ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

JIM POSEWITZ

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INTERVIEW CONDUCTED FOR

FISHERIES DIVISION

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

HELENA MONTANA

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY MARGIE PETERSON

[Beginning of Recording #1, 9/20/2016]

INTERVIEWER: This is Margie Peterson. Today is Tuesday, September 20, 2016. I am a Certified Oral Historian from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I will be conducting the recording sessions and transcribing the recordings. I worked for FWP in the Fisheries Division and the Director's Office for a few years many years ago. We are at the home of Jim Posewitz in Helena, Montana, and we are going to begin Jim's oral history story working for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and many other things he did after that. So Jim would you like to tell us your date of birth, where you were born and a little about growing up.

POSEWITZ: Okay, my date of birth was 6th of March, 1935. I was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, which is a small industrial town halfway between Milwaukee and Green Bay on the shore of Lake Michigan. It was an environment that was depleted of its wildlife and the two rivers that ran through the town were both badly polluted. There wasn't much of a fish and wildlife resource to become a hunter and fisher there, but I was born with an interest in nature. My Dad was a professional athlete for a while in the '20s and '30s and then he ran a service station. His education was up through the 8th grade. All my grandparents from both sides of the family were Lithuanian immigrants that came right after the beginning of the twentieth century to escape the oppression that was going on in Eastern Europe at the time. On my father's side, my grandfather started first in the coal mines. He basically fled to the United

States when the Russians were conscripting Lithuanian peasants to fight in the Sino-Soviet War. He left his pregnant wife behind. He made himself sick by eating tobacco and got rejected by the Russians and managed to get 50 bucks and buy passage for himself to the United States. Got a job in a coal mine. As soon as he had enough money, he brought his wife and my newborn Uncle Tony over -- my Uncle Tony was born in the old country. The family moved from the coal mines to the chair factory in Wisconsin. The coal mine was in Pennsylvania. And my grandfather traded sawdust for coal dust and lived to be well into his 80s. Never learned to speak English. On my Mother's side of the family, they were from the merchant class. Fled Lithuania basically for the same reason. And my grandfather on my Mother's side and his brother and two of my uncles got into the saloon business. So I often say I was in college before I found a stool that didn't swivel. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: So what were their names?
POSEWITZ: My Mother's maiden name was Yekenevicz. My Father's side of the family became Posewitz, but it was kind of like Posavechus. And that's a part of the ethnic background. I grew up with an interest in nature. And the outdoors. And my parents, you know at that time it was possible I could walk from my community to get into a wood lot or along the banks of one of the two little rivers that ran through our town. If I walked up one of those rivers far enough I could get above the discharge from the rendering plant and I could catch maybe a bass or a Northern pike instead of just bullheads. That interest just kept alive in me. I ran a trap line for a little while as a kid. This was in grade school and high school. One of my proudest high school moments was one day there was the odor of skunk in the high school. And the principal called me in to figure out what caused that. (Ha, ha) I guess I had the reputation of being a trapper.

INTERVIEWER: He thought you'd brought one to school?
POSEWITZ: He thought I'd brought one to school or I might know what had happened. One of the few little tidbits that sticks in a guy's memory.

INTERVIEWER: Of course. That's great. Do you want to tell us your parents' names?
POSEWITZ: My Father's name was John Anton. My Mother's name was Marie.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have any brothers and sisters?
POSEWITZ: I had one brother, John, Jr. And since he was a very conservative guy I like to say my brother was an only child. (Ha, ha) In the political context.

INTERVIEWER: So, normal childhood, and growing up and fishing.
POSEWITZ: Fishing and athletics. My Father was a professional athlete, basketball. He played in the earliest stages of the NBA. In the local basketball team called the Sheboygan Redskins. I'll show you a picture later. And because my relatives from my Mother's side were pretty much in the saloon business, my Dad was kind of a notable local athlete, he would charter a bus to every Green Bay Packer home game through my growing up years. And that was part of what made the Packers capable of staying in the little town like Green Bay and become part of the NFL to this day. We played… when I was in high school, I played football. And we were playing Green Bay East on what was then the city stadium in Green Bay, which was the same field that the Packers played on. And I was the middle linebacker on a team that had a rather porous line and I can remember hearing, and it was the only field we played on with a big time public address system. At one point in the game as Green Bay was beating us, I heard "tackle again by Posewitz" and I think they heard that in Montana. (Ha, ha).

