

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Paul G. Wiegman:** Ralph, thank you for joining me this afternoon.
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, happy to do so.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** What we're going to talk about is one of your favorite subjects, The Great Allegheny Passage.
- Ralph McCarty:** Ah, so.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** The trail through Ohio pyle – the bicycle trail. And, I've interviewed now – oh, a dozen people. And, everybody has said to me- Linda Boxx said to me, especially, "You've got to find Ralph McCarty and talk to Ralph about the trail and the early years in the trail." And so, here we are. We're talking about it.
- Ralph McCarty:** I only have one caveat. This interview was conducted when I was much older.
- [Laughter]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** This is a future interview. Right?
- Ralph McCarty:** Linda Boxx is the loveliest person imaginable. I can recall her when they dedicated the bridge in Ohio pyle.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh, okay.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, she was there in a very lovely summery dress, and she looked like a prom queen.
- [Laughter]
- Ralph McCarty:** And, when Mike took care of her car at the dedication of the Fort Hill route, she had a problem with the ignition...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Uh-huh.
- Ralph McCarty:** When I learned that she had a 17-year-old son, I said, "No way."
- [Laughter]
- Ralph McCarty:** I'm sorry. Go ahead.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

Paul G. Wiegman: No, that's good. Those are the kinds of things... What I've been doing is talking to people about The Great Allegheny Passage, which, of course, is named the Yough Trail and a lot of other things as it began, but trying to put together the history of this trail because it's getting on above 30 years now. Actually, the Western Maryland Railroad was abandoned in 1974.

Ralph McCarty: My God, has it been that long?

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah. I think it was February 4-...

Ralph McCarty: Hey, that stuff sure [inaudible 0:02:49.0], doesn't it?

Paul G. Wiegman: It sure does. It was February 4, 1974 that the final abandonment put place.

Ralph McCarty: '74!

Paul G. Wiegman: And, of course, in '75, the Conservancy ran a train on the tracks that were left and said to everybody, "What a great idea, let's build a trail." And, everybody thought it was a great idea. The railroad was very, very much involved and wanted to see the trail built as a recreational trail. But, once the Conservancy started seeing bridges and things, it got narrowed down to a much smaller area of just Ohiopyle State Park. And, at that point, there began to be a trail. At that time, you were the owner of...

Ralph McCarty: Mild Extremes and Trails Outfitters.

Paul G. Wiegman: ...in...

Ralph McCarty: Oh, in beautiful downtown Ohiopyle.

[Laughter]

Paul G. Wiegman: Beautiful downtown Ohiopyle. Now, I understand that you weren't completely for this trail at that time.

Ralph McCarty: Oh, God, no. I was dedicatedly against it.

Paul G. Wiegman: How dedicatedly?

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

Ralph McCarty: Well, up to the point where I was going to get muscular. Well, we ran raft trips on the Middle Yough for elderly people that couldn't handle the Lower Yough.

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh, okay.

Ralph McCarty: And, it was a drifting and dreaming, sort of every once in a while you'd come across the rapids. And, when they pulled the rails, that was one thing...

Paul G. Wiegman: Right.

Ralph McCarty: ...but then when they pulled the crossties, they left the place open. A railroad isn't like a highway. It has no roadbed...

Paul G. Wiegman: Right.

Ralph McCarty: ...other than the earth that it's on.

Paul G. Wiegman: Right.

Ralph McCarty: And, this became open season for all-terrain vehicles.

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh. Okay.

Ralph McCarty: And, they would run up and down that railroad siding and [motor revving] just annoy the daylight out of you, when it was this scenic pastoral location that you happen to be in – and all that racket and noise. And, I think the people involved couldn't see my projecting beyond whatever was happening now. And, consequently, I was not a popular guy.

[Chuckle]

Paul G. Wiegman: Okay. Now, about what year was that?

Ralph McCarty: Oh, good grief. This was – I deal in sequence – I can't pick a date.

