

Code	517073
Subject	Kathy Fernandez (517073)
Date	
Interviewer	Jeff Bennett
Special Notes	Canal Corridor

minutes:

born Oct. 1949, Dayton, Ohio, moved to Zoar in 1975, worked for Ohio Historical Society
0 33yrs
OHS in Zoar, sewing department, married in the Zoar church, member of Ohio-Erie
1 Canalway Coalition, founding member of south park
2 Joel Brown called about concerning the canal, met in 1989 in Canal Fulton
List of people to work on canal project, second group meeting held in the Zoar (school
3 house)
Grassroots coalition, took 6 months to a year to organize, Ann McLaughlin became first
4 president of the coalition
considered Zoar as linear corridor, decided to meet in the middle (Canal Fulton), took 3
5 years to make national heritage status
6 president following McLaughlin was Don Cook, planning on testifying before Congress
7 changed the name of corridor to canalway, hired Dan Rice, part time to work on project
testified before Congress, didn't get the historical designation at this time but 1996 got
8 designation
Ralph Regula-vision was the canal would be a centerpiece, 1963 he walked the entire
9 length of the canal in Stark county

10 Congress appearance only two legislators asked questions, Tom Sawyer and Ralph Regula
11 those living in the canalway "got it", 1964/65 towpath first opened
involvement: Canalway Corridor board member, editor of Ohio Historical Society
newspaper, countless committees, responsible for the first public fundraiser in Zoar
12 "Convorting on the Canal"
testified before Congress and OVCA board member since 2003, project importance
13 because of preservaton
Canal was important to the Zoarites because it was not for the canal there would be no
14 buildings
15 preservation of our heritage, economic benefits was the hard sell
hurdles: Cleveland (going through the downtown area), getting across I-77, federal money
16 disappearing
17 noone took ownership of this project, once completed who will take care of it
18 fundraising: in the beginning it was very hard, found many wonderful partners
many people joined the saw the importance in it, landscape changed because of the surface
19 areas (walking track) and floods
20 1989 walks were sponsored, trail guide was written, signs were added, parking lot etc.
expectations: visions of what occurred were accurate but really beyond somethings went
21 beyond, project will be completed
problems in the south (Portsmouth) need to get their act together, once Sunday afternoons
22 for walking the dog and becoming a bigger part of the heritage of the canal
John Debout helped the canal to come to Zoar so it was a historical site but went to New
23 Philadelphia for political support, infrastructure not good in the south
24 South, too much land was sold off, Stark County most of the land owned by the county
2003 wrote a book on Zoar called "Singular People", used photos OHS and matched the
25 photos with quotes from visitors of 19 th century Zoarites
26 200 pages, still in print, something she always wanted to do, need for primary sources

27 used travelers accounts, newspaper articles, took idea to Kent State, took 1 year to write it
28 hurdles: which photos to use, where to publish it, need a straight history book on Zoar
another hurdle: most source material is in Columbus, now works North Canton Heritage

29 Society

Society tenant in old school in North Canton, 36 years organization, needed new direction.

30 Communal Study Association

31 thankful for this project, helped coalition to archive together at Akron University

32 talked about autographed book in museum, federal grant not getting approved

passed the House failed in the Senate, Voinovich elected but he was a freshman, next year

33 passage

34 grants help about historical site can go for federal funds (\$10 million in 10 years)

35 \$1 million for the 1st four years funding, dropped 600,750 the last appropriation

36 just renewed for next 5 years (\$5 million total)

37 being in the corridor qualifies you for more funds

38 park department (not district) in Tuscarawas County, hired a park director

39 funding: park department will keep an eye on the canalway

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