

INTERVIEW OF BENJAMIN SHAINÉ AND SALLY GIBERT
INTERVIEWER IS KAREN BREWSTER
SEPTEMBER 2, 2016
IN MC CARTHY, ALASKA
PART 2

SALLY GIBERT: Tell another story and both -- each of these stories I sometimes tell in the ANILCA training class at that time and they are important stories to me which is why I have kept them alive all this time. And they kind and especially this one kind of speaks to how significant ANILCA was to Alaskans especially in rural Alaska. So after I think, oh shoot, I can't remember if it was -- I think it might have been the Carter Monuments. It was either the Carter Monuments which was sort of the like the temporary sort of Park before the final one, but it might have been ANILCA and shoot I know I have reconstructed which one it is, but I can't remember, but the -- and it might have been ANILCA. No, I think, let's see, 1980.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wasn't the monument like '78 or '79?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Seventy-eight.

SALLY GIBERT: Seventy-eight. I was actually in Anchorage when I got the call so it must have been the monuments, but okay, so it was the Carter Monuments and they kind of took Alaskans by surprise. And they didn't take everybody by surprise, but they took a lot of people in Alaska by surprise and they didn't take me by surprise. And I was working for the Joint Federal State Lands Use Planning Commission at the time. Well, I guess they did take everybody a little bit by surprise but it wasn't that surprising.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: People -- I mean it wasn't like immediate -- people -- it was over a period of months and you knew it was coming.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, you knew something.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It resolved.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, because the deal hadn't --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It was obvious.

SALLY GIBERT: It hadn't passed Alaska, the delegation yet so anyway, yeah. So the monuments were, you know, created by the stroke of a pen by President Carter and so where there had been no Park or monument now there was, overnight, stroke of the pen. And, of course, it was all big news. It was the huge news in Alaska and a lot of people were kind of freaking out and a lot of people didn't understand what it meant or what these monuments were and there were no subtleties. It wasn't like ANILCA with all these special exceptions and fine language and detailed stuff. It was just wham, it is, you know, put in a monument status where there was nothing for subsistence or anything like that. And so -- and the boundaries in the newspaper were just these big, broad lines and nothing about inholdings or anything. Anyway, so after that happened, right after that happened within a day or two I was at work and I got a call, a radio phone call, from a woman that lived out here with her husband and their new baby. And she had -- she snowmachined over to the McCarthy Lodge and the owners of the McCarthy Lodge had warmed up the room that the radio phone was in and everybody was closed down. So it was kind of a big deal. It wasn't just -- there were no phones out here so you could get on the phone like over, over, you know. And so it was a big deal. So I get a radio phone call

at work and she is saying so Sally, how long do I have -- how long can we stay here? I don't know what I am supposed to do. I am supposed to move out? How long do I have? And I'm going what are you talking about? And she said well, it is a Park, you know, there is this -- it is a Park now and so I don't know how long I'm supposed to be able -- how long can I stay here?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Can I stay through the winter?

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, can I -- and it was in particular she was concerned about moving out in the middle of winter with a baby and didn't have any place to go. And so I said well, wait a second. I said you own your cabin, right? Yeah. And you own the land that it is on. It is your land, right? Cause I knew her. I knew where her place was and it was like yeah. And you own that right? And I said -- and she said, well, yeah, but it is Park now. Oh, okay, now I got it. Yeah, so I said, oh, okay, well, you own that land. That is not monument so the Park is the federal land and so if you own your land, that is -- your land is not a Park. You don't have to move out. Nobody is expecting that to happen. And she was so relieved because she was trying to figure out how to deal with -- how was she going to do that. And this before the road was, you know, open in the middle of winter. You couldn't, you know, drive out and so she was, you know, she was certain that she was going to have to leave and so she was just trying to figure out when. And so she was so relieved to find out that she wasn't going to have to move. And that was kind of an example of how little understanding there was about this kind of thing and not knowing how it was going to play out and a lot of sort of fear of the unknown, you know, and that fear factor was huge for a long time.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: One interesting thing I hadn't thought about until just now though is that the reason not to be afraid the way she was -- to not require understanding the political and social context of what was happening. You couldn't get that by reading the law because under the monuments, in fact, the Park Service it was a big deal when Ted Stevens succeeded in getting it changed in ANILCA, but the Park Service has a degree of authority over private lands.

SALLY GIBERT: There is an assumption, well, there is an assumption that inholdings are bad and that eventually they will be acquired.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, not only that, but I don't understand how this works exactly but there is a regulatory authority that the Park Service has over private lands in Parks in other states and I don't understand fully what that is. I don't -- the fact that I don't understand it means that more often that --

SALLY GIBERT: Well, it is a current issue before the Supreme Court of law so it is not simple.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And so that the fact --

KAREN BREWSTER: The inholdings within National Parks?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The Park Service has some kind of quasi local government regulatory zoning kind of ability that I don't understand it.

SALLY GIBERT: It doesn't apply up here.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It doesn't apply up here.

SALLY GIBERT: No.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Because of a specific provision in ANILCA that it doesn't.

SALLY GIBERT: Subject to whatever the Supreme Court may or may not do.

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BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Right, but at least there is the provision in the Lands Act that says that it is the public lands that are --

SALLY GIBERT: Only the public lands are part of the Park.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Are part of the park. That language is not in other Parks in the states.

SALLY GIBERT: And that was not in the monuments.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And it was not in the monuments.

SALLY GIBERT: Right.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: So that --

SALLY GIBERT: It was just understood.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It was understood by those who --

SALLY GIBERT: That this was a place holder.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It was understood by those who understood it subject to modification. And I know that cause I knew them people in the National Park Service who wanted to interpret who were very happy to interpret the other way.