Paul G. Wiegman: The railroad abandonment in '75. I would imagine the tracks were up by '76, '77...

Ralph McCarty: It took a year or two.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah. It took a while to get the tracks up and to get the rails, the ties up.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** Yeah.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** And then, I understand that they were giving the ballast, the gravel away to local townships to build roads. So, that would have opened it up even more.
- Ralph McCarty:** Larry Adams – he managed to get things done via bartering. And, there were culverts that needed filling in and large pipes needed for drainage across the rail bed, you know?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, the state didn't come through with any money for that. And, the thing that you're talking about is what Larry did in order to get some of his work done. So, it was the case of one hand washes the other, you know?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Okay. Did the people in Harrisburg know about this at the time?
- Ralph McCarty:** Eh, yes, but it's a bit like our coroner's problem here in Pittsburgh, "Hey," you know, "what's the big deal."
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Uh-huh.
- Ralph McCarty:** "It's not a federal offense to have somebody go down to the corner and get some tennis balls for you, for crying out loud."
- [Laughter]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** So, you were concerned with the noise?
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, yeah.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Was there anything else?
- Ralph McCarty:** Well, rafting and paddling was a sport, if you will, that was not an extravagant sport. It wasn't – oh, I don't know what it wasn't – but it wasn't a noise-making sport.
- [Chuckle]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh, no. Except for the screams and the yells of joy.
- Ralph McCarty:** A little of that. I can remember a guy getting off the river one day and he had said, "I had a screamer today."

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

[Laughter]

Ralph McCarty: No, it was largely the noise. And, it was a little bit of bad activity in town and on the local roads. But, it's no big deal. It was just something that I wasn't for.

Paul G. Wiegman: Did you attend meetings? Did you let people know?

Ralph McCarty: In a way. I didn't write letters to my congressman or anything like that.

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

Ralph McCarty: I just wanted to know what was going to happen and when it was going to happen, and how soon is this going to be over with? And, if all of this is going on for the benefit of people on bicycles, why isn't something going on for the benefit of people who paddle the river? And, there wasn't too much of anything going on for that activity at that time.

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

Ralph McCarty: That was before the parking lot and all of the...

Paul G. Wiegman: The parking lot at...?

Ralph McCarty: Where the rafters park now, down close to the put-in – that area.

Paul G. Wiegman: At Ramcat?

Ralph McCarty: No. Up the... Well, there wasn't anything up there. It was the Corps of Engineers parking lot – above the bridge.

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh, you went all the way – you started all the way there by the- the bridge wasn't there. The new bridge wasn't there. The old...

Ralph McCarty: Oh, we started right below the dam.

Paul G. Wiegman: You start- oh, okay.

Ralph McCarty: Yeah. There wasn't any other facilities available for rafting that portion of the river.

Paul G. Wiegman: Okay.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** The Corps of Engineers tolerated us is what it amounted to.
[Laughter]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right. How about on the lower part of the river? Were there problems from the falls on the Lower Yough with the same kind of ATVs and so forth?
- Ralph McCarty:** No. At least, if there was, it was a little bit removed from the river. And, the noise wasn't all of that immediate.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** You could hit the guys on the ATVs with a rock if you were in a raft, for crying out loud, on the upper section. But, on the lower section, they were up on the hill and a bit removed.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** And removed. Were there other people that were with you at the same time that were concerned about this trail coming through?
- Ralph McCarty:** Not that I knew about.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** You were always alone? You're always the maverick.
[Chuckle]
- Ralph McCarty:** Yeah. There are expressions that I won't use.
[Laughter]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Well, from what I understand in talking with Larry Adams, he knew there were some concerns – let's call them...
- Ralph McCarty:** Ahh.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** ...in Ohiopyle about this trail. And, that was the reason that the trail did not begin in Ohiopyle, but he began building it from the Confluence end.
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** So, he could get some of it built and get some people using it. And, once they used it, they would like it and say, "Why don't we build it all the way to Ohiopyle?" So, you had some impact in one way.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** Larry was a good guy. He was a very plus sort of person.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mmm, okay.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, I respected him and not only his job position, that sort of thing, but his interest. Unfortunately, as an individual, as a private entrepreneur, if you wanted to do something – dammit, [clap] do it.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** That’s right.
- Ralph McCarty:** If you’re working for the state, for a bureaucracy, well, you have to fill this form out, and you have to submit it, and then maybe two years later it’ll come up for review.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** It takes time.
- Ralph McCarty:** I could never quite understand that. I appreciated it, but I couldn’t tie into it. My dad had one favorite expression, “Dammit, do it.”
- [Laughter]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Well, let me go back just a little bit, even before the trail. You lived in Ohiopyle when the Western Maryland was still running.
- Ralph McCarty:** Yes.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Do you remember the...?
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, I surely do.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Tell me about that.
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, good grief. The old Wolfe house that we lived in, the former – or the original Mitchell house, you know...?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Okay. That’s just to the right of the general store.
- Ralph McCarty:** Well, it’s right behind the community center.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right behind the... Okay.
- Ralph McCarty:** Okay. Well, if that train didn’t make the curve across the river, it would have gone right through our house.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

