

<b>Code</b>	517041
<b>Subject</b>	Rhonda Russell
<b>Date</b>	6/24/2008
<b>Interviewer</b>	Maureen Carroll
<b>Special Notes</b>	

**minutes:**

- 0 Born in 1934 in Albany, Athens County in Southern Ohio
- 1 Live in Bath Township, Ohio since 1967; Owned Downtown Emporium since 1970  
Grew up in the country; always believed that she would have a house among creeks,
- 2 ravines and trees
- 3 Have been a member of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association  
Mr. John Siberling was convincing that people needed to support the park. Mr.
- 4 Berdsal 1st Superintendent  
Always have been a park supported; Some people had to make sacrifices for the
- 5 creation of the park
- 6 I have always just loved this Valley;  
Visitors from every state and many foreign countries come to the park; they all come
- 7 to my store
- 8 Peninsula is the Heart of the Park; Historic town; Draws people from everywhere  
At first I was surprised; I have been all over this park; It tickles me that people love to
- 9 come  
All ages enjoy the park: Grandmas, Grandpas, Babies. we have no junk stores;
- 10 people come for Nature  
We need to have tasteful food stops; Nature related outfitters, birding supplies,
- 11 tasteful shirts and caps
- 12 Only nature oriented shops in support of the activities in the park
- 13 Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway Train does a good job of promoting the park
- 14 Jeff Maugens worked with kids @ the Environmental Education Center
  
- 15 Jeff laid out trails @ the C. V. E. E. C. Other parks do not have Educational Centers
- 16 Environmental Education is important today
- 17 The park is unique in this country; preservation of a valley between 2 metro areas  
Key moment was when the area went from Recreation Area to National Park; funding
- 18 important  
People in the Park and on the Scenic Railroad are easy to work with; cooperation,
- 19 John Debo  
Changes: Peninsula Python Day, more traffic; Deb Yandela has good ideas for the
- 20 Park  
Most successful Bike Trail, lots of riders; Different wildlife, Scenery; Excellent bird
- 21 watching
- 22 Parks are not well funded at the governmental level; land acquisition a challenge
- 23 Park funding has been cut recently on the federal level
- 24 Marketing the Park needs to be enhanced
- 25 Magazine and newspaper ads are too expensive; The Train Markets the Park well  
Blossom Music Center brings in people only for their events; perhaps the restaurants
- 26 benefit
- 27 Over all the Park is well thought of; Considered "Our Valley"
  
- 28 Landscape has not changed in Peninsula. It is a great example of historic preservation
  
- 29 Flooding affects the Valley; Good thing the Colossium was not turned into condos
- 30 Colossium area is now a great birding area;

31 Ongoing commitment to the Park and to Peninsula  
G. A. R. is going to be a Civil War Museum; Peninsula as a town is on the historical  
32 register  
33 Bob Hunker was responsible for restoring many of the buildings  
34 Government wants to preserve this Valley; It is an absolute treasure  
John Debo has interesting job because of all the interplaying communities and valley  
35 needs  
36 Challenges are in Richfield, Boston Heights, and moving people through the park  
Last year CVNP was 4th in the number of visitors; This year 5th and no one even  
37 knows our name  
38 Blue Hen Falls  
39 Tough to explain the "Park Experience"  
40 Blue Herons; German visitors loved the park; full day, lots to do  
41 Only two main roads through the Park; can't get lost  
42 Park souvenirs based on Nature

43 Survey books on birds converted to books; No other park is comparable to this one  
44 There are fewer opportunities for involvement; less accessibility in other parks

45 There are wonderful opportunities for involvement in this park; lots of activity; lots to do  
46 Love this Park; It is mine; This has been fun

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