SALLY GIBERT: Right, right.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: So --

SALLY GIBERT: But it doesn't work for people like Senator Stevens. They might have tried.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Exactly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well and then it is interesting that it shows that there was some understanding in Alaska with ANILCA and with all these Parks being made that people are part of the environment in the place and the lifestyles are important to maintain whether you're an inholder or not?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: So are you saying who understood that or --

KAREN BREWSTER: No, that seems that maybe that was understood by the people who wrote the law or the people who were setting policy?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Not --

KAREN BREWSTER: In that it is different and ANILCA.

SALLY GIBERT: Well, yeah, but that was where it was going and there had been work in that direction, but it hadn't succeeded yet.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The -- my experience which wasn't -- we were talking earlier about Doug Scott, for example. He was more in the center. I was a little bit on the periphery of this. But my understanding from what I have been involved in is that all of the principals, the major leaders congressional, bought into that description. Udall, Jackson, Stevens, probably even Seiberling. Those would probably be your big four.

KAREN BREWSTER: That they bought into the people and Park?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yes. Each in their own interpretation and they were busy enough people that they didn't get into -- they didn't understand a lot of the details and that the concept was to be that way and the range of options went from the Lands Act was passed to say the Lands Act had passed the House which was much stronger from the environmental perspective.

SALLY GIBERT: And there were some the other direction too.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: But they had never -- those --

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: That anything less than the senate bill would have considered a major failure environmentally. So that -- there is a spectrum there, but I think the major players

did, but those folks aren't the ones who had ever really implemented any legislation. And what I saw was a wide array right from the very beginning of interpretations and value systems because I remember talking with --

SALLY GIBERT: All reading the same language, but thinking differently about --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And how it would actually play out because I remember talking with DC Park Service people who were saying that they were going to buy out all the inholdings in the Wrangell's. Maybe -- it was just a foregone conclusion and then you also had people in the Park Service who had been working here through the whole D2 process. I can think of a lot of people who were very sensitive to the importance and the value of being able to live here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like Ted Swain (phonetic) would he have been one of those?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yes.

SALLY GIBERT: The other one, there were a lot.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: There were a bunch of them. It is the passing of I think what you're, it is the passing of that generation and its replacement by people whose professional career experience is in National Parks elsewhere in the agency culture and in the experience of the Parks elsewhere. They come up here and they also find that the culture in a place like McCarthy has also changed. So those two factors together, but it is just enough simply enough to explain it to say the people that are coming up well in the Park Service. The way the Park Service -- this is part of my standard spiel when I am teaching about this stuff. It is like when you are teaching your ANILCA stuff. The Park Service -- the National Park Service is set up so that the career path is designed to make people primarily -- their allegiance is to the agency and its national mission.

SALLY GIBERT: Not the place.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Not the place.

SALLY GIBERT: Not the place and it is certainly not the people in the place.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Right, well not even the individual Park and to do that Park Service people rotate every few years. It the opposite the way it is handled in the Forest Service workers.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then they can't so attached to the people in the place.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Correct and it is designed so they don't become captured by local interests and there is a purpose in that way. There was a reason for that and it has the effect now of making it difficult if not impossible for the agency to have allegiance to the complexities and compromises in the Lands Act because the people who are implementing it come from a quite contrary culture and a quite contrary system of rewards -- professional rewards. And that I think we are seeing now played out locally here. It makes it very difficult. What you are getting is not just -- this is I am giving you the standard spiel now, Sally and I. That doesn't mean that what you get is an imposition of Park protection here similar to what you would have in other states. It is not just a question of oh, the local interests get defeated. The Park Service standard of Marine Corps Level of Protection for the American Symposium. It doesn't work that way because the underlying situation here is complex enough that when the Park Service tries to a strict regulator, it comes across a whole array of situations where it doesn't have authorities and where it doesn't work and then the Park Service starts what we -- this is way over simplification of goes on for hours. The Park Service starts severely enforcing

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kind of the secondary minimally important regulations that can cause tumultant havoc to the people that the regulations are imposed upon and then the Park Service ignores those situations that are really more important in terms of Park preservation and values, but for which it really doesn't have any clear authority.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, the tools are just not -- they are just not as clean and tidy as they are used to and so nothing happens.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Nothing happens. So a lot of important things the Park Service does nothing. In a lot of little things, the Park Service does too much and the managers don't know what to do because they were trained in Yellowstone or (inaudible) and they don't understand -- they don't -- and they are not comfortable with the ambiguities and complexities that are needed to deal with the situation that is fundamentally unstable and out at his home stations.

KAREN BREWSTER: And very complex as you say.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And complex.

KAREN BREWSTER: The issues here it doesn't fit in a box.

SALLY GIBERT: Uh-uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: It is human beings and human beings are complex and unpredictable.

SALLY GIBERT: And it is not static over time. So, you know, the places change, people change, people's activities change. Like the whole thing with snowmachines is a controversial issue that is a current issue. And, you know, I don't think that congress when they made the access rules that apply to snowmachines and I don't think they envisioned quite how snowmachines might be used today.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The snowmachines didn't exist like that.

SALLY GIBERT: No. I know. I know.

KAREN BREWSTER: They were still a sort of new mode of transportation.

SALLY GIBERT: They were more utilitarian. You used them as a form of transportation to get places and do things and so, you know, as an end game themselves that wasn't going on then.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the issue with snowmachines is being used as transportation to go trapping versus recreational people coming in to use snowmachines in the Park?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: When --

KAREN BREWSTER: ANILCA they were -- it is a motorized non-motorized thing, right with ANILCA?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Okay. Do take a couple seconds. A case story that has multiple dimensions in this. Sally and I didn't mention two other people. We talked about Dick Cooley and we talked about Ed Rayburn and so forth and we didn't talk about Curtis and Loy who were really instrumental in -- my wife Marcie and myself and Sally being able - - coming here and being here.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it is Curtis who?