INTERVIEWER: So that's how you came out and played football? On a scholarship?
POSEWITZ: Yes, MSC in 1953. Montana State College.

INTERVIEWER: So to get back to growing up, was there anything else that you can think of growing up, or the beginning of your wanting to go into the profession of fish and wildlife.
POSEWITZ: In order to get to the outdoors, we didn't live in an outdoor family. Lived in a family that was work-oriented. This was the depression, coming out of the great depression, going into World War II. They were all preoccupied, they valued their work, they were proud of their work and instilled in their children the importance of a work ethic. People who had the highest stature in the community were the guys who worked the hardest. You'd hear that in conversations constantly, especially when you're sitting in your grandpa's tavern having orange pop and a Hershey bar ruining your teeth. (Ha, ha) But at any rate, I found the niche in the Boy Scouts that I could get outdoors and I can tell you a little story about that because when my

brother went to camp it was for a week. He went two years ahead of me and he kind of got homesick. I went to camp two years later and I begged my parents to give me another week, and another week. And the second year I think I stayed all eight weeks at the summer camp as a Scout. Because it was out in the woods. And by the shore of the lake. And you start that when you're 12. You start Cub Scouts at 9. But you go to Boy Scout camp at 12.

INTERVIEWER: At 12 years old you wanted to stay the whole summer. Yes, that's the beginning of it.

POSEWITZ: I met guys, you know you talk about the woods, and you talk about how to camp out and all those things. I became a Junior Counselor when I was about 15 or 16. I remember one of the other things my Father did, he sold Christmas trees. So every year there would be a trip up north to northern Wisconsin to buy Christmas trees where there were still deer. And one of my Dad's associates in that activity bought a whitetail deer from a Native American hunter who was allowed to hunt by treaty I guess. But I got a foot of that guy's deer and so as a Junior Counselor at Boy Scout camp I would sneak around marking the woods with that deer foot. And then one night a week one of the other counselors would take the mounted deer head out of the mess hall, go down into the swamp and sit there with the deer head and we'd have a night hike along a marsh trail and we'd shine the deer head. And wiggle it a little bit. All the boys went home thinking that they'd seen a deer. I was about 15 or 16. And when I was… the summer of my 16th year, it was 1951, and when the camp closed we'd borrow the camp canoes and go for a wilderness camp trip to Ontario, Canada, north of the boundary waters. We wanted the really wild country. These were the boundary waters of Canada between Minnesota and north of Lake Superior. Into Canada's lake country. Lake Minnetonka was the one I remember when we first put in on. Fifty years later in September of 2001, I took a week's canoe trip with Gayle Joslin, my current wife and we went back to the same spot. That's where we were when 9/11 went down. And we were out at a cabin at a lake and the guy who rented the cabin to me came out in his boat and he said you'd better come in and watch the television. And that's where we were on 9/11/2001.

INTERVIEWER: And you went back 50 years later! Did you want to talk about when you first got married and your children?

POSEWITZ: I first got married to Helen Vidal of Helena in 1958 on my first furlough when I was preparing to go to Germany in 1958. She went over to Germany and we were able to live off the Post. Got a little cold-water apartment. I stayed married to Helen through 1991 and had six sons by that marriage.

INTERVIEWER: Your sons' names and when they were born. And then we want to get your military service.
POSEWITZ: The oldest was Eric, he was born in Kalispell. Helen came home just prior to my military discharge. Her parents were living at Kalispell at the time so Eric was born in September of 1959 in Kalispell. His brother, Brian, was born in 1960 in Bozeman, while I was in graduate school. Son Allen was born in Great Falls in 1961 when I was working in Great Falls. Carl was born in Glasgow in 1963. Matthew was born also in Glasgow in 1966 and Andrew was born in Helena in 1970. And the oldest one, Eric, was lost in a motorcycle accident in 1982. Pattee Canyon. (near Missoula, Montana)

INTERVIEWER: Tell us a little about your military service.
POSEWITZ: Military service was with the Third Infantry Division, stationed in Bamberg, Germany. We went over there in May of '58, got married in Wisconsin in my parent's home town. Helen's uncle came up from Chicago to give the bride away. While I was being shipped over to Germany by the military, Helen was going on her own ticket to the same town. We lived adjacent to the military base. So we were living off base.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the name of the base?
POSEWITZ: Bamberg. An old abandoned German military base that had not been flattened. Bamberg was sparred in the bombing. So thirteen years after World War II was over. It wasn't a bombed out place. Most of Germany had been reconstructed by then. Except the place in Nuremberg where they left one city block of rubble as a reminder, a memorial. So in May of 1958 we showed up over there. Basic infantry, advance infantry training. Our deployment in the field was to check the Czechoslovakian border, so we kept the Czechs from keep invading Bavaria. Between drinking a lot of beer. When September came I went out for the Bamberg

Riders which was the military equivalent of the football league. Football competition between military bases and we won European Championship that year.