[Chuckle]

Ralph McCarty: And, when it made that turn right in front of the store, my God, the screech of those wheels...

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh.

Ralph McCarty: ...was enough to drive you out of your mind. And, that happened all night long. For some reason or another, trains prefer to run at night. Or, maybe they just used to. I don't know.

Paul G. Wiegman: It's when you notice them.

Ralph McCarty: It was a horrible, horrible situation. That – a noise fanatic. I don't know. But, at any rate, it was a screechy thing that you had to endure through the course of the evening and night.

Paul G. Wiegman: And then, of course, once it stopped, they took out the span of the one piece of the bridge...

Ralph McCarty: The upper portion of it.

Paul G. Wiegman: ...all you had was- once it was abandoned. The trail ended up being built in about 1986. That's when it opened up from Ohiopyle to Ramcat. By that time, what was your feeling then – once this thing opened?

Ralph McCarty: Oh, no problemo.

Paul G. Wiegman: Okay.

Ralph McCarty: Hey, no sweat. In fact, I don't know if we instituted the programming or not, but we used the bit that if you had your own equipment, your own bicycles, you could ride a bike up to Confluence...

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

Ralph McCarty: ...and we would provide a raft for you to come back to Ohiopyle and bring your bike back. And so, we thought the bike operation at that time was a good thing. Good for you; good for me.

Paul G. Wiegman: Was your firm the first to do that?

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** I think so. It was before it was something that we programmed. It was, “Hey, there are four or five of us and we have bikes. And, we want to...” blah, blah, blah. And, you go up the river and leave your bikes there and we’ll go get them. And then, when you get back to Ohiopyle, you got your bikes back.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** So, you would leave a raft... Where would you leave the raft?
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, you wouldn’t leave one there. We’d take one up at the time when we calculated the people would arrive at Confluence...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh, okay.
- Ralph McCarty:** ...and use that same trailer to bring the bikes back.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** To bring the bikes back.
- Ralph McCarty:** Eh, it was one of those...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Did it work?
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, yeah. It wasn’t a big deal. But still, for the benefit for the people who did it, it was, hey, double your pleasure, double your fun.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Okay. Yeah. That’s certainly a good use of the trail.
- Ralph McCarty:** That’s the most exciting thing I can think of. We didn’t rent bikes, as such, at that time. And, there was no conflict between the trail users, or the bike users, and the rafters. Everything was copasetic, yeah.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Do you see that continuing now that the trail is actually going to be open this year? We’re in 2006 when – excuse me – we’re going to have long-distance riders. We’re going to have people that are riding more and more of it since it’s connected to Maryland now.
- Ralph McCarty:** Well, thereby hangs a little bit of a problem, if not a tale. It’s the old story about white water paddling. “How ya’ll gonna get back, boy?”