SALLY GIBERT: Curtis and Loy -- L-O-Y Green and they are brothers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay. Curtis Green's photos you have put up on --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It is Loy's -- it is Loy's paintings. He was -- and on that same website there are manuscripts. Both of them wrote very interesting manuscripts.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I read that. I have read the one that you have up.

SALLY GIBERT: Might be Curtis',

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KAREN BREWSTER: I think it is Curtis'.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Loy's is a little – Curtis is the one who wrote it.

SALLY GIBERT: Curtis was a pretty decent writer.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: He wrote linear.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, yeah, a little more linear, but had a pretty dry sense of humor.

KAREN BREWSTER: So who were -- tell me who they were.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They are two brothers who came up from California in the 60's.

SALLY GIBERT: And they came up -- they had decided to leave California when California had more people than New York State I think is what it was. I think --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: That was the decision?

SALLY GIBERT: I think there was something about the population -- the population of California was bigger. Now became bigger than the population of New York State. It was like okay, we are out of here.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: We are out of here.

SALLY GIBERT: There is too many people here and so they headed to Alaska so.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It is all in Curtis' manuscript. So we encountered them --

KAREN BREWSTER: So they were living here?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They ended up they were living here and in Chitina.

SALLY GIBERT: And here --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Up McCarthy Creek.

SALLY GIBERT: Up McCarthy Creek, Kennicott, around McCarthy, yeah, Chitina. They were kind of -- they kind of just kind of crashed all over the place.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah, they never owned anything.

SALLY GIBERT: Never owned anything. Usually were staying places with the permission of the owners, but not always. Sometimes the owners weren't even around or didn't know.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: No, that wasn't an issue.

SALLY GIBERT: It didn't make -- in those days it didn't make any difference. If there was a building, you moved in. It is fine. That was not a problem.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And I first met them when I came up here with -- as a staff person responsible for Santa Cruz undergraduate study group in '71. And then in '75, my wife Marcie and I with Loy's -- Loy even in '71 they were the ones -- we stayed the summer of '72 the Santa Cruz group had its headquarters in the hardware store. So that was the first year college students were in the hardware store was '72. And Loy really set that for us, but Loy didn't own the hardware store then. And Gordon Burdick was very much involved in the hardware store too and there was a bunch of his stuff in there. But he didn't know either.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, he did. He and his wife.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Freda?

SALLY GIBERT: Freda, they did own it for a while.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: When, but not then?

SALLY GIBERT: I don't know about then, but they did own it at some point because when they got a divorce, he got the building and she got the stuff.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Oh!

SALLY GIBERT: That is why -- that is why there was no good stuff in the hardware store when I bought it. It was pretty much --

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BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Freda had hauled it off, but Freda -- it was loaded with stuff from Kennicott. I remember the hardware store filled with stuff they had brought down from Kennicott.

SALLY GIBERT: Right. Right. And it was all stuff that was pipelined into the Heglund's to Flo. So --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Packed into?

SALLY GIBERT: Packed into Flo was selling it.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Oh, Flo was selling that stuff.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: But was --

SALLY GIBERT: And some of it was being hauled out too.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And they were keeping it and the hardware store was a --

SALLY GIBERT: Right

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Warehouse.

SALLY GIBERT: Is a warehouse, right, right.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And then in the divorce Freda got the stuff.

SALLY GIBERT: Got the stuff.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Which she didn't own it, but nobody owned anyway.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: It was all stolen.

SALLY GIBERT: For a long time.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Because nobody cared about it because Kennicott had given it up and actually Trubshaw may have had it because Trubshaw had the site, but nobody cared. I don't know the details. You more about this thing. And so --

SALLY GIBERT: Well, we covered it in the interpreter plan at (inaudible). (Laughter)

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: I am sure. So anyway Loy taught us like how to use this. He loaned us -- the Santa Cruz group was there. A chainsaw. (Inaudible) us in the hardware store which he didn't own that maybe Gordon owned at the time, but I am not sure at that time.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Bill Bulford (phonetic), no, no, he, I'm sorry, Bill Tracy, Bill Tracy owned it when -- I bought it from Bill Tracy.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah, but then before that there was the artist. The guy has got the same name as the artist. The guy who threw the slop bucket over the snowbank.

SALLY GIBERT: Oh, Bill Berry.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Bill Berry, did he ever own it?

SALLY GIBERT: I don't think he ever owned it, he just lived there.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Now you are getting the feel.

SALLY GIBERT: And the same with Raven, the Raven.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah, that was in '71.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, he didn't own it either.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Oh, no.

SALLY GIBERT: But he lived there.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah. That is when they had the --

SALLY GIBERT: Maybe Gordon, maybe Gordon did own it.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Or maybe not.

SALLY GIBERT: Or maybe not.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: But none of these things mattered much. This is why when you were talking about jobs and careers this flushes out a little bit more the color of this. So Curtis and Loy were the two brothers and Loy was 11 years older than Curtis. Curtis was just out of the Navy, but that is all in the Curtis manuscript. I don't have to recite that. So in '70, summer of '75 my wife Marcie and I, Loy encouraged us to stay the winter and there is a whole story about we ended up at Spruce Point. And Loy and Curtis that winter were caretaking for Alan Franganyon (phonetic) at May Creek and they -- Loy was the one that really taught us how to do things.

SALLY GIBERT: How to live out here.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: How to live out here.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, how to build a fire in a barrel stove, you know, stuff like that. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: How to use a chainsaw.