INTERVIEWER: Wow, I haven't heard too many people speak of football championships during military service.
POSEWITZ: The upper echelon seemed to think it was important so we were on temporary duty; it was to field a football team. I was living off base and playing football. Temporary duty in the jargon of the military was TDY. And the pep talk was the same before every game. "Do or die for TDY." It worked. U.S. Army European Championship.

INTERVIEWER: So after the military…
POSEWITZ: After the military came back to graduate school at Bozeman. Had one son waiting for me and another delivered while in graduate school. And that was in the Master's Degree of Fish and Wildlife Management. My thesis was the fish population study on Harrison Lake which is near Harrison, Montana. Between Ennis and Three Forks.

INTERVIEWER: Were they stocking Harrison Lake at that time?
POSEWITZ: They were overstocking it and under harvesting it. And not utilizing the natural spawning potential that was there. So that was stuff I figured out when I was doing my thesis there.

INTERVIEWER: After graduate school, then you applied …
POSEWITZ: Well, there were some important fish things prior to that. When I was growing up in Wisconsin, there was a place called the Silver Moon Springs Trout Farm Hatchery. A private trout hatchery. Its name was derived from the color of mink that this entrepreneur had developed. He developed kind of a very fashionable light, light blue fur mink. Called it the Silver Moon. It was extremely valuable at that time to make mink coats of that color. They announced that they developed a private trout farm, initially for whatever reason, but my Dad knew, got to know these guys and he arranged that I could go to work for them as a summer worker. That was after my senior year of high school. So I got to work on this fish farm. That was the summer of '53. And the big mistake that I made I promised the guy that I would come

back in the summer of '54. And I was already a freshman at Montana State. But I promised him so I went back that first summer to Wisconsin. Then came back without making any more promises. And pretty much didn't look back. I started working seasonally for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, for Fish and Game at the time. And it was in Fisheries. I was working the first summer of '55 and I started working in Kalispell. The first project was monitoring the cutthroat trout spawning run out of Ashley Lake where they were taking spawn from some of the cutthroat. I was living in a little wooden trailer house out there at the fish trap to make sure nobody stole the fish. And then we moved over later in that summer to poison the Marias River from Glacier National Park down through the Tiber Dam. And that was the Fish and Game's idea of purging all the rough fish, of the watershed, closing the dam and having a trout paradise. That was full of adventure. We started right at the Park boundary at Two Medicine. Started way up in the woods in Badger. Brought the… killing this river with Rotenone which was a fish poison with a toxaphene kicker. We knew nothing of it at that time. We were sleeping on it. Camped out at the Cutbank airport. We went through the city of Cutbank's water supply. But the best story in that, and I was a young a reasonably healthy guy and Delano, Laney, Hanzel were also on this deal. He was strong, young and healthy. We were what they called the "Slough crew". So these guys would put a slug of poison in the streams and we would march the full length of that stream with backpacks full of poison in those little firefighting backpacks to get any back waters or anything, and any cut off channels where there might be rough fish hiding out in them. So we literally walked from Glacier Park down to Tiber Dam. Every foot of every creek. And Nels Thorson was the project manager over this effort. I remember one time he had to stop at this Indian's cabin to ask permission for us to walk through. And the Indian said, "First you take the buffalo, then you take the coyote, you can't have the fish. You don't go through there." So we had to skip over that place. But the best story was the city of Shelby. They had a sewer system but they didn't have a treatment plant. So there was a saying that said the stream flowing out of Shelby was called "Sh-t Creek" which was appropriately named. So we inspected that and there were some carp in the creek. This was probably one of the more creative moments in fisheries history. We rented a motel, bought a bunch of beer, had a jolly party and we mixed the poison in the toilets and we called it the "headwater springs of Sh-t Creek." And that should not be lost to prosperity.

