

Code	517060
Subject	Cascade Valley Park
Date	June 24, 2008.
Interviewer	Tim Gallagher
Special Notes	none

minutes:

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0 Bruce Norton, Cascade Valley Park
June 24, 2008. Born in Westfield Mass. Moved here in 1976 to work with Goodyear
1 Tire and Rubber Co.
Main project Mustil Store, currently in charge of archives for those who have worked
2 on it along with history
Housed on second floor of the Mustil Store. We are outgrowing the space.
3 Anticipate separate building
4 Involved since 1986, now a trustee
5 Getting ready to move the Howell house (1824)
City of Akron, Metro Parks, and Towpath Trail. By August you may hike from Akron
6 to Cleveland
7 Participation is very high in numbers
Bruce began canal endeavors in 1977, was very natural for him to explore the history.
8 He was impressed by the engineering
Research the entire Ohio and Erie Canal with USGS maps, also explored
9 Pennsylvanian, and Ohio Canal, Beaver PA
Milestone - Cascade Locks Park Association has over 350 members, with a board of
10 12 members
11 the amount of participation is astonishing and they all pitch in to get things done
Was once involved with Canal Society of Ohio, where he sat on a board which
12 promoted his interest in the history of the Cannal
Summit County in 1986 was responsible for all bridges over water. Contemplating
13 rebuilding of the bridge on North Street
Came on board as a Canal Expert, to move the bridge to a storage facility in hopes of
14 rebuilding
15 It took 14 years to restore the Mustil Store (two buildings)
16 80% of the money raised came from private funds
The bridge at North Street was an original Canal Bridge, would have been better if it
17 were left in place and built around it
Spent whole summer, numbering more than 300 stones weighing more than a 1000
18 pounds
19 Plans to reassemble the bridge with the Shoemaker Mill project
Current project is to revitalize the area, bring back memories of the Shoemakers
20 around (\$2Million)
21 Agreement with the city to make a Historic District
22 Cascade Mill Race, lots of Mills, workers got paid in alcohol

23 Gentleman from Branford Mass. He was Hired by a guy named Heart. To build a Mill
The deal was that he would not drink until the mill was done. He got paid with two
24 *barrels of whisky and drank himself to death*
Promotion is always a problem, schools do not do enough, and historically minded
25 people are a minority
Cascade Locks always had a Newsletter published 4 times a year. Membership rose
26 from 10 to 350

27 Now we have a website, and we are applying for grants that include operating costs
People that you hire now a days must have advanced degrees as compared to the
28 old days
29 the treasure is 78 years old and always has a smile on his face
Physical landscape has not changed which is a good thing. Gives insight to 150
30 years ago.

31 There is good and bad that comes with the rules necessary to manage the public

There was a railroad planned (partially built) to travel from Hudson to Tiffin Ohio. The
32 panic of 1837. Records somehow were burned. Nobody knew who owed who money
33 Now a days, if you get off the trail you will be chastise for damaging something
34 The Canal north of North Street was destroyed. There's talk of rebuilding
Political figures are coming foreword in support of the things historians have been
35 saying for years

36 Western Mass has more open space than we have available to us here.
In New England, much of it is still private land. The exploration is more enjoyable in
37 Mass.

38 We need to preserve as much as we have with government involvement.
39 Cleveland and Akron almost no division. We are becoming one huge metropolis
Even though it's a bear market, I can find you something good. Slowed housing
40 growth is helping our cause

41 The ways in which I participate is changing as I get older.

42 Younger people need to get involved for the propagation of the organization
Attempts are being made to structure events that include young parents and children -
43 Ice Cream Social

Can't crack the whip on volunteers. Lock 3 Park the "Marble Man" has an exhibit to
44 preserve games
Second floor of the Mustil Store acts as our offices. First story is a living museum for
45 the 1870s

46 Quite an involved, informative place. Only open on weekends

47 Next - There are 14 projects they would like to complete. Reality vs. Desire

48 More pic-nicking opportunities. Area north of the store. Another aspect is art.

49 It would be fitting to have more art. Partnership with University of Akron students

50 Developing relationships with the city. City government is huge.

51 Communications with other groups that are historically minded.

Most memorable story - restoration of the Mustil Store and the House. It was very
52 challenging

53 Tom Long's (city planning) favorite saying is "We agree to agree"

54 Met every week to discuss next phase of construction

Two years later the two fully restored buildings meet all current codes and is almost
55 unnoticed.

56 Don Getz (artist) was hired to paint a mural (5' by 7'). Local artists

It took about 6 months. Gets was so good, he started it at his studio. Every week he
57 brought to the Mustil Store

Every week he showed up at the store to take more criticism. Original hangs in the
58 atrium of City Hall

This is most memorable even though at times it was not pleasant. End result is very
59 rewarding

I learned a lot and I contributed a lot. I'm very happy I had an opportunity to be part of
60 it

61 Advice - must be well tempered. Sometimes things go well and sometime not so well
Do everything you can to keep yourself in the forefront to make sure people know that
62 you're not going away

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