Oral History

Recorded for the Atlas of Drowned Towns (drownedtowns.com)

Narrator: Greg Sheppard

Interviewer: Woody Jackson

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Recorded in Detroit, Oregon

[00:00]

Woody: This is Woody Jackson interviewing Greg Shepard, participating in the Atlas of Drowned Towns Public History Project. It is October 22nd, and I'm recording with Greg Shepard. This interview is being conducted in Detroit at the Atlas of Drowned Towns event in Detroit, Oregon.
So it's about the dam, displacement, and so on. Greg, do you have any involvement or remembrance of stories of the pre-existence of the Detroit Dam? Did you live in the area?

Greg: I moved here—I'm a displaced Californian. I came up in '79 and started working for the Forest Service up here.

Woody: Fantastic.

Greg: Worked for them from '79 up here until '98, and then I got on with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Worked for ODOT, working on the highway—Highway 22.

Woody: Okay, so that'll be geared, but we'll work with that and work around that as well. I'll ask these questions, but we're broadly interested in your story and relationship with the North Santiam Canyon. So this could include perspectives that your friends or associates shared with you as well.
What would you like to share about the area around Detroit before construction of the dam? What memories do you have of this area before the dam?

[02:01]

Greg: Just stories that I've heard from different people that lived up here. In 2015, it was a drought year, and the lake levels were down really low. That's when we spotted that old buckboard wagon. They took pictures of it. I don't know whatever happened to it—they were worried about moving it because they were afraid it would fall apart. But they figured it was an 1880s-style wagon from Old Town. Somehow it ended up where it was—I don't know—because of water currents in the river or lake or whatever. But yeah, that was quite the deal. That was eight years ago.

Woody: Right.

So you worked at the Detroit Ranger District, correct?

Greg: Right.

Woody: What role or task were you involved with?

Greg: When I got on in ’79, I worked on what they called a brush disposal crew—BD. We were in the fire organization. They had a huge backlog of logged units. They were logging like crazy back then. We’d burn about 3,500 acres a year of slash from these logging units. After you burn the slash, then you come in and plant trees. There was so much slash, it makes it a lot easier to plant trees after you burn the slash, and the ash is good for the trees. They’ll plant next Spring. That’s what we did. We got caught up because they—

[03:58]

They were logging 3,000 to 4,000 acres a year. A lot of it was old growth. And so it took a lot of people to do that. And we'd burn even throughout the summer. We'd burn it, and we'd wait till nightfall. We'd plumb the units with hoses and sprinklers and water down the woods. And we did—we'd have fire lines around the unit. So we had crews of people watching. And then, usually, maybe after sundown or something, the humidity would come up, and then we'd start lighting the units. You know, four or five people would run across with drip torches, kind of in a staggered formation, and you'd get the heat going in the unit.
And then once you got it down far enough, the hot air—the, you know, hot air rises—so we'd pull the heat off the fire line. And you'd get, you know, the heat would rise. And sometimes you'd get some pretty crazy fire behavior, but it would stay inside the unit, because hot air rises and sucks in the cooler air. So that's how it works. But it was quite the—quite the operation, you know. And that happened throughout the summer, you know.

Woody: Did your tasks and roles change within the district as time went by?

Greg: Well, yeah. After—you know, logging started slowing down, you know, for different reasons.

[Phone rings] Hello? Hey, I'm doing an interview right now. Can I call you back? Yeah, okay. Alrighty, bye.

[05:53]

So, yeah, gradually—well, there was quite a movement again. A lot of environmental groups were being concerned that we were logging too much, too fast. Even the Northwest Forest Service was saying, “You can't—you can't keep cutting like this forever, because you're going to run—you know, you're going to run out.”