SALLY GIBERT: How to use a chainsaw.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: All that and so be responsible for it. We couldn't have been here without him and they became our very dear -- very dear friends for years.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Loy especially, well both of them, but Loy was key that whole room and board for labor business to work on the foundation of the Harvester. That would not, could not have happened without Loy because he took responsibility for the structural work that needed. He was like the foreman. So, yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The whole history of McCarthy is invisible now and you have the Pilgrims were a big deal and you have the mining era and you have what's here now? Up McCarthy Creek, Pilgrims weren't the first ones living there. Curtis and Loy were living at McCarthy Creek, but they didn't make a fuss. And we went McCarthy Creek, well, geez, my wife Marcie and I would up and down. McCarthy Creek was like my yard. I have been up and down every -- all seasons of the year, over the pass, up the creek, up and down staying up there weeks at a time, months at a time. And then the Pilgrims show up as if they were the ones.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you said there had been an old road of some sort there with some old bridges back in what the 20's?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, in the 20's there was a prospect up there, two several prospects and there was a road and it was an intention to put a railroad on it and it didn't happen and then it washed out. And then there were multiple prospectors in the 60's who built multiple roads cause they didn't get along with each other so they wouldn't use each other's road. They had separate roads in the same valley and then those things all washed out and then Curtis and Loy were living up there through all that and then we went up.

SALLY GIBERT: And they made a few of their own, (inaudible) roads.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, does that -- it shows how when you talk about change. Nothing is stable. That there is this history of human occupants and that you may or may not see.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: But the interesting part and if you take (inaudible) people like Curtis and Loy they were floating on that. The really interesting lives that were being led. The really most interesting and I include Gordon in this too, but, you know, they are our dear friends Curtis and Loy. People were living in this. They didn't own anything. What job did they have? You can't answer that, what was their career? What was their income source? You can't even answer that. And they are floating through here and they are invisible. And that is where the real story is at.

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SALLY GIBERT: Invisible, but essential, foundational.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Foundational.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the land supported them.

SALLY GIBERT: No.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: No, no, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: They didn't hunt and fish or trap, no?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Some people did. They just floated. Say '75 when Marcie and I were at Spruce Point and the years even just before that. Who would be here? It would be like there was a guy caretaking the P Mine, alcoholic, living by himself through the winter in the Chitistone Canyon. Okay. And then there was Neal Finessin in Chitina. His life pursuit was his prospecting on Spirit Mountain. He was 100 and he was living in Chitina. What was he doing? What was his career all that -- I don't know? He was 100 years old and I remember visiting him in Chitina with Curtis and Loy and he was in the process of unloading his firewood. Somebody had brought him a load of logs, no doubt given it to him and Neal was unloading it by himself. He was 100 years old. And --

SALLY GIBERT: Henry Schultz (phonetic) over here.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Henry Schultz.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was thinking Martin Radovan was here.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Martin Radovan. Martin Radovan is colorful enough as a story, but there is this whole fabric of people and Curtis and Loy who remember here is an image and they have a whole lot of stories if you read my novel I have written a lot. But here is the image I have of them. Coming into McCarthy and Curtis and Loy it was in the summertime or maybe this time of year and they are living in a house over it was in Stratgers (phonetic). It was over by where you are walking from the footbridge it would be one of those first houses. Now why are they living there? Are they living there? I don't know how they got to live there. They certainly don't own it.

SALLY GIBERT: You mean in the blue place, the Stratger's?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah.

SALLY GIBERT: Oh, yeah, I didn't know they lived there too.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They lived there.

SALLY GIBERT: They lived pretty much any -- any maintained building.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They lived there at one time. They were living there at the time and I don't know what arrangement they had or what but they were living in there. I remember walking in. It was in the evening and they had finished dinner. And one of them had made parfaits and they had wine glasses and they had layers of whipped cream and sweet, I don't know maybe based in jam or whatever it was layered very carefully and beautifully so that there was one layer after the other after the other in these parfait glasses. And the two bachelor brothers were sitting at the table in this house they didn't own in McCarthy. There is just like seven or eight people.

SALLY GIBERT: Nothing going on.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Nothing going on. Elegantly and slowly eating their parfait dessert.

KAREN BREWSTER: Lovely picture.

SALLY GIBERT: They were very cultured in many ways, very cultured, more than most people out here.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: One of the most people.

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SALLY GIBERT: One of the most people. Yeah, I mean Loy Green who had an eighth grade education was a philosopher. He read hard core philosopher Gershift.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: He was into Gershift.

SALLY GIBERT: And all -- he was also kind of fad. He would get involved with these things and read all this stuff and then he would move on to something else, but he was, yeah, he was outrageously well read and knew a lot about all different kinds of religions. Loved to talk about just off the charts edges of, you know, religious theology. And knew how to repair a snowmachine and he was a baker. He was a really good baker. One time Dick and I skied up McCarthy Creek. Unannounced we came out here for spring break and we skied up to visit them and there was no phone, radio or anything. And we go oh let's go visit Curtis and Loy. So we skied up there. We arrived and he had made a sourdough chocolate cake. A full size sourdough chocolate cake that day. He couldn't understand why he decided to do this. It was just him and Curtis. He made this sourdough chocolate cake for us. He didn't know we were coming. He didn't know why he had made it until we showed up. And oh, now I know why I made this fantastic sourdough chocolate cake. He worked underground at Kennicott for weeks at a time when some of the, you know, latter day mining explorations, you know, towards looking around to see if there was anything out worth picking over.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Because they were cooks.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now did they come here when it was a ghost town and start this sort of re-habitation? Were they some of the first?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It was called before the 70's. They were just -- there were always a few people wandering through maybe.

SALLY GIBERT: They were definitely part of the first, but they were before that kind of that wave of like pipeline workers that had a lot of time off or even before that.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Before us.