[Laughter]

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

Unless you ride your bike 30 miles in one direction and then turn around and...

Paul G. Wiegman: And come back. Right.

Ralph McCarty: ...ride your back 30 miles. Hey, the joy has sort of gone after it after the first 30 miles, you know?

[Chuckle]

Paul G. Wiegman: Uh-huh. Right, right. But, it's an easy ride back, especially when you're in the raft, or the kayak, or...

Ralph McCarty: Well, yes, that part was all right. But, if you are strictly a trail user – trails are destination rides. They go somewhere. If you go to a park, like Boyce Park and go for a bike ride, you go around in a circle...

Paul G. Wiegman: You go around in a circle and come back.

Ralph McCarty: ...and you come back to where you're started.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah.

Ralph McCarty: Rail trails ain't like that.

[Chuckle]

Paul G. Wiegman: Hmm. No, they go from one place to another.

Ralph McCarty: They do, indeed.

Paul G. Wiegman: How do you see the rail trail fitting in with the rafting, especially in a town like Ohiopyle? Ohiopyle is really built on the raft business. Do you see the bike business growing, or is it a detriment to the raft business?

Ralph McCarty: No, I don't think there's a conflict there. No, I don't see any difficulties there, other than the congestion. On a weekend, hey, you can't find a place to park.

Paul G. Wiegman: Hmm.

Ralph McCarty: I don't know if you recall the picture in that pamphlet I sent along to you in – I think it was '98 – the picture shows you couldn't find a place to park in town, in Ohiopyle.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Paul G. Wiegman:** No. Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** There is a convertible that's shown. It went around that green island in the middle over by the train station, two or three times, and then it finally drove off. It couldn't find a place to park. You got there after 10 o'clock, you were out of luck as far as parking was concerned.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** This was on a weekend, on holiday weekends? Or, just on a good weekend in Ohio?
- Ralph McCarty:** This was in October, and it was on a Sunday.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh. When the leaves are changing, and...
- Ralph McCarty:** I guess so. Whatever turns you on.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** But again, there are people who prefer – the crack of dawn people, "I'm a morning person." Well, all right. The air is fresh, and all of the things that are plus as you are in the morning. And, do your thing and by 11 o'clock, "Hey, let's go home."
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** Then there's the afternoon crowd. So, this lends itself beautifully to a shuttle arrangement in that you can arrange for the people in the morning and continue the thing through...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** People...
- Ralph McCarty:** ...and with reservations, you can set up your schedules and fill up the day, and accommodate everyone, whether you're a morning person, an afternoon person, or an evening. You can ride until 9 o'clock at night in the summertime, you know?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh, absolutely, absolutely.
- Ralph McCarty:** Back in Cleveland, where I came from, starting out in industry, we did everything at night. We cross-country skied at night, we went horseback riding at night from, oh, 1:00 until 3:00 in the morning – was a fine time to go horseback riding. Are you kidding? No.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

[Chuckle]

The Shady-something trail off Route 91 – hey, it was the thing to do. Well, at any rate, this isn't the way people think or operate in- at least my part of Pittsburgh.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah, yeah. I understand that there's more activity now on the Middle Yough – or as much activity on the Middle Yough as on the Lower Yough. Is that true?

Ralph McCarty: As much, hmm, there's activity there. I don't think it's prohibitive yet, I mean, the congestion. It can get that way. Things have a way of ebbing and surging. For instance, we would run 500 people a day...

Paul G. Wiegman: Wow.

Ralph McCarty: ...down the Cheat River.

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

Ralph McCarty: Good grief.

[Chuckle]

Paul G. Wiegman: That's a lot of people.

Ralph McCarty: Of course, we were the only ones doing it.

Paul G. Wiegman: Uh-huh.

Ralph McCarty: We were the first to raft in West Virginia. And, I attended some sportsman shows in Washington, in particular. And, the Washington Canoe Cruisers were great to get the word out. And, the idea of being able to run a river that has the word "canyon" associated with it...

