

INTERVIEW WITH GLENN VOORHEES AND WILLARD HARPER

Betty: Today is July 21st, 1995, and a group of us are meeting at the camp of Glenn and Jane Voorhees. We are anxious to learn about the early days of Stewart Landing, the dam, the Oregon Mountain Company, and the building of the camps along the road. In 1996, the Stewart's Landing Association will celebrate its 25th Anniversary and this evening three of us from a committee formed to plan an appropriate celebration are talking with Glenn Voorhees and Willard Harper. The members of the committee here tonight are Bernadette Hecox, Karen Gniewek, and Betty Brown. What we would like to talk about is how the company came to be formed, who is involved, how many acres were purchased, how many lots were sold, how much did the lots sell for then, what would the cost of the lots be today. And we would also be interested to hear stories and recollections from the early days. would one of you like to start.

Bernadette: Your first question was "how did it get its name", that might be a way to get into it.

Glenn: It started back way back in 1965, my brother (Harold) worked for Niagara Mohawk and he found out they were considering selling some of their holdings, so we put a bid on Oregon Pond, it is up on the Powley Rd. (Pauley Rd.) above Stratford. There is probably about 800 acres in there, I believe, and so we ended up owning that property in 1965 and then we found out that they were thinking about selling Stewart's Landing all along and around through to the Power Station and down through, and also Spruce Lake Country, which involves a lot of real estate. I figure around, correct me if I'm wrong Willard, around 1,100 acres right in here.

Willard: Well this here is ...

Glenn: 1,100 acres all the way down through Stewart's Landing to the end of the road.

Betty: Can I just ask where Spruce Lake is?

Glenn: Pardon me

Betty: Could I ask where Spruce Lake is?

Glenn: Oh, it is on the west end of Salisbury Center, Salisbury going west it is up on the Military Rd., by Salisbury Corners ...there's Spruce Lake.

Willard: There's a watershed up and above Spruce Lake.

Bernadette: When you talk about the 1,100 acres was that including the Spruce Lake area.

Glenn & Willard: No, No.

Bernadette: Just this, okay.

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Glenn: That was a lot more.

Willard: It was pretty close to a thousand acres, (800, 900 acres).

Betty: There was a town named Oregon?

Glenn: A mountain up there named Oregon.

Betty: How far away is that, I haven't seen any mountains around.

Willard: On the way to Stratford (the Powley Rd., also called the Piseco Rd.)

Glenn: On the back way to Piseco, the Powley Rd.

Betty: That is what you call that?

Glenn: That is the Powley Rd. the Piseco Rd. and you get up there, just as soon as you run off the hard pavement up there this is Oregon Pond, we owned both sides of the road and a pretty good size hill around, I call it a mountain, for people out west or Switzerland its a mole. Well, that's Oregon Mountain on the right. And there used to be logging country up there too, a dam and a creek and that is why they call it Oregon Pond.

Betty: Did it have anything to do with the state of Oregon?

Glenn and Willard: No, no.

Glenn: And then we ended up buying this property here and the Spruce Lake property.

Bernadette: What year did you buy this property?

Glenn: This here we took title to on April 20th, 1966.

Bernadette: The very next year after you bought the other.

Glenn: We bought the guide boat and Spruce Lake about the same time.

Betty: And your original idea was to divide this into lots and sell them, or when you bought it did you know what you were going to do with it?

Glenn and Willard: We intended to subdivide it and develop it.

Willard: We ran into a hundred barriers.

Betty: Even back then?

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Willard: You see about that time Adirondack Park Agency was commissioned.

Glenn: The Park Agency command put the cabash on everything.

Willard: We had many battles with them.

Glenn: You see this is all prime, all this real estate in Fulton County that we bought from NIMO is prime waterfront property, either on the creeks or on the channel here and so consequently when the Park Agency comes in it was all zoned Resource Management, colored green on the map. If it is yellow it might be rural, if it is green it is resource management, it all depends on the zone. In a resource management (area you need) 43 1/2 acres for a building lot. In other words you can't subdivide anything lower than 43 1/2 acres.