SALLY GIBERT: No, they were before us, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you said you guys came in the 70's and it was --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: This was '60.

SALLY GIBERT: Before pipeline, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and it was being re-habitated, as you say, it was a ghost town. So what inspired that re-habitation that people (inaudible).

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, you had starting around with us. You had the spillover of the environment, back to the land, hippie.

SALLY GIBERT: Baby boomer.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Baby boomer culture. Curtis and Loy were before that.

SALLY GIBERT: They were before that, yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They came to this place when there was nothing going on and they came here because nothing was going on.

KAREN BREWSTER: I mean how did they even hear about it and know to come out here?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: You can read it in Curtis' manuscript.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, go to survey Valdez, Duffys, Chitina.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They wandered into Valdez. They wandered to Chitina.

KAREN BREWSTER: I mean the history was here, you know.

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BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: No, there was this place to go.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that is what I mean if you read about it.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And they wanted to be as far away from anything as they could be.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. So why do the back to the lander people pick McCarthy? Cause it was here and there were buildings here?

SALLY GIBERT: This is actually not a good place if you are like a back to the lander this is really not a good place. It is a hard place to get -- to hunt. There is not a lot of animal food meat out here really. The moose are not plentiful and, you know, there is no caribou here to speak of. And sheep are that is a lot of work to get a sheep. And, you know, so like around here there is no soil in McCarthy. I mean there are some farmland, good farm potential across the river, but like Kennicott here there is not a lot of agricultural potential. So it is really pretty thin. It is pretty thin landscape out here. But it is just -- it was just kind of a cool, interesting place that, you know, a lot of it I think were the buildings. The fact that there were these abandoned buildings. People could just move into and I don't know.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, I think rather than try to prepare a list of reasons. Okay, so when we were with our first one, Marcie and my first winter at Spruce Point and Curtis and Loy were at May Creek which was for us we didn't have a snowmachine. It was a full day's travel one way.

KAREN BREWSTER: By skiing?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Skiing. But then later when we were living across the river at -- on Jay and Maxine Edwards place, where we lived for seven years, but frequently we would be up McCarthy Creek in the wintertime with Curtis and Loy or later Loy after Curtis moved out for -- moved away. But so Loy had like an eighth grade education. The reading we did was like at Spruce Point, Dostoyevsky, Russian novelists, great spiritual writings, Thomas Merton is when I started getting into Merton. We would go up McCarthy Creek and in the evening Loy would -- he had enough electricity for a phonograph and stereo speakers.

SALLY GIBERT: That is right. He would listen to classical music.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: We would listen to Mahler, Beethoven quartets. They would -- each meal -- dinners were always quite elaborate, beautiful creations. When they would -- when Loy would bake a cake that cake would last for days because you would eat one piece. You didn't scarf stuff down. And it was very similar to what later I mean Marcie particularly and both of us became more involved in Buddhist practice around -- Marcie became quite involved in the Circle around Titnot (phonetic) Han. And we all went sometimes, but she more to retreats and went to the Monastic Center in France. This was a direct outgrowth of what we were doing here with Curtis and Loy. So this is the best answer I can give as to why you come here which we did.

SALLY GIBERT: And also I would like to -- this is sort of this cultural side of them that Curtis played the flute and Loy played a horn.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: A trumpet.

SALLY GIBERT: A trumpet, yeah, and so, you know, he would get up in the morning, have coffee, have breakfast and then he would play the trumpet for a while, about half an hour and then he would paint, oil paints. And so he would paint for, you know, half an hour, an hour and, you know, drink more coffee and just, you know, meditate, just be quiet, just

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think. And usually after lunch in the afternoon he would go out and do chores and, you know, haul water, chop wood, whatever it is that needed to be done.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Cut a (inaudible) tree.

SALLY GIBERT: Cut a tree, repair the roof, whatever. So he would do that in the afternoon and then make dinner, yeah, and then in the evening, read, listen to music and talk if there is somebody around. So, yeah, but and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, very sophisticated.

SALLY GIBERT: Very, very.

KAREN BREWSTER: You got somebody living remotely in a cabin.

SALLY GIBERT: But really grubby. Oh, my God. I mean, you know, he was like really grubby, you know. He never, you know, he didn't like to be dirty, but he usually was and, you know, he was just always covered with snowmachine grease.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Grease over snow.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: To this day to me the sweetest smell, the smell of home, is this mixture of diesel, gasoline, mouse turds, all mixed together.

SALLY GIBERT: And this whole musky human sweat.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Sweat and spruce smoke.

SALLY GIBERT: And spruce smoke.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: That's home, but, you know, I just realized now I'm still carrying that out. Like this next month I have lost Marcie who died this spring.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm sorry.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: After 10 years of illness and so I am alone at the house up near Kennicott which is about, it is not accessible only by trail and I have gone out sometimes two, three days without seeing another person. I have got kids and a granddaughter here in town, but I don't -- I can go a number of days without seeing them. And my daily routine is the same as you just talked about. It is modified for me. I am working on my writing and it is the same thing. It is getting up in the morning and that same routine that Loy and Curtis practiced. And then the afternoon is the time to go out and still the same chores. There was some modification. So it is still basically the same life.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and it is, as you say, it is very much a lifestyle choice. Not everybody in the world could live that lifestyle.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, I can't see how people want to live the other one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I agree. That's -- we agree, but, you know, for other people the idea of coming and living that way and no electricity and --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, I have elect -- I happen to have electricity. I happen to have broadband internet.