INTERVIEWER: No, now that won't be lost. (Ha, ha). So that was you, Laney and ?
POSEWITZ: All the fish guys in the state came over to do this. This was a big deal. Quite a collection. The one I remember of my age group was Laney. Summer of '55, my seasonal job. The summer of '56, I was put in charge of the fish shocking crew and we were shocking streams before, immediately after and well after the Forest Service spraying DDT to try to kill the spruce bud worm on the national forests. And so we would do a baseline study. We put out cards on the streambank to show how much went directly into the stream. The cards were sensitive to the fuel oil that the toxin was mixed into. So we could tell how much fell right into the creek and how much had come in from rain and other things. So we shocked early, we were doing streams from the Dillon area clear on over to Sheep Creek in the Smith River Drainage.

INTERVIEWER: You weren't in Kalispell anymore?
POSEWITZ: Working out of Helena then. On the road constantly doing streams near Dillon, streams in the Elkhorns, streams near the Big Belts. Tributaries to the Beaverhead and then the Big Hole and then tributaries to the Missouri both from the Elkhorns and the Belts. I think our furthest north was Sheep Creek tributary to the Smith River. We'd do a sample, get a baseline before the spray, go in right after the spray and then we'd come in late in the summer. And of course the first one showed what was out there. The second one showed a vastly improved condition of fish. Because they had this flow of dead insects and they were gorging on them. And then when they burned the fat, they had the DDT stored there and that killed the fish which showed up in the third sample late in the summer. The bugs were purged. The fish were living on their fat reserves. Eventually we got the practice of the USFS spraying the forest with DDT stopped.

INTERVIEWER: So, electrofishing in those days was a lot different than later.
POSEWITZ: We did not have the Mark and Capture technique so we would block the stream up on the top end and the bottom end with a net and we'd keep going back and forth through there shocking until we were confident that we got most if not all the fish over a certain size. The brute force technique.

INTERVIEWER: Kind of a little dangerous.

POSEWITZ: Summer of ’56. And then the summer of ’57…

INTERVIEWER: So you go back to school in between.
POSEWITZ: Summer of ’57 I was working on my thesis I guess. No. Still undergraduate. Summer of ’57 I was working for Dr. Claudius Jethro Daniels Brown, who wrote the “Fishes of Montana”. And he wanted me to go afield and just see if I could find any species that he did not have in his collection. So, I and another guy named Bill Suder, and the Fish and Game was subsidizing this, or paying for it maybe, we got in a truck and we started out in the furthest southeast corner of Montana in the tributaries to the Belle Fouche River, near Ekalaka. We had fish poisons, we had shockers, we had seines, we had gill nets, we had anything that could catch a fish. We were looking for any species that Dr. Brown might not have in his collection. The summer of ’57.

INTERVIEWER: Was this before he wrote the book?
POSEWITZ: He was writing it and he wanted us to go to the remote edges and see if we could find stuff. So we started with, well, a lot of it we just collected and put in buckets and make sure… we could key them out later. But there was all this stuff that required a higher level of professional identification than we had. We had the truck full of formaldehyde… so I went from toxaphene to formaldehyde, with DDT in between. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: And you are here to talk about it. Really amazing.
POSEWITZ: Truly amazing. Those bombers spraying the DDT. And we wallowed in that toxaphene at the Cutbank airport and literally slept on top of bags of it. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: We didn’t know back then. My goodness. So, did you know if you found any species that Dr. Brown didn’t have?
POSEWITZ: No, I couldn’t tell you for sure. But at any rate, I did that through the summer. And then in the fall I worked a little bit on some checking station stuff. And then in November I went into the military. So I stayed out here and hunted basically including the fishing season until my military induction. But we started on the Belle Fouche and we finished the summer of ‘57 on the Kootenai.

INTERVIEWER: That's the entire state!
POSEWITZ: Yes, every nook. We'd go up the Poplar River flowing in from Canada and see if we could come up with something, collect there to see if it might have escaped notice.

INTERVIEWER: Wow, big state for all that traveling too. So we talked about the military and you came back from the military.
POSEWITZ: I did my graduate study on Lake Harrison, Willow Creek Reservoir, by the city of Harrison.