Paul G. Wiegman: Uh-huh, okay.

Ralph McCarty: ...was a kind of a thing to do.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah.

Ralph McCarty: And, as it stands now, that has gone by the board just a little bit. And, what with the West Virginia Turnpike and with KKK

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

Center – what's his name – built the road from Washington over to Charleston.

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh, Senator Byrd.

Ralph McCarty: Senator Byrd. Yes. Beloved Senator Byrd.

Paul G. Wiegman: Because it's the Senator Byrd Highway.

[Chuckle]

Ralph McCarty: That's right.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah, it is the Senator Byrd Highway, yep.

Ralph McCarty: I've seen the pictures of the...

Paul G. Wiegman: Yup.

Ralph McCarty: ...monument.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yep.

Ralph McCarty: Good God.

Paul G. Wiegman: Right across the New River Gorge.

Ralph McCarty: Yes. Well, I'm sure with that monument in his favor, why St. Peter will say, "Step right in."

[Laughter]

Ralph McCarty: But, at any rate, you can get to the New River so conveniently now. At the time we were the Cheat River, you had to go down 219 through all sorts of strange places...

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh... Places. Like Speed, West Virginia, and...

Ralph McCarty: Philippi...

[Chuckle]

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah. Yes. I remember that well.

Ralph McCarty: ...in order to get to the Cheat.

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

Ralph McCarty: And, it was a, I mean, you had to gear up for this mentally. And, that's not the problem now. So, the New River and the Gauley has taken a good bit of the play away from the Cheat, and Youghiogheny to a degree.

Paul G. Wiegman: Right.

Ralph McCarty: And, hey, so – good.

Paul G. Wiegman: Yeah. You were around when the rafters in Ohiopyle were unlimited. There was no quota. And, the state finally had to put a quota because there were so many rafters using it. Do you see that ever happening with the bike trail?

Ralph McCarty: With a shuttle reservation system, it won't happen. Because the shuttle will set up a reservation from 7:00 in the morning until 11:00, or from 8:00 in the morning until 12:00. And, in that way, it would parcel out the use of the trail through the course of the day. Rather than as you had it in that picture of '98, where everybody arrived in Ohiopyle at 10 o'clock.

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

Ralph McCarty: That was a problem.

Paul G. Wiegman: That was a problem.

Ralph McCarty: That was a big problem. So, if you're saying, "Will that happen?" It did happen. Now, the way to even that out is to have a reservation system associated with a shuttle and use up the day from 7 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night.

Paul G. Wiegman: So, what you're suggesting is you have people coming to Ohiopyle, or the Ohiopyle businesses, taking the bicycles to Confluence, having the people come to Confluence and you shuttle them back. But, the shuttle system, through private business, will even out that trail use.

Ralph McCarty: Yeah. Other than have the people come either to Connellsville...

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh, okay.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

Ralph McCarty: ...at one end, or at Confluence at the other end, which we give you a 30-mile run and half-way through, you have the comfort facilities at Ohiopyle. You can stop and get a sub, or go down, throw rocks in the river, or whatever you have in mind.

[Laughter]

Ralph McCarty: And then, continue on your way, which makes it sort of a leisurely trip all in all. And, when you get to the end of your ride – waa-lah – there's your car.

Paul G. Wiegman: There's your car. Right. And, it does make it, then, that round trip that you talked about here at Boyce. Then, you don't have to go one way and come back the other.

Ralph McCarty: Yes. And, end of the course is taking people on the- we had the maxi-van that is included in that folio, which would accommodate 14 passengers, and the bike trailer would accommodate 14 bikes.

Paul G. Wiegman: Is that still in use – that bike trailer?

Ralph McCarty: Well, it's in use, but no longer by bikers. Mike sold it to the people down on the Cheat, and they used it for rafting.

Paul G. Wiegman: Oh, okay.