Bernadette: So if I wanted to buy a lot I'd have to get a 43 1/2 acre lot now.

Glenn: Right, that is the whole story. The Park Agency they are the lord... We went to Raybrook. We spent a lot of money over it. They finally determined that from lot 78 up here was preexisting before the APA come in, so we still had a few parcels of land in here still available and we had to get the health department in and we had to triple up on our lots to make them over five acres lots and then they approved them. We ended up with six big lots that we could sell, we still have one big lot down there, you see the for sale signs, my sister-in-law has got one down there, and the three of us Willard, my sister-in-law and myself have the big lot down there, I sold one to Ed Bouchard and Willard gave his to his sons. (it used to be Hoffman's). My brother was in this originally.

Betty: There were the three of you?

Glenn: There was my brother, he worked for NIMO and he died June 2, 1979, so he has been gone for awhile now, and his widow Peggy took over his place.

Betty: The only thing I know about your brother is that his nickname was Porky. What was his real name?

Willard: He was Beansy (Glenn).

Glenn: Yeah, His name was Harold Robert. (HR).

Glenn: Well Willard was the engineer actually. When we started out we didn't own the creek, but we started surveying the creek in the winter of '66, I don't remember if it was January or February, but I know it was winter, cold. We were up here surveying the shore lines so we could get our maps done and we could do some business come spring. We surveyed all the way through winter and then when the snow went, we did the back line.

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Willard: The surveyors made up the maps in the winter.

Betty: Do you have any idea how many lots there were originally?

Willard and Glen: (104)

Glenn: It went up to Lily Lake, the outlet of Lily Lake. (There was a tree growing out of a rock in Lily lake and it went to there).

Betty: Was there a road in here then?

Willard: There was a log road as far as Comstocks.

Betty: When you say log road you really mean logs or was it a logging road?

Glenn: It was an old log road where Helterline logged in here, (he took logs out years before) and then the road veered, you probably see where it gets to Comstock's then heads off into the woods. You see a little trail that goes into the left that is where (it circles back and goes back into Pleasant Lake). So we had to build roads.

Betty: Was there electricity?

Glenn: No, power was into Bouchard's place (they used that place as a camp).

Betty: So just as people built the power line was extended down in different stages?

Glenn: Near as I can remember, we had a little white house down by the dam and we put (an entrance into there) so that we could have power into there. We sold a piece of property to Leonard Bush to build his camp on so we could power in and help us on the way up through. And so, but then we had problem getting power in here. And so, as near as I can remember, we finally got power, just to the knoll (Cleary) and we had to put a deposit of \$6550 to get NIMO to come in. I thought at the time it would be \$10,000, but they gave us some credit for people who had already started to build their camps.

Betty: And what year was that?

Glenn: July 17, 1969.

Betty: Did you sell your lots for the same price or were the different sizes, different prices.

Glenn: We considered some lots more valuable, points and that stuff.

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Betty: Someone told me you sold them for \$5,000, would you like to quote on that?

Willard: No a lot cheaper than that, the average price was to start with that was \$15-1700 , and the points we got a little more money

Glenn: The points were about \$2500.

Betty: That was quite a bit of money in those days, right?

G&W: Yes

Willard: Now the average lot is about \$15-17,000.

Bernadette: How did people hear about it?

Glenn: We advertised in the Wall Street Journal. We had other land for sale too, other than this, so we advertised down there.

Betty: Did you have a lot of buyers from there originally or was it a lot of local people?

G&W: Quite a lot of local people, Utica, Illion

Betty: Were they hunting camps originally?

Glenn: No, our first customer was Felix Sirgedas, he blew into Salisbury Center one morning at four o'clock in the morning and he ran a friend over (at four o'clock in the morning got me out of bed). He was our first customer and he is from Sommerset, New Jersey.

Willard: I don't know how he heard about it.

Glenn: From the New York papers, he took title on July 27, 1967, I looked him up. Herb Adams was one of the first.

Willard: It took us quite some time to build a road.

Betty: The Staley's must have been one of the early ones; our place was built in 1968.

