, involving citizen and local government advisory groups in the cleanup, the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, the union, the role of activists, and her evaluation of the cleanup.

OH 1375: Jan Pilcher Jan Pilcher discusses her work as a citizen activist working on issues concerning public health and safety with regard to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, in particular, her work against incineration of radioactive waste at the plant, the building of W-470

near the plant, and the reopening of the plant after the 1989 FBI raid. She speaks about her role as a community organizer, liaison to the media, lobbyist in the Colorado State Legislature, and organizer of group of scientists to research and speak out about Rocky Flats.

OH 1203: Edward A. Putzier Edward Putzier talks about his work in radiation monitoring at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, including the challenge of creating new instrumentation and protective equipment for people working with uranium and plutonium

OH 1509: Thomas Rauch Tom Rauch spent 20-plus years working on issues of health, peace, and social justice related to Rocky Flats. In this interview, he follows the progression of Rocky Flats committees and action groups that evolved through his years of service, mainly between 1974 and 1994. Rauch talks about people who played significant roles at different points in time, coalitions and demonstrations, and public rallies. This oral history gives insight into the dynamics of group formations; Rauch describes how individuals coalesced around specific events and objectives.

OH 1287: Thomas (Tom) McQuie Rauch Tom Rauch discusses protest actions that were taken at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, including the 1978 demonstration and the 1983 encirclement of the plant, which he helped organize. He also talks about the issue of incineration of low-level radioactive waste, various investigatory and monitoring groups, relations between protesters and union leaders, the closure of Rocky Flats, and the nuclear freeze movement.

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

OH 1251: Barney L. Richardson Barney Richardson talks about Rocky Flats, where he worked from 1966 to 1992 as a tool designer and in manufacturing engineering for the Processing Department.

OH 1185: Llewellyn (Lou) C. Richmond Lou Richmond talks about his jobs at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant as a decon worker after the 1969 fire and as part of the plant's security force.

OH 1179: Bob (Robert) Rothe In this wide-ranging interview, Robert Rothe, who ran and did research in the Criticality Mass Laboratory at Rocky Flats from its inception in 1964, describes many aspects of the experiments he did to define criticality standards, talks about safety at Rocky Flats, describes in detail the building in which he worked and its demolition, and discusses issues related to the disposal of radioactive materials, among other topics.

OH 1401: Donald Sabec Don Sabec talks about his work at Rocky Flats from 1961 to 2004 as a janitor, process technician, and radiation monitor. He discusses safety issues at Rocky Flats, problems with radiation monitoring equipment and records, cleanup of the 1969 fire, the FBI raid, and adjusting to having women working at the plant, among many other topics.

OH 1384: Jerry San Pietro Jerry San Pietro worked at Rocky Flats from 1966 to 1995, for many of those years as a radiation monitor or radiation control technician. In this interview he discusses health and safety issues that he encountered at Rocky Flats while doing his job, including the discovery of various sites in which hazardous and radioactive materials were or are buried, working with the union on safety issues, cleaning up after the 1969 fire, monitoring Building 771, and his evaluation of the adequacy of the cleanup of Rocky Flats.

OH 1511: Niels Schonbeck Biochemist Niels Schonbeck discusses the work of Edward Martell, who first studied radiation in tobacco/cigarettes and then alerted the public to environmental radiation that came from activities and accidents at Rocky Flats. Martell took soil-sample measurements after the 1969 fire and demonstrated that plutonium, present in alarming amounts, was emitted from the plant. In this interview, Schonbeck explains correlations between radiation and cancer and aging; he also talks about the causal relationship between oxygen and aging, which has been a focus of his own study and writing.

OH 0964: David Skaggs David Skaggs discusses the many issues that he dealt with relating to the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant in his work both as a Colorado state legislator and as a Democratic United States Congressman from the Second District from 1986-98. He speaks of his call in 1989 for closure of Rocky Flats for safety reasons and issues concerned with representing both workers and activists.