But we had—we had a trade deficit with Japan back then, so we were shipping raw logs to the Orient. And for every logging job in Oregon, there were nine jobs in Japan, because they were milling our lumber. And a lot of people were saying, “Well, why can't we trade milled lumber for Toyotas? Why are we giving them raw logs?” You know, that was a big issue. And that's how the logging—the controversy started with all that. And then gradually started slowing down on our cut. And mills were slowing down. And you know, when I got here in ’79–’80, all the mills had three shifts. It was 24—24 hours a day. There—you know, three different shifts. This town was busy. I mean, a lot of people working in the woods, a lot of log trucks on the Forest Service roads, on the highway, you know. Yeah, it was a busy community.

Woody: Right. And in that era, were you living in Detroit or the North Santiam Canyon?

Greg: I was living—well, first I was living on the compound at the ranger station. Yes, they had quite a housing shortage. Actually, I was—I was hanging out—I was living out of my panel truck

for a while. And then they had some housing down here at the school. And then the ranger house on the compound opened up, and 12 of us moved in there. So that—that was where I stayed the first year. And then later on, I rented a trailer up in Idanha. But yeah.

[08:07]

Woody: So there have been what appears to be three big events for Detroit that, at times, kind of include displacement. There was the building of the dam itself and the relocation. There was then the change in the logging dynamics of the area, potential overcut, and then the fire itself. So what created the transition from working all the Detroit District to ODOT?

Greg: Well, their budget kept—a lot of their budget was based on timber, you know, and our cut wasn't as big. And so budgets went down. They were downsizing. You know, it got to the point where some departments weren't doing hardly any work at all, so they didn't need as many people. And I was a seasonal employee. I worked about nine or ten months out of the year, and get laid off in the winter. And so it just was a gradual slowdown.

And by, you know, the early '90s, you could really feel it. You know, some of the mills shut down, and there weren't as many people living in town. We had a school here then. And then they decided to turn this into a charter school, and all the kids—a lot of the kids—ended up going down to Mill City—getting bused down to Mill City. And I saw an opportunity to get on with the highway department, so I did.

[10:00]

Woody: Right. Yes. Now in the time that you had seasonal employment, you would have been up here, and perhaps in Idanha at the trailer, during the winter months?

Greg: Yeah.

Woody: So how did you spend your time? Did you do subsistence stuff, involved with the mushroom seasons, or—?

Greg: We—you know, I applied for unemployment. I'd go down and visit family and stuff in California, maybe. You know, I'd look—I'd put in for work with the national parks, national monuments, you know, whatever. And kind of turn that into a job search and vacation in one, you know—kind of just visiting and, you know, seeing family, and then come back to work, you know, March—February, March.

Woody: Possibly, you have experienced—since you've been here for a length of time—changes in snow levels and snowpack and stuff?

Greg: Well, it seems like—I remember it seemed like you used to get deeper snow at Hoodoo. But it—you can tell there's patterns changing. It just seems like we're having—slowly having—drier and hotter summers.

Yeah, the winters don't generally seem to be as bad. Once in a while—the biggest winter I ever seen here was 2008. And that's—we had—we had five to six feet on the level. I thought we were living in southeast Alaska that year. I mean, as soon as you get to the dam, it starts snowing, and it didn't—it just kept snowing and snowing.

[11:58]

But that's—that's the deepest snow I ever seen here. But a lot of years, though, there'd be times—it'd be 60-degree weather in February sometimes, you know, and spring seemed to start a little earlier. And you'd have beautiful Indian summer weather up to Halloween sometimes. I mean, not—not every year, but it just seems like—

And we started getting bigger fires too, you know. Years ago, 5,000-acre fire on Willamette was considered big. And now we've had several fires that have gone over 100,000, you know. Yeah, and it's becoming more commonplace. So makes you think something's going on, you know.

Woody: Yes. And your work time and outside of that—and the downtime for you—did you make use of hunting and fishing?

Greg: Oh yeah. And we'd go skiing a lot—cross-country skiing, you know, mountaineering skiing, downhill skiing, yeah. And then there were programs at the Forest Service you could volunteer, and they gave you a little bit of money every day. It was just something to keep busy and whatever, you know. But yeah, usually worked—usually had two to three months off in the winter.