Ralph McCarty: Which, not too great, because it's a very lightweight trailer. I don't know how well they're making out. Maybe they put helper springs under it. But, at any rate, the advantage of the whole business is that you can tell people all about the community, the fact that Washington was one of the first to paddle the river...

Paul G. Wiegman: Mm-hmm.

Ralph McCarty: He got as far as the falls and, as the story goes, I read somewhere that an Indian with a pistol to his head would not take him on the river down below the falls.

[Laughter]

Paul G. Wiegman: I hadn't heard that.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** That's a beauty. I wish I knew where I picked that one up. But, he would haul it in '54 crossing the Yough at the Great Crossing at the foot of Braddock's Run where the old road – the old military...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right. Where 40 goes across.
- Ralph McCarty:** Mmm.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Is somewhere in there.
- Ralph McCarty:** Yeah. And, they said- now, they couldn't get across the river because of high water?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, they made the canoes...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Upside... Yeah.
- Ralph McCarty:** Come on. And, this gang of people – well, they got as far as Confluence the first night...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right.
- Ralph McCarty:** ...and they stayed overnight there.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, the next day – there's something about having made more canoes. I can't imagine making a canoe, but it says so.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** And, they did it in a day or two.
- Ralph McCarty:** Right. And, they continued on down to Ohiopyle. And, how they got down that river – either the Upper Yough at high water – the rapids at Drakestown – hey, they're significant.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** That's, yeah – there's significant rapids there.
- [Laughter]
- I've been upside down in them.
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, well, you're in a very large club.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Yeah. I can imagine.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** At any rate, they were the first, to my knowledge, to camp overnight at Ohiopyle.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Oh.
- Ralph McCarty:** In that if you ran that river in high water in homemade canoes that you made the day before, you didn't... Now, this is when...?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** This was in...
- Ralph McCarty:** ...October?
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Somewhere around in there, I believe. Yeah.
- Ralph McCarty:** I think it was in a cool-ish part of the year.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right.
- Ralph McCarty:** There are three days in Washington's journal that are given to describing the flora and fauna of the region...
- [Chuckle]
- ...meaning that they stayed overnight...
- Paul G. Wiegman:** They'd stay overnight.
- Ralph McCarty:** ...at the Ohiopyle Falls area.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Right.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, it probably took them a day or two to make their way through an unbroken forest to get back to where their army was.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** That would have been tough just in and of itself.
- Ralph McCarty:** A neat trick in its own right, yes.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Yeah. Yep.
- Ralph McCarty:** But, at any rate, people should know this. There could be pamphlets, there could be – oh, now they have movies that you can show in vans.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.

VIDEO INTERVIEW Feb. 2006 – RALPH McCARTY

- Ralph McCarty:** And, you could tell people places to visit that would be of interest.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** And, I think that using up the total portion of a day via a shuttle system is the way to go.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Let me, just a second, go back to when this trail was being built and you were concerned about the ATVs.
- Ralph McCarty:** Oh, yeah.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Was there any stories that people came to you and said, “Why are you doing this?” Or, “You’re crazy.” Or – do you have any tales from back then?
- Ralph McCarty:** There was a little one-on-one with the riders – the bike riders. Not too much. And, a couple times when they got off the river, we encountered some hostiles. But, it’s nothing that you could hang your hat on. It wasn’t a tough situation. But, it wasn’t something that meshed well together at that time.
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Mm-hmm.
- Ralph McCarty:** The ATVs and the rafters. One loved the solace and quiet, and the beauties of nature and the other ones wanted to see how big of a bump they could jump over.
- [Laughter]
- Paul G. Wiegman:** Yeah. And, there are still problems with that on the Somerset County end that is only now being developed – 30 years later. And, I know in Maryland they had trouble. And, they actually have, in Maryland, a police officer that is patrolling the trail...
- Ralph McCarty:** No!
- Paul G. Wiegman:** ...on an ATV. So, it’s come all the around – small circle.
- Ralph McCarty:** A full circle.

[end 0:33:53.5]

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