Glenn: Yes, Jack Burman was next door, (Burmester's now). I sold all this land up here by boat. There was no road (up to there). I had a little (9 horse power) motor and I'd throw it on the boat and take people up here and then I'd go back down to the dam (and lock my boat up and take the motor back home).

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Betty: I had a question about down at the end of the road, where that family has a trailer now. They put the chain across and it was cut and the road dead ends in their lot.

Glenn: Well we couldn't get approval from the Park Agency for a building lot, you can't build on it because (it is only 30 acres).

Betty: He's trying to sell it now for \$120,000

Glenn: Well, I tell you if you can get a building permit for it, it is worth it.

Betty: But he can't subdivide it.

Glenn: Oh no, can't build on it unless he gets a variance from the Park Agency. He might be able to get a variance, an individual. A corporation wouldn't, they wouldn't give us the time of day.

Betty: But they could only build one camp on that.

Bernadette: What is the story on the other side of the channel?

Glenn: The State owns that. You see we are now back into where we own all this real estate, Oregon, (Stewart's Landing) Spruce Lake (I don't want to get into that war - that was not in the Park, there was nothing involved in that). We couldn't sell this real estate except 43 acres, so we sold to United Farm, real estate outfit, they couldn't sell it, so we were forced to sell to the State.

Betty: Didn't a bank in Kansas City own it?

Glenn: Realty Leasing Corp. of Kansas City, which is a holding company of United Farm. They didn't have any luck getting it sub-divided either, so they sold it to the state.

Karen: When did that happen?

(after 1988)

Glenn: I was trying to figure out when the State took over the dam. I can't find that.

Karen: Doug has it, I'll ask him.

Bernadette: (When they repaired it or when earlier.)

Glenn: I think they took over it around 1979.

Willard: They had a big assessment on the dam around a couple hundred thousand dollars.

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Betty: That was the old one too.

Bernadette: So, when they took it over from you, did they take it over from you?

Willard: No, we let it go back in taxes, we didn't have any income from the water, Niagara Mohawk had income from the water, they could afford it. We couldn't make any deal on it, even the assessors in Stratford, (Stratford told them to put the assessment back on the property). The dam didn't make us any income, so we said the heck with it and didn't pay the taxes.

Glenn: We figured it was just as much value to people at Canada Lake as to anyone else, it controls the water (at Canada Lake). Art Zipp from Dolgeville (Zipp's Hardware), he had a lot to do with the State. He was the push behind that, he had a camp at Canada Lake. I like to give him credit because I think he had a lot to do with it.

Karen: Was there a senator or assemblymen involved in it?

Glenn: Might have been at the big lake (Canada Lake).

Betty: Assemblymen Glenn Harris maybe, he was up there.

Glenn: Could be, but I know Art Zipp knew the right people, he ran a hardware in Dolgeville,, but it didn't take long to go through.

Willard: I think he was president of the Canada Lake Association.

Glenn: Back to another item, we (let) the town take over the road

Jim Vickers has joined us.

Glenn: The town took over the possession of the road in July 1975 (up to Bernadette's driveway) then they took it over in two more stages. The Town of Stratford has it all the way down now.

Willard: (To construct the road) we bought a Lind tractor.... it is a tractor with tracks in back of it, which is what we needed to get over the road. Luckily on the lower end down there we had a gravel pit, and we had the white truck and then we bought a G.M.

Glenn: That was "Sick Lucy".

Willard: Well it was sick, and then we overhauled it. So we were lucky there. We got a lot of materials. Jim had a Ford tractor that we used to spread gravel with.

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Jim: Willard and I would start out about 6:00 Saturday morning and bring up gas.

Willard: Oh, we also bought a loader.

Jim: Yes, we had a loader. He'd load me, I'd start out with one truck and we'd back the other truck under the loader and he'd load that and when he got that loaded he'd start up the road and in the mean time I was up the road dumping for Art Comstock and then I'd go back and when I'd meet Willard I'd get out of my truck and Willard would take the empty and he'd go back and load and we'd keep doing that until Glenn got around.

Glenn: Saturday afternoon I'd show up.

Willard: He had a business to run morning. And we'd even come up here nights.

