

Interview with Shirley E. Marshall

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by Karl E. Campbell

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Tape One, Side One

- 0 -introduction.
- 10 -decision to move to Chapel Hill, death of her husband and daughter.
- 31 -involved in politics soon after arrival in 1969.
- 48 -appointment as Alderman (72).
- 65 -alderman's meeting on University's sale of utilities, Cane Creek already decided.
- 79 -politics involved in sale and Church Commission(72).
- 87 -Hazen & Sawyer identified Cane Creek as best water in 68.
- 92 -Clean Water Act forces communities to choose cleanest water, Univ. improves water treatment system in expectation of Cane Creek.
- 110 -Univ. could have done it quicker in late 60s, complicated local politics.
- 120 -bids on Univ. utilities.
- 132 -OWASA formed, "jumbled up times," the Univ. made decision before utilities sale(69).
- 156 -"It was a good decision," "best possible source."
- 162 -Cane Creek people knew about it in the 60s, but heard no more until 76.
- 170 -farmers v. bureaucracy, she understands more of the politics now.
- 185 -Midway airport proposed for Cane Creek killed.
- 189 -meeting of all local officials with engineers in 72, county commissioners should have taken over the whole water system but they didn't.
- 240 -public law 92500 (clean water act) forced decision on "purest and best water."
- 252 -OWASA's formation was confused, reformation of OWASA with all elected officials on board, Chapel Hill gets more representation.
- 330 -everyone on OWASA board has reaffirmed the decision to go to Cane Creek.
- 334 -it will preserve farms by protecting the watershed.
- 345 -route 54 had been developing long before reservoir proposal.
- 354 -"You know its really very discouraging because I think there is so much change coming out there and this reservoir, this Cane Creek thing, gives them something to focus on."
- 375 -OWASA public relations was terrible.
- 382 -preparation for first meeting in Cane Creek, OWASA told board members not to talk.
- 394 -"The most ugly, most disastrous meeting that I have ever attended in my life."
- 406 -OWASA denied having info that they did have.
- 410 -Marshall and Flow Garret brought info to Ed Johnson's house for another meeting.

Marshall Interview continued

Tape One, Side Two

- 0 -first meeting at Cane Creek, ashamed of "steamroller" presentation, OWASA ran the show, Bobby Kirk's anger.
29 -meeting at Ed Johnson's the following sunday, "a better give and take."
55 -relationship with people in Cane Creek, she provided info OWASA wouldn't.
69 -OWASA didn't change attitude after first meeting.
83 -more cooperation would have helped the understanding that reservoir will held preserve farming.
96 -tension in gov't meetings between those who wanted to bring people in and those who didn't, "old boys network and bureaucracy" v. "populists," but all agreed it was the right decision.
142 -present problems over sludge being put out there.
146 -enlarging University lake would not help.
152 -a confusing time putting OWASA together, disregard for citizen's input.
171 -CCCA's actions, surveyors, court actions.
188 -"It was inevitable," "the university gets what it wants," public law mandated it.
200 -Stanford's sale as a turning point, strain on family.
226 -only a limited number of people who supported CCCA, environmentalists.
271 -the threats of growth are only now being understood in Chapel Hill.
290 -the future of agriculture in Orange county, if people remain vigilant it may survive, watershed protection will help.
361 -recent passage of a law for farm protection (1986) from the task force recommendation, "it doesn't have a lot of teeth," agricultural districts.

Tape Two, Side One

- 0 -Preserving Our Farms, task force report.
7 -CCCA tactics: courts, social events, fund raising.
25 -her career in local politics, county commissioner.
43 -accomplishments: Estes Dr. community center, planning dept., water and land use protection.
72 -involvement in big city politics before move could only be in elections, in Chapel Hill it is very personal.
84 -growth remains the big issue.
101 -Cane Creek in retrospect, respect and admiration for people.
117 -end.