It was kind of nice. It kind of became a lifestyle, because you knew you had a job when you—you came back. And I'd always go for as much overtime as I could and just have extra money to get through. And then you kind of look forward to getting laid off for two or three months. And you know—

Woody: Exactly. And when you were provided volunteer opportunities with the Forest Service, what kind of projects were they?

[14:02]

Greg: Oh, we'd work on timber projects. Or, you know, there'd be—I used to, when I worked in silviculture, we'd help manage wood cutting areas and bough cutting areas, thinning projects during the winter or just before the winter—in the fall.

There'd be people that would go out and they'd start collecting boughs from noble firs for Christmas stuff, you know. And there were stewardship programs where people would bid on a unit for boughs and Christmas trees. And they—it would be theirs for—for 10 years. And then you could do what you wanted to with it, as long as you followed the Forest Service guidelines, like thin—thin the trees, you know, so many feet apart.

And then those trees that you thin, you could use for Christmas trees or whatever. So it was a win-win. They got work done. And then people made money on doing that. And, and employees—they got people working in the woods that were local around here. So it was a—it was a good deal, really.

Woody: I'll just go through these, but they may not relate to the project itself, so we'll go through those so we cover it, and then we'll work on other things.

Theme: Reactions to the dam. How did people in this area respond to news of the dam's construction?

Now you're arriving here in 1979—the dam would have been well established—but it still would have been young, possibly under 15 years, still kind of new to people to a small degree. Did you take advantage and have recreational opportunities on the lake? Get out and—

[16:01]

Greg: Oh yeah. Go boating, fishing, yeah. Take a boat out to the island campground. Camp out there. Yeah.

Woody: And were they still—they stock a variety of fish. Were you going other places to perhaps find salmon or steelhead?

Greg: Oh, down on the rivers, yeah. Fish the rivers. And there's a landlocked kokanee there in the lake, and they would—you'd see them run up the rivers and stuff.

Woody: Right. Your transition to the ODOT—the Department of Transportation—what types of services or roles did you play with that again?

Greg: It was anything to do with highway maintenance—paving in the summer, fixing, you know, doing potholes or fixing guardrail or—and then, you know, responding to accidents, you know. Make the—keep the scene safe, and then to allow like State Police or other people to come in and do their work, you know. But we—but our main job was to—in the winter—keep the road safe, you know: sand, spray, de-ice, or whatever worked for that situation. But it was—you know, plow snow—any—anything to do with highway maintenance.

Woody: With the ODOT work, were you able to pretty much confine your work to the North Santiam Canyon, or did you have—?

[17:53]

Greg: Yeah, our—well, our district ran from Mehama, there where 226 comes in, all the way up to the Santiam Junction, where 20 comes in and 126 come in—the Santiam Junction, that's where 22 ends. So—and then we'd help those guys out in their section too, especially when they got heavy snow. You know, if we didn't have much down here, we'd go and help those guys.

So—and then if something happened on I-5, that was high priority for ODOT, is to keep that artery. That's the main artery on the West Coast. The trucking industry is, you know, really big on that. So if there were issues on I-5, we pretty much let this go. And I-5 would stop priority. We'd plow and sand and whatever on I-5 just to keep I-5 open. So we'd help the Salem people out if we had to. You know, we'd always keep somebody up here to watch or whatever. But I-5 was always the top priority.

Woody: Are you still full-time? Part-time? Or—?

Greg: No, I retired from them in 2017. So yeah, I'm retired. I'm on the city council. Lately, that's almost been a job. [Laughs]

Woody: Where were you living at the time of the 2020 Oregon wildfires?

Greg: I was living here in Detroit. Yeah.

Woody: Were you one of the evacuees to Mongold?

Greg: Yeah. I—but I—my family left. It was Labor Day evening when CPI shut the power off here. They didn't shut the power off down in Mill City. That was one of the issues with the lawsuit they have going on down there.