Jim: Nights, Glenn and I would come up and blast rocks.

Betty: You were both working in Salisbury Center then?

Willard: We did this part time.

Bernadette: No magic fairy was doing it.

Glenn: We put Art Comstock on our payroll (the older Mr. Comstock). He worked during the week, hauling all by himself.

Betty: When was this all logged out, long before this, or was there logging going on?

Willard: Helterline logged it. They owned all the way down to the Stratford Rd. (North Rd.) at one time. So he bought everything from Niagara Mohawk. He had a sawmill in Stratford. And then till 500 feet back from the high water mark, that is what he bought. That is what they retained up through there, he bought both sides. Helterline did.

Bernadette: Is that Raymond?

Willard: Raymond, yes.

Willard: So they were in here several years.

Jim: Wasn't it '46.

Willard: I don't know. They were in here several years logging for their saw mill. There was a lot of timber, in fact when we bought the place we went along and picked up timber that was along within what we bought. We bought 500 feet back.

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Betty: That was the first anyone had been in here to log?

Willard: Years ago there was a big saw mill right down there.

Jim: (there are pictures in the book Caroga by Barbara McMartin.)

Willard: This whole territory back in those days was logging. That is what the income was. There wasn't any farming.

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Bernadette: Jim says that the work that you guys did here, that you have a lot of snap shots or is it film.

Willard: I have a lot film, Super 8. (he said we could look at it, 400 ft. reel)

Glenn: He's got the pictures.

Karen: Why was it called Stewart Landing?

Willard: I don't know how it got the name of Stewart's. I go back quite a ways. My father worked on the dam down there. He was a carpenter. I can remember coming up just above the dam there and you could get a row boat and you could row all the way up through.

Karen: Did they have a place you could rent a row boat?

Glenn and Willard: Yes, Jimmy Turner.

Willard: Back in the early 1900's, that was how the camp owners from Dolgeville who had lots on Canada Lake, they had a little steam boat. That is when the dam was in for the saw mill. That is how they got from Dolgeville to Canada Lake.

Betty: Was the water higher then?

Willard: I don't think it was as high as it is now, but it was up enough. The boat that I saw was a little up and down. The way I came to see it was my uncle was the Breckwell's woodsman and they had big jobs around Canada Lake and Pine Lake. They cut all that territory out. And I can remember going up there and going on a ride on that steam boat when I was in school, I was probably about 10-11- or 12 years old.

Glenn: The docking space was down here where Scotts are today.

Bernadette: Oh, that was the docking space, above the dam.

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Glenn: I think so, they used to come in by horse and buggy from Dolgeville.

Jim: Then they got rid of the building and took it across the lake (channel) and put it up over there.

Bernadette: When you said they rented boats, was that by Scotts?

Willard and Glenn: That was down by the dam.

Jim: There was a great big white house with a great big wrap-around porch. (Niagara Mohawk tore it down)

Willard: I can remember coming up one weekend. My father and brother and I rented a row boat and rowed up to where cold spring was, they called rock dam. And we tented up there over night.

Bernadette: Listen, in those days the fishing was wonderful. What is the story of the fish between the good times and bad?

Willard and Glenn: Acid Rain

Glenn: Probably letting the water down probably raised havoc with the fish too, but..

Jim: I think, when we first came up and started this you couldn't find the channel. With all the weeds in here, if you could find the channel it looked about this wide (arms width). With all the blood suckers (leaches), you couldn't go swimming in the water, it was that full.

Glenn and Willard: Sure, right full

Bernadette: Blood suckers, and what kind of weeds?

Glen and Willard: Water Iris mostly

Glenn: You could find the channel. The only place that wasn't choked with weeds was in the channel.

Willard: All the way to Canada Lake.

Glenn: We found out that by draining the water in the fall, it froze out the weeds and you got rid of the blood suckers, ..

Willard: ...and got rid of the fish.

Jim: Oh, there is fish here.

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Glenn: I think the only one it hurt was the bullheads.

Betty: Since we have been here and they have really drained it down low, that must have been hard on the fish. Because there was very little water.

