

Code	517057
Subject	Bertha and Tom Jones
Date	6/24/2008
Interviewer	Tony Nigro
Special Notes	Sold land to National Park system and still reside within the park.

minutes:

0 Pre-interview information

1

Background information: Bertha born 1938 in Jait, Tom born 1932 in Cuyahoga Falls Story of how they met. Tamson Park in Summit County, swimming and camping grounds built by Tom and father, needed Boston Township zoning varience, Bertha

2 was clerk for township

Family history in the Valley. Tom moved there when 24.

Bertha was born in Jait, spent time with grandparents who

3 lived in Peninsula

Bertha's family history in the valley, grandfather's sheep farm now Camp Manatuck, farmhouse still standing, after marriage Tom and Bertha built house on Tuxall Road, sold to National Park, took twenty years residency, now rent

4 home from Park

History of Bertha's family, father attorney but went to 5 work at machine shop during war

Bertha's childhood experiences living in Peninsula, isolated town, safe, knew everyone, twelve students in

6 graduating class,

school as center of social activities, grew up on Bronson

7 Ave. all the kids on block played together

Bertha's education history small school meant everyone participated, Bertha went to Kent State and returned to Peninsula to teach for three years before her marriage;

8 memories and description of grandfather's garden

Bertha's family history and memories, Polish grandparents

9 on her mother's side spoke no English

Most of Bertha's memories are related to community, mostly school loved school and teachers, Christmas important to

10 family,

Tom discusses favorite areas of the Cuyahoga National

Park, knows southern part best since they live there, farm

11 of Boback family,

Tom history in photography...pictures in the park, covered bridge, railroad, all waterfalls, Photographed entire

12 Towpath from Lake Erie to Dover

Tom tells how he was instrumental in bringing Blossom to

the Cuyahoga Valley in 1965 while part time musician in

Cleveland Orchestra, approached by Louis Lane, associate

13 conductor

Music Arts Association was looking for summer ground for orchestra, had looked northeast of Cleveland, Lane asked
14 Tom if he knew of any area south of Cleveland

15

Bertha discusses ledges in the valley. Stories about her father walking along the ledges when attending school,
16 horse and buggy stories

Tom discusses Mr. Truxall's memories of area now Camp Manatuak, now huge forest, when Truxall was a boy, area
17 was farmland

Selling of their property to the parks Originally did not want to sell but eminent domain meant they had to,
18 they did support the idea of the park though,
19 Wildlife that has returned to the park.

Selling of their property to the parks at first upset them, but they appreciate park rangers; Efforts of others
20 to prevent selling

Bertha shares how she currently feels about how the land looks now, feels sad for many people who gave up their
21 homes, but many of those people come to use the park Transition in the selling process with the park. Only snag was price offered originally not market price, through efforts of lawyer friend in Akron, Genavese, price
22 increased

Park overall very kind to people forced to sell. Most oldtimers were local and had not traveled much, Tom and
23 Bertha had traveled to national parks and loved them, industrial growth from Akron in the south and Cleveland in the north into the valley. Tom realized valley not going to last so he met with others concerned for future of
24 valley, what can be done

Limited access highway through the Cuyahoga Valley being discussed, large electrical lines already in place, Tom
25 and others thought maybe a metropark idea would work Park is well run, compares well with other national parks, better funded and in better shape than other parks
26 throughout the country

originally thought there would be more recreation in park, Tom discusses his history in photography which began
27 in Army

Cuyahoga Valley Photographic Society offered weekend courses with big name photographers, met Jim
28 Rutsall, photography teacher from Hudson High

29 Discusses his scenic note cards of park, Bertha's idea to begin making scenic note cards to sell.
Sells 10,000 to 12,000 a year, started with Brandywine
30 Falls now over 200 images

Discusses photographers in Cuyahoga Valley Photographic Society, very high caliber group, Tom does slide shows of
31 valley in winter

Donation of pictures to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Tom chose to donate pictures because volunteerism is important, considers it a civic duty to share his talent

32 with park

Changes in the valley in Tom's lifetime; from agricultural based community, canal used by businesses for water during
33 Tom's childhood

Tom tells story on how mail was sorted in mail car on train from Peninsula to Cleveland, mail collected in towns
34 along the valley

mail put on train at 8am train reached Terminal Tower mail was sorted and delivered to Cleveland residences by 11:00
35 am

Bertha rode the train to Cleveland to visit mother's parents, or to shop, In Jait, post office at general store, where John Devo's office is now, houses in Jait home to German, Hungarian and Polish immigrants, many men
36 in area worked on train

Tom talks about growth of vegetation and abundance of
37 wildlife, deers not often seen before park existed, family activities in park: take train, hike towpath, train
38 especially fun for children,

Tom discusses towpath, compares with Apian Way which he
39 walked on in Italy,
40

Bertha would like to see change to policy which allows fallen timber to lay and rot in place, especially in areas
41 around roads

Tom tells how Virginia Kendall used to look before being taken over by Park System, which tries to preserve or allow nature to take over, metropark system in Virginia
42 Kendall park more apt to manicure land

Displaced farm people should have been allowed to farm
43 within the park, attachment to land, crops

Golf course Peninsula under discussion Bertha believes
44 should stay a golf course

Tom would like to see restoration of barns in the park
45 system that are falling apart

46

Berthais pleased to be a part of process of collecting history of Peninsula Importance of history to future
47 generations

48 Hensley farm and outhouse story

49 Tom talks about road improvement since park took over

Peninsula's financial problems due to use of roads by visitors, tax base limited
50 by much of land being taken by park

51 Tom thanks us.

52