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Interview with Janet McLennan (Part 2)

Bob Straub Oral History Project

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Bob Straub Oral History Project
Interview by Michael O'Rourke with Janet McLennan at her home in Portland
Part 2
November 8, 2003

[Michael O'Rourke (MO)]: Okay, and so, you were saying that, well then you got very involved I guess in the Save Our...what was the name of the campaign Save Our Beaches or No Beaches for our...

[Janet McLennan (JM)]: Beaches are for Kids?

MO: Well you have another poster back there that relates to this.

JM: This was...

MO: So this is from that same era?

JM: Yeah. This is from that same era. This design "Beaches Forever," and the full script on this was "Beaches are for kids, not cars."

MO: A reference to that fact that beaches had been declared state highways earlier, I guess.

JM: Well no, a reference to the fact that we didn't want the highway built on the Nestucca sand spit.

MO: Oh, Nestucca spit, okay. Oh I see, yeah. Great, well thanks for showing that to us. Now, okay, so both of these issues both the Willamette Greenway and the beach, the Nestucca spit issue to begin with and then later on the public ownership with the beaches, these were ideas that to some extent were, you know, pushed originally by Bob Straub.

JM: Yeah, he was certainly the major public figure in Oregon advancing these as major and important issues to Oregon people and people were very receptive to those messages, and the media was very receptive to accepting these as major legitimate issues, so the coverage was tremendous in those years on these things. Not so much on the Greenway, but the beaches especially.

MO: I guess Tom McCall, he didn't ever get totally behind the...Well no I remember what the issue was, Tom McCall never, never really got behind the idea of the campaign for the preservation of the Nestucca spit, but he did get involved later.

JM: No, he changed his position, and then you know, in 1971 as I recall and ordered the Highway Commission to abandon the idea of putting the highway on the spit, but he didn't ever campaign on that issue. He did however try to move aggressively on the question of public use of the beaches.

MO: And took up the Willamette Greenway to some extent.

JM: To some extent, to a limited extent.

MO: So these are both issues that originate with Bob Straub.