Glenn: They all go up to Lily Lake and Canada Lake. You can't have everything....

Jim: You can't have everything. You can't have fishing or if you want fishing you are going to have weeds and blood suckers.

Betty: That old dock that was at the entrance to Canada Lake, that was covered with leaches.

Jim: See, that is where they used to come down here, but we've gotten rid of ours down here.

Glenn: You used to see great big globs of them.... it was one big spectacle. Kill them out by freezing them out.

Betty: Just one winter or did you have to do it a couple of times?

Willard and Glenn: Over a period of time.

Willard: When we started to drain every year, we did it every year, in the fall.

Betty: So you could do what you wanted then, the water flow wasn't regulated by anyone.

Willard: We owned the dam.

Glenn: We had to keep the water in, I think it (had to be in by May 1st and out by Oct 15). It was for ourselves and for the people at Canada Lake too. They wanted the protection of it. There is nothing wrong with that. But we always managed to get the water out in the fall, so we could get the frost into the ground.

Jim: When the frost started you wanted the water out so that it froze the ground, and that kills the weeds and that is what you wanted.

Bernadette: The acid rain for a long time (was high) and it is supposed to be better now.

Willard: Who knows, there are no answers.

Karen: Whose camps were those that are across the way?

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Glenn: Well those were buildings that they used to rent (lease) the land from Niagara Mohawk. There were at least six. They were....

Jim: Voorhees, Charlie Hodge,

Glenn: Pritchard, Hayes

Jim: Loucks

Glenn: And they used to have pay Niagara Mohawk \$15-20 for the right to have a camp over there.

Betty: And they would always have to go in by boat? There were never any roads over there?

Glenn: Always by boat.

Bernadette: When was that during the 40's or more recently?

Willard: The 20's.

Glenn: It went way back, and then NIMO kind of gave up on them. Someone drown over there, they had some kind of problem.

Jim: Hayes, there were two kids.

Willard and Glenn: Way before that.

Jim: But when you took over in '66, Loucks was still going there, Hayes was still going there...

Glenn: Clarence and Irene were still there. They used it right up until (they died) I know they came to me and wanted to pay rental and I said no way, just stay there, you know.

Bernadette: Jim told me once about a veterinarian, Doc Brockett and didn't he have his own electric line?

Jim: He had his own telephone line.

Glenn: I believe his camp was were Papas was., right across

Bernadette: And he used to have parties there..

Glenn and Jim: I don't know.

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Jim: But the telephone line is still there because it was all steel wire and that wire hasn't rotted out yet.

Bernadette: Did he have a generator, he had all these things about thirty years before everyone else?

Glenn: That was right over there, I believe. So they tell me. It was before my time.

Bernadette: Yeah, mine too!

Glenn: Art Comstock he had a camp over here, just up behind where young Art's camp is today. He had a hunting camp. But then when he worked for us, we gave him title to the property there and then his son took it over when he passed on.

Betty: Someone told me he used to regulate the water. Was that an official position of his?

Glenn: No, he worked for us. He was under our employ.

Betty: So you were the people who had the responsibility for that and he did it for you.

Willard: The campers at Canada Lake they made that....

Glenn: Oh, they'd be on the phone every fifteen minutes.

Willard: It would rain about that much and "oh you got to open the dam", "go and close it."

Glenn: They were a pain in the neck. I can't help it, it is true.

Jim: We all had keys.

Bernadette: I was trying to tell them about Labor Day weekend when they forgot to close it and everybody's boats were beached. That was since I was here.

Willard: That was probably when the State had it.

Bernadette: It was not automatic, someone had to do it though.

J & W & G Oh Yes, they had to go down there and close it.

Bernadette: I thought it was like a Disney Comedy.

Willard: Someone left the gates open.

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Jim: They opened them and forget to close them.

Willard: That was quite a chore

Betty: Now the ranger does it from Northville does it. I met him down there one day and he said he was out of Northville and he was checking the level.

Willard: Since they overhauled the dam, they didn't rebuild it, they refurbished it, they just let it spill. They used to have boards on top of the dam, which is really higher than when the dam was built.

