

Code	902002
Subject	Kathleen Barber
Date	
Interviewer	
Abstract	Kathleen Barber of the Shaker Lakes Nature Center describes her involvement with the Center beginning with the battle to protect Shaker Lakes from highway development in the 1960s. Barber describes this activist campaign in great detail, discussing the proposed route of the highway, the role of County Commissioner Albert Porter, the strategies employed to stop the highway, and the parts played by numerous individuals and activists - particularly women, whose role, according to Barber, was very much related to their role in the greater U.S. society. Barber used this activist experience to move forward as an instructor at John Carroll University, a Shaker Heights City Councilperson, and a member of numerous volunteer and non-profit organizations. Additional topics include regional government (regionalism), state and local politics, and cooperative arrangements between inner ring suburbs as a means to combat urban sprawl. Also mentioned are the Kingsbury Run Murders of the 1930s, during which several bodies are said to have been dumped at Shaker Lakes' Southerly Park.

minutes:

0 early involvement with nature center and shaker lakes; family outdoor excursions

- 1 Southerly Park (AKA Bicycle Jungle): naming, once known for a dumping ground for stolen
- 2 bikes, also known as dumping ground for bodies during Kingsbury Run Murders (1930s)
- 3 nearby Romanian community used pedestrian bridge
- 4 highway development battle, Albert Porter details ("a very powerful man")
- 5 highway development battle ("citizens were mobilized"), bipartisan nature of Clark Freeway
- 6 Committee
- 7 women's role in committee ("women were secretaries in those days")
- 8 details about the committee
- 9 highway was to go through park to avoid alienating powerful homeowners in shaker heights,
- 10 plan of action
- 11 bipartisan lobbying strategy
- 12 expanding task to stop both Clark and Lee Freeways
- 13 Cleveland Heights Freeway Committee
- 14 cooperation with other civic groups (garden clubs, park conservation committee), important
- 15 individuals (esp. women)
- 16 mobilizing citizens (Porter's attitude helped mobilize supporters, "to have an easily
- 17 identifiable enemy was a great boon to our cause")
- 18
- 19 bipartisan congressional support
- 20 milestones
- 21 aside: worked on getting NPR station in Cleveland
- 22 getting landmark status
- 23 City Council member (1970s, s terms, Shaker Hts)
- 24 Doan Brook Committee (Clev, Cleve Hts, Shaker Hts - joint effort)

25 education and teaching career
26 husband's environmental activities and biographical information
27
28
29 shared use of parkland with Clev and Clev Hts, cooperation with school districts
30
31 preserving natural landscape - challenges
32 exercise stations
33 leadership; use of the park
34
35 Shaker Square rehabilitation
 "the anti-urban sprawl movement is beginning to pay off... people are saying 'we don't have
36 abandon these beautiful places'"
37 cooperation between inner-ring suburbs
38 regional government (committee set up by County Commissioners)
39
40

41 political activities over lifetime; importance of Shaker freeway battle as a learning experience
42
43 work in non-profit sector
44 civic involvement
45 possible interview subject
46
47 women's involvement in Shaker Highway battle reflects role of women in society
48
49
50 work for campaign of Moe Udall "the best environmental candidate for president ever"
 Cleveland State University and John Carrol University: excellent places to start a political or
51 legal career
52
53 end
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62