So I—the family left Labor Day evening, and I stayed behind, being I was on a hotshot crew in California, and I've been on fire crews in Oregon. So I already had a safety plan. I kind of wanted to help pull—I thought there would be some firefighting. I wanted to at least help pull hose or whatever. I didn't have fire gear, but I figured I could have been behind the scenes—I could help do something. But there was no firefighting at all.

[20:14]

I spent the whole night in the park right up here, and I saw French Creek blow up, and I saw all the—the fire burned towards Mill City because of the east winds. That's why I wasn't worried about the Beachie fire. And I had no idea how close the Lionshead was. That's the one that got us. But that didn't come for a full day after.

And so—we get—well, anyway, I spent the whole night in the park, and a buddy of mine called about 9:30 in the morning, wanting to know where I was. I said, "Well, I'm here at the park. I got a drinking fountain. I got a restroom. There's a safe place for the helicopter to land if they have to." I felt perfectly safe. And if things went south, I could've ran down to the lake, and I would've been fine, you know. So I didn't have a problem staying behind.

But anyway, he talked me into driving down the hill, and I knew there was a fire down below, but there wasn't anybody around to talk to. So we started driving down the road and got to the big dam, and there was fire on both sides of the road, and there were trees—and I was just getting ready to turn around, hang a U, and head back to Detroit. And some cars came up behind me, and they were from Idanha. And they said, "We got a couple of chainsaws."

So immediately we got sucked in. We should have never been—no gloves, no hard hat. We should have never gone down there. But we got on a mission. Started driving down the hill. We cut—cut the logs out of the way so we could get the cars through. Did a travel lane, and we got about—we got about a mile past Niagara, and then we came up against another pile of trees, and we ran out of saw gas.

[22:04]

And I went, "Oh, we are screwed. We gotta get out of here." It was like pitch—it was like—it was like at about noon, and it was pitch black because of the smoke. It was like—it was like driving at night. We all had our lights on and all that.

And we had to get ourselves turned around. I said, "We gotta get out of here." And then I'm thinking, "Well, going back through all that stuff that we just cut," and I'm just going—praying that a tree doesn't come down to keep us from getting back to Detroit, because you're screwed if you're stuck down there.

And then I was thinking, "Well, if I get a flat, I'm not—you're not going to fix a flat in that stuff." I was going to drive on the rims if I had to. I mean, you know—we were in a bad spot. Really.

After we ran out of saw gas and knew that there's no way we could get to Mill City or Lions or whatever, we had to turn around, drive through everything that we just cut through, and just keeping my fingers crossed that we could make it back to Detroit.

And when we got to Detroit, it was like coming back to heaven. It was like, "Oh, we made it. We made it." You know.

Then I'm thinking, "Oh, I could use about seven or eight triple margaritas after that little experience." It's like, "Oh, crap."

And then we saw some people from the fire department, and they said, "Well, we're all going to go down to Mongold and regroup there, and then we'll caravan out of town, you know, later on in the afternoon." And "Okay." And there was probably 70 of us in that caravan, and we thought we were going to go—well, they asked people if they had enough gas to drive to Sisters. And I was down on a quarter tank. I said, "Boy, if I had a couple gallons, I'd feel a lot better." And so they got gas for people—the fire department got gas for people that needed it, because you don't want to—in the middle of a caravan, you don't want to run out of gas. So yeah, you want to make sure everybody can stay together.

[24:06]

So we got gas and all that, and then we left about two in the afternoon. And I thought we were going to Sisters. As soon as we got across the Breitenbush bridge here, they directed us up the Breitenbush Road. So—and they said, "Well, we're probably going to go to Government Camp, go out that way." And at two in the afternoon, there's still no fire in Detroit on that Tuesday afternoon. But we got about seven or eight miles up the road, and there was a spot fire on both sides of the Breitenbush Road. We had to drive through that. It was about a 10-acre fire.

And that's when I got a bad feeling. I went, "This isn't from the Beachie Fire. This is from the other fire. And if it keeps going in that direction, it crosses the river, Detroit could be in a world of hurt." That's what happened eventually. Yeah.