Glenn: They just let it spill now.

Jim: I remember one day when Willard and I went out with a chain saw and a boat and cut the boards right off so we could get the water down fast enough. Oh it ruined that saw.

Willard: Oh yeah, we had a heavy rain.

Glenn: How come you didn't raise the big gate?

Jim: It was open.....

Willard:and the other one was too.

Jim: We had everything open..

Willard: That was a big rain fall

Bernadette: This is really good. We didn't really realize how much work it was.

Glenn: If I'm not mistaken that big gate was 240 cranks per inch,

Jim: You start cranking that....

Glenn: Coming down it didn't crank that hard, but going up!

Jim: You have all that water pressure going against you.

Bernadette: How many guys would it take to crank it?

Willard: We all took a whack at it.

Betty: Is the Oregon Mountain Co. still in existence?

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Willard: No, we dissolved two or three years ago, three years ago. Well it got to the point that we didn't have much more to sell and those state taxes still go on for a corporation, and we didn't have any income.

Glenn: We had four lots left. My sister-in-law took one, Willard took one, I took one and there is one lot left so we put it in all three names. They still sit here. I sold mine.

Betty: So the one that Arlene Sitterly's name (real estate agent) was on is being resold?

Glenn: All three of us own that one, there are about 12-13 acres. And my sister-in-law has the one on the other side. (United Farm - there are three lots together- there are about 6-7 acres).

Willard: The Board of Health had us combine lots.

Glenn: We had them situated so we could lump them together and get them passed that way, it worked out a little bit there too.

Betty: So this is really civilized now from when you first saw it?

Jim: I have to tell them about how people liked us at one time. We were thinking about starting to build a road on the other side, we built a bridge across, where the snow mobile bridge is now. And for some reason we had to do a little surveying, I forgot why now, but anyway we had been hauling gravel across the bridge.

Glenn and Willard: We did that fall.

Glenn: We were directing to build a road across the bridge on the far side up on the hill on the south side (to get lumber), Excuse me Jim,

Jim: You tell them what we found..

Glenn: (no you tell it)

Jim: Anyway we had to do some surveying and we had to walk under the bridge..

Glenn: We surveyed up the creek line.

Jim: And anyway, Glenn and I were under the bridge, and before that I had hauled truck loads of gravel across it. Glenn looked up and somebody was so kind they took the chain saw and cut about every two foot right across each stringer. And if you came across with a dump truck you would have been dead, because it is about a thirty foot drop.

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Glenn: Bye-Bye Baby

Bernadette: Somebody cut those stringers? Do you think they did it for some reason for themselves?

Jim: They did it for meanness.

Glenn; They wanted to see us take a dive.

Bernadette: But you were underneath it so you noticed it.

Glenn: For some reason, we had to survey that south lot and we had a surveyor in there and they decided that the creek bed runs pretty straight up and down, so we surveyed the creek bed all the way through. We had to stay away from the trees and that is how we found it. We came up under the bridge and, my land, look at there... there was saw dust on the ground to start with...

Betty: Do you have any idea who might have done it?

Glenn: Well, yes we had an idea, but we don't know. Apparently someone didn't want us to develop the south side. Where we couldn't do it anyway because the Park agency came in and we quit.

Willard: We fought them for twenty years.

Glenn: In a lot of ways the Park Agency saved our neck, saved someone's life.

Bernadette: You had a lot of fun, but you did a lot work though it was kind of exciting to do it. Willard, you said that you had a hundred problems, could you give us the top ten?

Willard: Oh I don't know, everything was a problem, it seemed that way.

Jim: We parked the trucks down by the dam and we had to put chicken wire around them on Sunday night when we got done, because the porcupine would eat the tires and hoses.

Break (We started discussing lot 42, Glenn said two families bought lot 41 and lot 42)

Willard: One was from Schenectady.

Glenn: Or Connecticut, I can't remember.

Glenn: And they wanted a driveway in between, we put a driveway in between the two lots and of course they never did a thing with it, one moved to California (The

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Tuozzolo's). The other fellow I don't know what happened to him. They never did develop the lots.