OH 1300: Stan Skinger Stan Skinger worked at Rocky Flats from 1963 to 1971. He was instrumental in fighting the 1969 fire that occurred there, and he speaks about that experience in detail. He also discusses his diagnosis of mesothelioma, which he and his doctor believe may have been caused by the experience of temporarily losing his mask during that fire.

OH 1272: Pam Solo Pam Solo discusses her work in the antinuclear movement, including efforts in the 1970s to work with the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant Union to come up with a plan for conversion of the plant and alternative jobs for the Rocky Flats workers; efforts to educate the public about issues and dangers related to the plant; task force hearings and recommendations; the large 1978 demonstration against the plant, including the involvement of Daniel Ellsberg; her work with the nuclear freeze movement; and subsequent political work in Washington, D.C.

OH 1279: Henry (Hank) A. Stoval Hank Stoval discusses environmental contamination caused by Rocky Flats; safety, security, and secrecy at the plant; the FBI raid; and cleanup of the site. He describes the various citizens' and governmental groups and regulatory agreements that have affected Rocky Flats' operations and cleanup procedures.

OH 1512: Kathleen Sullivan Kathleen Sullivan talks about being born into the nuclear age, being concerned about nuclear weapons at a very young age, and her earliest experience with Rocky Flats: a memorable day in 1985 when her great aunt, Ann Swift, drove her to the plant's west gate. The interview explores Kathleen's ongoing activism, her education outreach—especially with children and young people—and her past research. Topics include nuclear guardianship, "nuclear time," and the concept of radioactive materials as a spiritual teacher.

OH 1386: Randy Sullivan Randy Sullivan talks about his work with the Rocky Flats Fire Department from 1991 to 2005. He discusses training, procedures and equipment specific to being a nuclear firefighter; several firefighting incidents in which he was involved; individual buildings on the plant site; and Rocky Flats in the context of the Cold War.

OH 1295: Iletta Bowen Teague Iletta Teague, who worked at Rocky Flats from 1963 to 1979, talks about the "Life is Fragile" program, security procedures at Rocky Flats, and general work conditions at the plant.

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

OH 1158: James (Jim) H. Turner James Turner, a former Rocky Flats worker who contracted Chronic Beryllium Disease, talks about the disease, harassment at Rocky Flats for speaking out, lawsuits related to compensation for the disease, and a berylliosis support group he started.

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

OH 1257: Jack Dale Weaver Jack Weaver discusses his work at the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant where he worked his way up from chemical operator to deputy assistant general manager between 1961 to 1996 and was a consultant to Rocky Flats from 1996 to 2002. He discusses Building 771 and Building 371 in detail. Also discussed are radioactive plutonium contamination, safety at the plant, the FBI raid, and integrating women into production jobs in the 1970s

OH 1398: Timothy Wirth Former Senator Tim Wirth talks about the creation of the Lamm-Wirth Task Force in 1974 to examine issues having to do with Rocky Flats; Congressional hearings that examined the subject of nuclear weapons in the 1970s; the roles of labor, protesters, and other groups in deciding the fate of Rocky Flats; his opposition to building a new facility on the Rocky Flats site in the late 1980s; and health and safety issues at Rocky Flats during the 1970s and 1980s.

OH 1184: Morey Wolfson Not available to the public until after January 27, 2014.

OH 1360: Doug Woodard Doug Woodard describes his twenty-three years of work at Rocky Flats, primarily as a radiation control technician (RCT). He discusses safety at Rocky Flats, comments on the cleanup of the plant site, and explains how having Kaiser-Hill finish the cleanup ahead of schedule is preventing seventy long-time Rocky Flats workers from receiving their pensions.

See www.boulderlibrary.org/oralhistory and click on *Special Collections (upper right)* and then click on *Rocky Flats* to see the list. Click on the *Oral History* number and name to read the transcript and listen to the interview. You can also do key word searches.

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