So we ended up driving up by Government Camp, and then I—I went down to some friends in Bend and stayed there a few days. But yeah, that was pretty scary.

Woody: Did you have—was your property burned? Did you lose—

Greg: Yeah. Yeah. I lost the house. And yeah, all the house, 40 years of—good majority of your stuff. Yeah, I don't recommend going through that. It's pretty hard on the psyche. [Laughs] Yeah. It's—insurance, dealing with insurance companies, and now, yeah, it's—yeah.

Woody: Was it—did you have other family go through this? Or were you on your own—

Greg: The family was down the hill when I was up here by myself. My dog, and that was it. Yeah. My dog was looking at me when we were driving down through the fire like, "What the hell are we doing?" [Laughs] I could just tell what he was thinking.

[26:00]

Woody: So on a detour from the dam, since your era is 1979 forward, can you share—you now sit on the city council. What has been part of your process of moving through the fire, kind of reconciling within yourself the fire, the loss of sentimental things—along that line—to the point of—I would imagine—sitting on the city council, wanting to recover your community and bring that back to life. Can you share about that?

Greg: Yeah. Yeah, that's been a really tough—it's been a hard comeback. You know, we still don't have a Main Street. We lost our—our main restaurant. You know, the town needs a meeting place and a watering hole and all that.

And, you know, we have some food carts, and we have a little diner here, but yeah, we still really don't have a Main Street. And that—that's been tough. And then we have septic issues, and our water plant burnt down, so we're dealing with our water plant issues.

And then it's the end of an era. We lost 80% of our houses and probably 80% of our trees. So it's—it's changed the whole environment around here. I think it gets—in the summer, it gets a little hotter here now, because there's not as many trees, so the ground heats up faster. Of course, hot air rises, and then it sucks air off the lake, kind of like at the ocean. So you get a lot more wind that comes off the lake, and there's hardly any trees to stop the wind. So we seem to get a lot more wind. And, you know, sometimes it blows pretty hard, and it blows stuff all over your yard—you know, around town. But that's—that's a change.

[28:10]

And just the rebuild process—you know, there's—there's only four motel rooms in town. There's an accommodation shortage. We got issues with the—you know, people—some people don't like RVs. Other people—well, that's part of the rebuild process too. And it's a recreation town, and each of those RVs represents a customer that's going to spend money in town. So you got to look at it that way.

But it's been a big battle, you know, just—just trying to come back, you know. When you're dealing with all these different agencies and contractors. You know, they got to drive an hour to get up here—a lot of them from Salem—and that's causing issues. It jacks the price up.

And then property values—there's big money moving in here. I mean, you could have bought a lot—50-by-100-foot lot—right after the fire for $30,000 or $40,000. Now they're going for a couple hundred thousand. It's like, "What?" It's crazy. Property values have gone up, and people are building huge homes. Jeez. You know, 4,000–5,000 square feet. There used to be a lot of cabins and smaller homes. But now people are going big. And, you know, some people might have big families. And some people want to rent the places out for Airbnb.

There's speculators coming in that are buying and selling. And then there's old-timers that want to rebuild, and that's going on. But it's changed the whole dynamic of the community.

Some of these people are going to be paying probably $6,000–$7,000 a year for property taxes. That's $500 a month. You know, it's too bad the city only gets—is 1.2% of the property taxes.

[30:04]

I remember the guy—the mayor of Gates—we were at a combined meeting in the communities in the canyon, and the mayor of Gates said, "Well, we get more money from our pot shop in Gates than we do from property taxes." [Laughs]

Woody: Mayor Carmichael?

Greg: It might have been him, yeah. He said, "Yeah, we get over $17,000 a year from the pot shop, but we get more than property taxes."

Woody: Why did you choose to stay?

Greg: What's that?

Woody: Why did you choose to stay? For several people, it was a tricky thing to stay or rebuild.

