

Brian Beinlich (PART 1)

Date of interview: 8/16/10

Location: 1040? NW Jackson Quarry Road

Dos Sequoias Farm

“Why is this land important to you?”

3:30-Farmland takes years and years to become productive

The soil in the area is some of the best in the world

Therefore it should be saved from urbanization

“What’s the mission of your organization/ how is it protecting farmland? (Save Helvetia)”

5:50- Save Helvetia (SH) saw farmland becoming paved over and urbanized, recognized that the land was actually more profitable as farmland than as urban land.

Dos Sequoias farm is purely organic, trying to keep the land clean and the food healthy- plus there’s a market for organic food

10:25: Save Helvetia formed in about May 2009 when the town found out that the area north of highway 26 had been slated for urbanization

Concerned neighbors met at the North Plains Fire Station in late May to organize

12:10: More information on the progression of the group, public hearings, examining laws, etc

13:10: Aims and achievements of Save Helvetia; more information on convincing decision makers, getting agriculture represented in government

18:26: End result- findings of the “Reserves Coordinating Committee” brought to “Reserves Steering Committee and a large amount of land was kept “rural reserves”

However, big pieces right along highway 26 were still targeted for urbanization. Highway 26 is a very symbolic divider between urban land and rural land.

25:58: Washington County originally targeted about 8,000 acres of “this area north of highway 26, or a total of about 133- 134,000 acres of rural lands that were targeted for urbanization” and ended up targeting in the Helvetia area about 600 areas of “undesignated” land, neither urban nor rural, and about 80 acres that are designated as urban. This is protection for the next fifty years.

29:17: Brian wants the public to have access to nature so they can appreciate where their food is grown and appreciate the peace of nature in general.

34:23: (After mentioning his ideas on what “progress” means to the public) “I think it’s good for people to learn a sense of what’s enough, and to learn to protect the things that are around them that are truly important, things that can’t be preplaced, like farmland.”

37:08: Brian's son goes to [Can't understand the name of the school, not familiar with it, it's in NW Portland]. In the spring a group of children from his class come to the farm and plant vegetables. Then they come back a few weeks later and weed and tend to them, and then in the fall they come back and harvest their vegetables.

The produce they end up with is donated to the Oregon Food Bank.

37:50: This encourages his belief that people need to get a connection with the food that they eat and the farms where it's grown, and the process it goes through.

45:47 Sorry but "Zak" has CRAZY HAIR

Great position and scenery behind Brian here, very useful for exhibit footage

47:04: Brian's farm is host to another farmer, Zak, in a program called CSA, "Community Supported Agriculture," or, "subscription farm." More information on this process follows.

49:26: Brian talks about "farm parties," which are community get-togethers where the subscription farmer gives out the produce he's grown for that week. This is all a big community.

50:35: Brian gives a great synopsis of what the Save Helvetia movement is about and their success in limiting urban growth in the area.

"Where do you want to see Washington County in 50 years?"

56:01: Brian wants to see Washington County focus its development efforts inward, working with infrastructure already existing, instead of spreading far out into farmland.

57:55 Brian talks about how government and city officials should think about job growth, and the fact that having lots of farmland nearby is a huge selling point for potential employees.

Brian's main theme throughout has been that he feels there is a strong and important connection between farms and the public; people should know where their food comes from, and how it's grown. He feels that farm presence in the community gives the area a unique feeling and attracts people from all over to live here.

LCSH Search Terms:

Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture

Communities

Child Agricultural Laborers (I think these might not be the same kind of child laborers as Brian's son's class learning to farm...)

Education

Helvetia

North Plains