Willard: The driveway was right on the line.

Betty: So did you put driveways in for people or did people hire you? We have a long driveway. You would have done that?

Glenn: I think we did do it.

Jim: What lot was that?

Glenn: Lot 75, Staley's.

Jim: Yes, Staley's.

Betty: Oh you did that. It is really nice, I love it.

Jim: Remember we cut that out of the bank right up above, right there and widened the road up and cut the bank down.

Willard: That is where we dug a well, I had the backhoe and went down fourteen feet, and ran right into this red rust. There was a lot of water, but it was rust colored.

Betty: We have a filter on it now.

Glenn and Willard: You have a drilled well now.

Betty: We still have a lot of the rust.

Willard and Glen: There is a lot of minerals in the water.

Betty: Have there ever been more people living year round or is the number increasing now?

Jim: Well I would say the number is increasing, I was the first one, no .

Glenn: Carlson was the first and he would plow the road by himself all the way through, (that was before we deeded it to the town).

Betty: Why did he want to live here?

Glen and Jim: Because this is God's Country.

Betty: And then he went to N.J. for work.

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Betty: So Carlson was the first and you were the second, Jim?

Jim: No, Comstock, then Herb Adams, and then us and now you are going to have Pete Szczebak.

Karen: What do you do other than buy property, what was your other job?

Glenn: I used to run a body shop in Salisbury Center.

Jim: Glenn was in the body business, Willard was an engineer for General Electric in Utica, I worked for the State of New York, and Glenn's brother was an operator for NIMO.

Betty: Did you know George Deiffenbacher at GE?

Willard: He worked at G.E. with me and he is a neighbor of mine in Fairfield I have been retired eighteen, nineteen years.

Betty: The Nelsons are moving up, so that will be another.

Betty: What about the Bairds?

Glenn: Oh yes they are up here, we forgot about the Bairds, they are right over there.

Willard: I had lot 58, and it got to the point I couldn't take care of it, it is a lot of work...

Betty: What was the impetus for getting the Association started?

Jim: Actually it started in Voorhees Garage. George Dieffenbacher and I were talking and we thought it would be nice to form an association. George was the first President and I was the first Vice President. It had to be twenty five years ago. Remember when the Association bought fire extinguishers? The Association bought the extinguishers and got a discount.

Betty: After that you had more contact with your neighbors?

Jim: Yes I think so. The meetings were all down by the dam.

Bernadette: The meeting and the picnic was separate.

Betty: Was there a need to get together because of problems?

Bernadette: Yes, first of all you were all trying to figure out how to improve the fishing.

INTERVIEW WITH GLENN VOORHEES AND WILLARD HARPER

Jim: Everyone wanted to work together. There were different ideas, you talk it over and then you come out with something.

Willard: How to control the weeds was a concern.

Bernadette: Should we let the water out early, and some said late. There were little things, for instance when we tried to figure out the three blows with the horn, and different things. There was one time when someone said that we should have a pumper half way and then we could pull it to a fire - that didn't go over too well.

Jim: Everyone had to work together, For example to get the powerline you had to get owners to get power in.

Willard: Well we had quite a go round with Niagara Mohawk. They wouldn't put it in unless we financed it. You give us so much money per foot and we'll put the power to there and we have to have so many people within this distance that are ready to hook up so in other words you had to have your pole in.

(The power ends at Lot 78, who ever buys that 30 acre lot would have to have power put in.)

Jim: They ran one line for two camps and each person got a hundred foot and if your driveway was over two hundred foot long, you paid the difference.

Glenn: Recently I sold this place to Ed Bouchard, but he doesn't intend to build, they won't touch a thing until he puts a well, a road and a septic tank.

(The laws are changing and getting tougher)

Glenn: I don't remember when they brought the telephone in.

September 22, 1995

Glenn Voorhees called Betty and gave her this information:

Oregon Mountain Company was incorporated 5/26/64.

President - Willard Harper

Vice President - Harold Voorhees

Secretary, Treasurer - Glenn Voorhees

On 12/31/92 the Oregon Mountain Corporation was dissolved