KAREN BREWSTER: But in the old days -- older times, you know, and living, you know, out on the creek they could never imagine why anybody would do that.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, they are all crazy.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, yeah. You know, even, you know, solar panels go back pretty far and a lot of people out here in the 70's had like a single solar panel to charge a car battery which would keep their radio going. It was all about the radio. That was your form of communication. You could listen to KCAM and Caribou Platters. So people would have a solar. I had one. It is a solar panel to listen to news and platters.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do people have CB radios or anything?
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They came in a little bit later.
KAREN BREWSTER: Or VHF?
SALLY GIBERT: Very few.
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: CB radios --
SALLY GIBERT: I never had one.
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It was later.
KAREN BREWSTER: I was wondering the Green brothers and, you know, you were saying he was baking a cake and his wonderful meals. Where did they get their supplies?
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They would get it at Anchorage in the summertime.
SALLY GIBERT: They are just dry goods, yeah, flour and sugar.
KAREN BREWSTER: They would just stock up.
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And then Loy the major event of the year was putting the trail up the creek. This goes back to the difference in the snowmachines which is the case of then we would work days, weeks getting a trail good enough to get the snowmachine up the creek and then eventually the winter -- later in the winter the trail would stabilize and would be easier to get in and out, but through December and into January it was always ratty.
SALLY GIBERT: And there wasn't much snow as you building ramps.
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Or too much.
KAREN BREWSTER: Does the creek freeze over?
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: But it is tricky, these open spots.
SALLY GIBERT: They are not everywhere and where it gets fast and narrow and where some of those bridges are washed out, some of those places are never -- they are never good.
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Sometime in the winter always Loy would drop the snowmachine into the creek some way or other.
SALLY GIBERT: You know, okay.
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: So today you can zoom up the creek in a powerful snowmachine and just play on the ridges doing high marking and so forth. It is a very different, totally different, and while you are up there you are in line of sight of that cell tower. You have got communications.
KAREN BREWSTER: Now is that allowed within the Park that kind of access, okay?
BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Currently it is. And there is some debate over that now with the backcountry planning, but basically it is a complete free-for- all.
KAREN BREWSTER: You had something, Sally, you were just starting to say?
SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, the -- you were talking about where he got his supplies. They -- for occasional fresh stuff you could order in the middle of winter you could order food from Parks Place in Glennallen by mail so to speak. It wasn't really mail, but and I actually found recently in my stash of stuff I found a grocery list and so you would put -- you would get an envelope, write down a couple things you want like fresh oranges or fresh fruit or something like that. Usually you don't want to be too specific because you never know what you are going to get. You still never know what you are going to get or if there is something you need and so like the parfait. He probably ordered -- I bet he ordered some whipped cream or something like that. He must have done something special because you wouldn't have that around in the middle of winter, but so occasionally you would get something like that. So get let's see or eggs, anyway, so you

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put your little order in and then you enclose like twenty bucks in cash or something like that. And you put it in an envelope and just write Parks Place on it, no stamp, give it to the mail pilot. The mail pilot takes it to Parks Place. They fill your order, take that money out, put the change in, put it in a box, give it to the mail pilot and the mail pilot brings it out here and if it -- and you hope -- well, you don't do it if it is 20 or 30 below, but, you know, I can get 20 to 30 below from the time you put the order in the previous week until it shows up. And if you are lucky, you will actually have something that resembles your order that is not frozen.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the mystery of it is all the excitement you never know what you are going to get.

SALLY GIBERT: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: You know I sort of ask everybody a generic question. It may not -- something you probably have said numerous times, but the idea of the sense of community in McCarthy and you, Sally, kind of mentioned about with the Park coming in there was some people for and some people against. And I am just wondering how this community works and how people get along or don't get along and how they interact.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: That is not a one sentence answer.

SALLY GIBERT: Most people are very inde -- are very, yeah, I think it is true most people out here are -- a lot of people have very strong views. They are not always the same as each other's and but there is definitely a fundamental baseline that when you get underneath that it is more important that you are out here at any given time and, you know, if you need help or if something is going on and it works to have multiple people helping out or something like that. People will rise to the occasion and help each other out. And you can call on people you don't do it lightly. In fact, when we drove in this time with the wind storm, there was a giant cottonwood that had come down the road and we couldn't deal with it. It was too big. A lot of the smaller ones had already been cut out but we got to the big one. It is like no way. So we called Ben Stodder (phonetic) whose number we had in our phone. I didn't have the whole community phone list. It is like we are stuck. We are three miles out of town, you know, and you have any suggestions? And so she called Andy Shinner (phonetic) who lived about a mile from where we were and like 15 minutes later he shows up on his four-wheeler with a chainsaw and cuts this thing out. Cuts it out of the way and had to cut a couple of trees to get to us even and you just do it. We handed him a melon. Thank you, have a melon. And, you know, this is dangerous. We better get out of here and he rode off and we haven't seen him since. But that is the kind of stuff that happens and it is really cool. It is a very cool thing, but people also live as much as they can on their own. Self-sufficiency is valuable. You try to do what you can.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is there a tradition of community gatherings? Ben, you said something one Thanksgiving there were 38 people. So did you have community Thanksgivings?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, back then, yeah. I don't see -- I haven't been around here in the winter in a long time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, but so back then how did that work?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: People all came together?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah, not very frequently, but yes. The thing is you knew everybody and you never saw anybody who didn't know you. Like it was a big change the first time I

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walked down the street in McCarthy and somebody didn't know who I was. Now most people don't know who I am, but that anybody wouldn't know everybody. That somebody would come into town and be unrecognized was a very odd thing. There was a stranger in town.

SALLY GIBERT: In the winter or in the --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Even in the summer.

SALLY GIBERT: In the summer, yeah, early on, yeah. There weren't a lot of -- there wasn't -- there were not too many tourists.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, like the first years of our college program the big issue, the big -- people were quite -- there was much discomfort over having all these people who were impacted having those people who weren't local in the town.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And that was in the middle of summer.