Greg: Yeah. Well, I wanted to stay on the council. I'm—and then, yeah, I was wanting to stay and rebuild and just kind of see it through. I had no idea that it'd be such an ordeal coming back, you know.

But you talk to other people—other towns in other states that have been burned out—they're still—they're going through it too. You know. I'm sure Lahaina in Hawaii—that's going to be a really hard comeback, because everything's got to be hauled across the ocean and all that, you know.

Paradise, California—85 people died in that fire. That—that was because they didn't turn the power off. Just like what happened down in Mill City and Gates. And that fire came roaring up to people's homes at two or three in the morning—the worst possible time. And they didn't have a chance to even get in their cars. You know, it was horrible. And they're still struggling to rebuild. They're coming back, but there were people that were on fixed incomes and stuff that maybe weren't insured enough, and they're dealing with that.

And, you know, there's a lot of things to—rebuilding is not easy, you know, especially when you got to deal with different agencies, you know, like, you know, the county, you know, the permit system, and you got septic issues and—and all that. Yeah.

[32:13]

Woody: So in the—I'm poor with math—say, the 35—approximate 35, going on 40 years, maybe a little bit more—you have built up a bit of community and associations with people in Detroit and in the nearby area. What is your sense of how many remain? Did you lose—let's say—20% of your old-time friends just chose to move on and live elsewhere?

Greg: Yeah. It's—yeah. There were some that just threw in the towel and said, you know—10 to 20% maybe. Yeah.

It seems like—I know there were some that just—it was too much, you know. Just—yeah. It was a quaint little mountain town before the fire. And now—I mean, I had so much—I lost—myself, I lost 41 Doug fir trees.

I have three lots—on a total of about a half-acre in between two streets. And yeah, I lost—I lost every tree I had. I mean—And before, in the summer, I could—I could barely see my neighbors. I had all kinds of buffers and privacy, you know, and shade. And now there's no trees. And it's like living under a microscope. You can see what all your neighbors are doing in that little valley up here on the hill. And it's a lot different, you know.

Woody: And perhaps the—the sound dynamics of 22—or has—has it become louder?

[33:58]

Greg: Well, you can hear when the truck puts on the jake brakes coming around, you know, the corner. You can hear traffic a little more, and you can hear your neighbors a lot more, because you don't have the trees for a buffer, you know.

And it's hotter. You know, it just seems like it gets hotter in the summer. And then you got the wind factor—just no trees to stop the wind. So yeah.

Woody: So this is a little bit applicable to your life and experiences, even if it's not exactly the dam—future of river development and relationship with agencies: How would you like to see future development projects, like dam construction, consider the human cost? Maybe perhaps the dam drawdowns, or the plans to revise the dam to move the fish and so on and so forth. Any thoughts or things that you would like to share about that?

Greg: You know, they draw down every year for flood control, and that's one of the main things. And then they're generating electricity. And then they do—there's irrigation down below, you know.

They're coming up with this excavation project where they want to dig down on the marinas farther so we'd have a longer marina season, which would help—help the local economy.

And this year, it seemed like they drew it down a little too fast, and we had—a lot of people had to pull their boats out by middle to the third week of August, which was—usually it's middle week of September. So they lost a month of—of—this is your time to make money, you know. This is the busy tourist season. And now—now it's—we're coming into fall.

[36:05]

But yeah, I kind of hope they dig—go big on that project and dig down to where we can maybe put boats in the first of April and take them out at the end of October. And that'd be—that's the best seven months out of the year. That'd be a shot in the arm for the whole canyon, really.

Woody: So you would have a smaller lake, but at least you'd be able—

Greg: Yeah, even if the lake's down—well, when you boil it down, the longer the boats are floating, the better off the town is. Those people spend money in town. They're up here recreating. I mean, this is one of the premier lakes in Oregon, really.

Woody: You have moorage fees.

Greg: Yeah, right. And that—that helps local jobs. And, you know—

Woody: Working on the city council, do you have dreams, wishes, aspirations on other ways that you might be able to improve the local economy?

