

Code	517043
Subject	Sue Klein
Date	6/23/2008
Interviewer	
Special Notes	

minutes:

intro Sue Klein born Seattle, volunteer with Cuyahoga Valley National Park, met husband in Colorado in College, husband from Cleveland area, Klein now lives
0 in Bath

moved to Akron in 1968, member junior league, involved in legislation to protect area of future park from bad development, Cuyahoga Valley
1 Association was leading charge to make area national park.
Cuyahoga Valley National Park signed into law 1976, Klien put together slide
2 show and went to meetings to promote park
school bus tours of future park, various ways to convince people of the
3 tremendous asset process took about 5 years
Klein worked as volunteer director after park opened, annual meetings, letters to support park, once Superintendent hired, Klien helped as park liason to
4 people who felt threatened by park
volunteer organization went defunk, then reinstated in 1986-87, Klein and her
5 husband led brainstorming about how to do so
Klein's husband became president of Cuyahoga Valley Association in late 80's became Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association and Education Center,
6 Klein currently serves on board

Klein surprised by people who felt their land was threatened, now most people
7 glad to have park, Klein grew up going to Yosemite, loves national park
National Park in Ohio very rewarding, land was threatened by development, and full of junk yards and bad areas, now clean, historic buildings restored,
8 hiking and biking availability

9 towpath used by all kinds of people, walking, biking, wheelchairs, tandem bikes
volunteering provides contact with good people, as park employees and other
10 volunteers,. Physical changes over time in park
attitude of people in area has changed, realized valuable asset of area,
11 improved quality of life in Akron and Cleveland area,
favorite memories, congressional hearings at Blossom during process to attain park status, reaction to signing park into law by President Ford very excited,
12 signed just before New Years
headquarters historical village, completion of towpath, ambivalence of removal
13 of Coliseum
area of Coliseum now a beautiful field, Five Hundred Year floods showed
14 awesome power of water

15 possibility of pocket veto if president had not signed bill for park after Dec 31
favorite places: towpath, carriage trails in Brecksville, Ledges at Virginia
16 Kendall park, great place for fall sundown picnics
development proposals before park created include housing development, creeping development, idea of turning coliseum into a mall area, little
17 businesses inappropriate to park setting would have crept up valley

Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education center has two dormitories for four
night stays in park with professional teachers and interns, 25% kids come from
18 poor areas, are supplied with scholarships
some people in Peninsula fought park, but park has stepped in to help with
19 roads and other infrastructures in Peninsula
park originally a "recreation center" changed to National Park but both run
20 same way
major hurdle in Brecksville was mining which caused pollution, current
superintendent, John Debo has been good at keeping media coverage fair
21 when problems arise, Debo has been at park twenty years
volunteers can call park service to volunteer, National Park and National Park
22 Association will combine to run as one volunteer group
fundraising by volunteers, approach organizations, individuals, and
government, clam bake in fall, Christmas internet auction "Bid for Kids" raises
23 scholarship money for kids to come to Ed center
24 urban kids experience park area
quality of life improved by park, haven for people similar to Central Park in
25 New York
26 discussion of Rivers Roads and Rails project
27 cont
28 end
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