SALLY GIBERT: Right, that's true.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: I was having like 11 or 12 college students.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it was a big deal. You are right. It was a big deal. It was like all these college students/hippies are in town. It is like, yeah, this is like weird, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: You persuaded the community that it was okay or?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: I didn't persuade it. We just did it.

SALLY GIBERT: You just did it then. They got over it after a while.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, they eventually did. There were so many other people they didn't even notice anymore.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that is true.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, with, you know, how people's perspectives have changed. The Park, there was that mixed feeling at the beginning. I don't know if you have a sense now.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It is still mixed.

KAREN BREWSTER: It is still mixed.

SALLY GIBERT: It is still mixed, yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: What you have got now is all different. I mean this town is even though there maybe if there is 200 or 250 people here in a day in the summer there is multiple times that who are people are involved here and have places here or connection to the houses and cabins here and people flowing in and out. So it is much larger.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I mean like we are only here for a couple weeks of the year. When we are not here, we are still part of the place.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right, right.

SALLY GIBERT: And it is also it isn't easily sorted by like pro or anti Park. I mean I can put myself in either one of those categories really fast depending on the issue or I can frequently find myself more in these ambiguous places. Well, a little of both, like this but then like this and there are advantageous to that, but oh, my God, it is a problem this way and, you know, so and there are a lot of people, more and more people like that that they recognize that, yeah, there is some value but there are some costs to it as well.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And there are people who aren't that way.

SALLY GIBERT: And there are people who aren't that way, right, so.

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KAREN BREWSTER: So it is each one way or the other. Yeah, but I was thinking for, you know, this community has changed in the sense of there is tourism here now that I think kind of built up with the Park, right?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Yeah.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, yeah, and all of the businesses are local. I mean there is no McDonald's. Well, that is the epitome, but there is no -- like even there is no Princess Hotels. There is no -- it is all done by, you know regular people.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: So far. So far.

SALLY GIBERT: So far.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Everybody here is local.

SALLY GIBERT: Right, right and that could change. I am just waiting for it to change. Eventually I imagine it will change, but that is the character of this place that is very special and very appreciated and coveted. Most people don't notice it. They don't think about it. The people who live here do.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It has been taken for granted.

SALLY GIBERT: It has been taken for granted. It is huge. It is really a big deal and it is very fragile.

KAREN BREWSTER: But I would think that is symbolic of the people who live here that they want to keep it local that way?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: No.

SALLY GIBERT: Well, they are the only ones can get it together.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Even though it is accidental. It is accidental.

KAREN BREWSTER: It is accidental.

SALLY GIBERT: It is, yeah. It is just -- it is not easy. This place is hard to get started for anybody and so a regular business that sort of like wanted to be here. They come out here and look around and go my God this -- I can't do this. The business plan here is not -- not going to work. A normal business plan is not going to work. But if you are living out here you can be thinking about well how can I make this work? Well, I could do this and that. I could do that. I could do that. I could bring in this. I could that. Well, I might be able to make it work and some of them make it work and some of them don't. But to have some of the outside perspective to kind of come in, decide they are going to make it work and then do it, that hasn't happened yet, but it could. It certainly could.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so very logistically complicated?

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. And it is a really short season. That is true all over Alaska, but it is so far away and, yeah, things like the road, you know, especially with this less maintenance, you know.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It will be really interesting to see what happens with less maintenance on the road.

KAREN BREWSTER: I wanted to ask one other thing about the legacy you were talking about with through Dick Cooley and you guys and with the Wrangell Mountain Center that you are sort of continuing that legacy and how you see that going or what is the future?

SALLY GIBERT: That is a good question.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: That is a good question.

SALLY GIBERT: We want to have -- we want to have a good future.

KAREN BREWSTER: And now you are the legacy that you are that chain?

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BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, what is interesting is that we are still -- I think we are still needed even though fortunately younger people wonderfully creatively involved.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you are training the next generation of, you know, activists, I don't know or?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: We are still very involved.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: I don't know if we need to be training them so much anymore.

SALLY GIBERT: And an activist isn't quite right, but just to maintain that sort of awareness, the interdisciplinary recognition and specialness of this place and there is a lot I mean there is a lot of scientific opportunities out here that are outstanding and but they are also happening in this place that is unstable and that instability on all fronts is especially for young people it kind of throws them off center and when they get thrown off center they have to kind of like look around and like where am I? And they have these transformative experiences out here and that is kind of for me the heart of the Wrangell Mountain Center is to provide that opportunity for this inevitable transformative experience for people that spend time here. And you know it is done through in the past it has been done through college programs, through music camps. There has many different ways that it happens, but it is very special what happens out here and so to try and help new people understand what that is and best position the organization and even the building and how many solar panels it has so that really can you charge your phone? Do you really want to do Pokémon out here, maybe not? But it is tradeoffs. How do you set the place up to maximize that opportunity for a transformative experience?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: For a long time what we were able to do, but it grew out of the Santa Cruz student groups eventually was a two month field program that ran for 30 years and hopefully will get restarted again. But right now we are in the process of trying to get it restarted.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: But there is a difference between being out here for a couple months and coming in for some kind of a short program.

SALLY GIBERT: That is true. Music camp is different from the two months.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: They are all good things, but there is nothing like.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, the two month -- the big programs.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Are transformative.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you say you're passing on that legacy of your own transformative experiences of being here and --

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, there has now been multiple generations of teachers, the people doing that and there is quite a few people who have been involved over decade -- over the decades in the teaching of those programs here. That culture has been developed and passed on. So there is quite a -- quite a group. And what we found is that it does pass on. People can't get it and what I don't know now is even in the last three years how much McCarthy has changed and the backcountry has changed as to what we are still going to be able to do that we were able to do three years ago. How much of that same kind of transformativeness is going to happen, people to happen?