Greg: Well, I just think we need to focus on recreation. You know, that's our—that's our gold mine, if you want to say that. I mean, we're right in the middle of the Cascades, and there's a lot of recreation opportunities up here. Not just on the lake, but, you know, fishing, hiking, skiing, backpacking—you name it. You know, just sightseeing, just wood cutting—all that. And that would—that would help the town.

But that's what we got to focus on, because timber isn't king anymore. They could up their cut. There's a lot of thinning that the Forest Service really ought to be doing, and—and that would

get more people working in the woods, plus more money for schools. And, you know, that would help the economy too.

[37:59]

But I'd like to see the Forest Service maybe—maybe start thinking about doing more thinning. You know, there's a lot of dog-hair stands in different parts of the district where the trees are just too close together. It's not healthy. Open up the canopy and that woods value. we still need lumber in the country. So it would be—to me, it'd be a win-win. You know, that money goes to schools, it gets more people out working in the woods, and it's a valuable product. You know, just makes sense to me. That, you know, they start doing that.

And then they'd have to hire more people at the Forest Service, which would be good, because more people could, you know, work in the woods.

And in fact, you know, I think they ought to think about revamping the old Civilian Conservation Corps. There's a lot of homeless people that probably—I know there's some that don't want to be homeless. There's—there's a group that are gonna, you know—drug users and stuff. There's people that don't want to get out of that lifestyle. But I know there's a lot of people that are one or two paychecks from disaster, and if something happens and you can't pay your $2,000-a-month rent, or if something comes up, what are you going to do? You're going to decide between eating and paying your utility bill or fixing your car or whatever.

But if you want to keep working, you're probably going to end up living in your car if you have—or an RV or whatever. But—and I bet some of those people would love to be out of the city. And if they had a place to stay and work up here and work in the woods and make some money, I bet there's a group of people that would do that. You know. And it just seems like you're gonna have to get creative to get out of this mess.

But yeah, I think if they could get something like that going again—like they did in the '30s during the Depression—that would—

[40:00]

Woody: Right, that's right.

Other stories—are there any other people you think we should contact to talk about their memories of this area? Now, this is an ongoing project, as you've probably discovered in these last couple of days. But is there anybody that didn't have the opportunity to come up here this weekend that you think might enjoy participating or might have some relevant history to help explain to the world what you know life has been like up in the canyon—transition of dams, and having to move, and stuff like that?

Greg: Yeah. I don't know if you've already talked to some of these people, but there—there's some people that—that might have been interested and that couldn't make it this weekend or—or whatever. I'd have to think about it. I mean, I could give you names and phone numbers, you know, down the road maybe. But yeah, I'm sure there's—there's people that—that would have been—would have loved to have been here.

And then there's some people that have passed recently. They were—they had a lot of history too. People in Mill City and Gates area and all that used to work at the Forest Service for years

and years, way back in the glory days of logging and all that. Yeah. I'd have to think about the names, but yeah, I'm sure I could.

Woody: Okay, yeah. Okay. Is there anything that you would like to add to kind of round out or conclude this interview?

[41:57]

Greg: I'm trying to—I kind of like the idea of this. I—yeah, I'm trying to think of something. I always think of it after—after the fact. Yeah, I just think hopefully, maybe we can get it figured out and get this town back to some form of normalcy, you know.

There's a lot of building going on, but we're still not halfway through the rebuild process. And it's just—it's going to take a while. But we are coming back. But I know we lost some people, and—and there are speculators that are moving in just to make a buck. And they'll be here for a little while, and, you know, as soon as they sell their property, it'll be gone. But that's going on too.

But yeah, can't really think of anything else right at the moment, but I like the idea of the interviews and all that history. Yeah.

Woody: Okay. So I'm going to conclude this interview today. And thank you so much, Greg. It's been a real honor to have your involvement.

Greg: Yeah. Do you have a card or something or a—

[43:34]