SALLY GIBERT: I think there is still going to be a lot even if there is less. I think there is still going to be a lot.

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KAREN BREWSTER: Let me in terms of what you can go do in the backcountry, is that what you mean?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The way you can be in the backcountry. You can still do all the same things. It is question of how you are going to be and it goes back to the image of Curtis and Loy and the parfaits which is equivalent in the backcountry is the equivalence in the backcountry too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well and this transformative experience you are talking about and the meaning of McCarthy I don't know how else to say it. Is there something about McCarthy that is different as a community in rural Alaska, you know.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I think so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even in the Wrangell's, you know, you go to Slana, you go to Nabesna, you go to Copper Center those communities are different. McCarthy is somehow unique and I don't know how you express what it is that makes McCarthy different. Have you thought about that?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, I wrote a book about it 25 years ago.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I thought about it a lot, but boy it is really hard to -- it is really hard to articulate.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: If you articulate it too explicitly, you not only miss it, but you damage it.

SALLY GIBERT: That is related to Loy's comment if you can drive a car here, if you can drive a car to McCarthy, it's not here. Yeah, it is very similar to that and he said that at a moment of wisdom when there was a debate about whether to put a road bridge back across -- a public road bridge across the Kennicott which was just so controversial, yeah.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And since we have partially have a road bridge and partially don't, it is partially here and partially isn't.

SALLY GIBERT: And partially isn't, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: There is also something about, you know, change is inevitable and McCarthy is no longer the place it was in 1970.

SALLY GIBERT: Uh-huh.

KAREN BREWSTER: You know, can you keep it the way it was when the Green brothers were here?

SALLY GIBERT: Well, you can't.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Well, that implies a simple linear sense of change. Let me rephrase it. Okay, now we can't keep it the way it was so it is going to be the way things are now. And that assumes that the way things are now is going to be the way it is when you go into a shopping mall in any city in the world. And I guess my take on it would be that that way of human living is not inevitable.

KAREN BREWSTER: I agree.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And that there is all kinds of changes that have taken place here, can take place here and many of them are improvements in my mind compared to the way it was. I mean you could may be all idealistic about the way it was in peak years in 1970 or '65 or whatever, '75, whatever you want to pick. But man all of the feuding and the narrowmindedness and the --

SALLY GIBERT: There was. There were some hardcore feuds. Sort of what is it the Hatfield and --

KAREN BREWSTER: McCoy.

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SALLY GIBERT: McCoy type feuds. Yeah, back in those days, unbelievable.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And that if you look all of the cultural and scientific stuff going on here and the growth of families here with young children and the -- in my own -- from my own life the combination of communications and still having a lot of the other aspects of I don't know what you want to call it.

SALLY GIBERT: Your monastic side?

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The monastic side to call it change is inevitable or what it was is 19 -- you picked your point of historic significance, 1938 or 1970 or 1975. That is way oversimplified. One thing is clear is things can't stay the same, but that doesn't in my mind it doesn't imply that they all have to converge onto --

SALLY GIBERT: The shopping mall.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: The shopping mall and tract house model.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

SALLY GIBERT: Uh-huh.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And that I think is the issue. That goes back to what Loy was saying when he said if you can drive to McCarthy, it is not there. What has one of the key factors that has kept this place magic is that the whole automobile culture has not dominated.

SALLY GIBERT: Even though there are cars here. And that is a private that is a private property solution. I mean that is not a government solution. It is nothing -- nothing to do with the Park, nothing at all to do with the Park. That was just a family that saw a need for some control.

KAREN BREWSTER: That is for the footbridge?

SALLY GIBERT: The footbridge which is such an amazing elegant solution to a real world problem in a place like this with, you know, you are hauling fuel and garbage and sewer trucks and but you don't need people driving in and out just for the heck of it. So it is an unbelievably good solution.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: Imperfect.

SALLY GIBERT: Of course.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And based on -- achieved because the family that did it with their business has a value system where they said we want to do with what the community wants. How does the community want this handled?

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. We have a community issue as you say hauling things back and forth, how do we solve it?

SALLY GIBERT: And they had the same problem. They are based over there and they have work over here and they want to get their equipment and their rock trucks and stuff back and forth and so do we, you know.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: And they worked it out, but they managed it in accord with what has come through an informal process, no formal planning, a general community agreement on how to do this without local government, without a formal planning process and a solution that -- a series of solutions for the access into here starting with the trams and the footbridge and then the vehicle bridge, the private vehicle bridge. All of which were developed through various kinds of almost indescribable community processes. The cultural anthropology of McCarthy could look at that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, that is interesting.

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BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It is fascinating.

SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it is really fascinating.

BENJAMIN SHAINÉ: It is fascinating and any formalization of the process would destroy it.

SALLY GIBERT: Well, in fact, the one time it did it was destroyed because when DOT built the footbridge which was supposed to be a footbridge, but happened to be wide enough for four-wheelers they couldn't keep them. It wasn't happening. So, you know, there -- it was a government solution. A lot of people liked it, but not everybody and since it wasn't community driven, it was government imposed and that wasn't going to fly with some people and they couldn't keep those. No matter what they did. No matter how they anchored those things, they were not staying in. But yet the Rowland's bridge solution which is there are parts of it that are way more rinky-dink than that that anybody could -- a set of bolt cutters would fix that and it sticks. There is respect for it. And it just -- it is remarkable and then when the trams were built by the community back in the early 80's the name of the little nonprofit that built those, got some grant money from the state but it was our money was that group was called Kennicott Cross Purposes. And the purpose of it was to cross the Kennicott, but it was also cross purposes to a road bridge.

KAREN BREWSTER: Okay, I am --

End Part 2