INTERVIEWER: When did you get a permanent job with the Department?
POSEWITZ: I thought at the time that I would go and study the Yaak River because the Corps of Engineers wanted to build some dams on the Yaak. And so I went back to Bozeman and I had a trailer and a station wagon and I was heading for the Yaak to find a place to live, while Helen and the kids… at the time were still living in student housing. I stopped here (Helena) to tell them I was on my way. They said, "Whoa, we're glad you stopped. That thing fell through on the Yaak. Go to Great Falls and be the assistant to Nels Thorsen." And that was a blessing I guess. So I went up to Great Falls, found a place to crash and rented a little house and brought my family up from Bozeman. And Nels was an exceptional person. He had a farm up there, near Tiger Butte, a ranch, so he was ranching, raising his family out on the ranch, was the Fish Manager and then the Regional Supervisor. I guess the most important thing fish-wise we were doing at the time, we were battling the channelizing of trout streams by everybody, including the highway department, one of the big evils. And so one of my jobs working for Nels then was to build a baseline of information for Little Prickly Pear Creek flowing through Wolf Creek Canyon, because they were just starting the Interstate construction there. And we had no authority to keep them out of the creek. The creek had already been mauled by the existing road and the railroad in a narrow canyon. So there were a couple places there where there were still natural meanders. So we were measuring two kinds of fish habitat.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember what your job title was?
POSEWITZ: Regional biologist, fish biologist, Region 4.

INTERVIEWER: And that was a full-time job in Great Falls?
POSEWITZ: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: The Wolf Creek Canyon has that challenging of the railroad, the highway, the frontage road…
POSEWITZ: And no room. And to the highway engineers it was a challenge. Engineering that thing through there. To us it was a consummate disaster.

INTERVIEWER: That frontage road was the road to Great Falls, before the highway?
POSEWI TZ: Yeah. I can remember, it was probably at the D-J meeting in Billings.

INTERVIEWER: Dingell Johnson?
POSEWITZ: Yes, it was the annual meeting of the Fish Division people. I can remember the fish managers sitting around the table in the bar bemoaning the fact that we were getting clobbered by channelization, not just by the highway but primarily, we were right on the cusp of the Interstate system. They wrote out on a bar napkin, I can see it in my mind's eyes this day. We have to do three things. We have to stop the channelizing, then we have to start cleaning up the water, and the third thing is we got to get a way to preserve some flows for fisheries. The Water Quality act was weak at that time. The water law gave no rights to an instream flow. In fact to get a water right, you had to have a point of diversion out of the stream. The cliché at that time was "use it or lose it". And that meant taking it out or it will go to a downstream user and you won't get your water. But fish had absolutely no consideration in that formula. And so they said, first we got to save the channel because it's going to take a while to do those other two things. But if the channels gone in the meantime, what's the point? And so they chose to establish communication with the Montana Junior Chamber of Commerce and one of the guys who was the leader in the Chamber was a dairy man from Great Falls named Harry Mitchell. He was later a state Senator during the Coal War years and he was leader of the JC's. (Showing a photo of a trip down the Middle Fork of the Flathead River when Harry was in the Legislature. He was a national guardsman. We were floating the Middle Fork, Dale Burke, he was a journalist for the Missoulian. Don Aldrich, the head of the Montana Wildlife Federation. John

Kuglin, a journalist from Great Falls Tribune. Harry Mitchell. Brad Parish a legislator from Lewistown. And a guy from the Fish and Game Department.)

INTERVIEWER: Jim Posewitz.
POSEWITZ: Oh, okay. (Ha, ha) 1972. The Middle Fork of the Flathead.
[End of Recording #1, 9/20/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #2, 9/20/2016]
POSEWITZ: (Speaking of his wife Gayle.) There was a natural attraction between the two of us. And my former spouse at one point she said, "You like being a lion, don't you? I think I want to live beyond the radius of the roar." And out I went and began a new adventure with The Goat Lady. I'll show you a picture that explains that. (Shows a photo of his former wife in Glacier National Park looking at a Mountain Goat.)
(Paused)
[End of Recording #2, 9/20/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #3, 9/20/2016]
INTERVIEWER: Okay, we're ready. (Back talking about the meeting in Billings and the plan of dealing with channelization.)
POSEWITZ: So we had these three objectives. It was a plan. Worked out in twenty minutes on a bar napkin in a cocktail lounge in a Billings hotel. They'd been thinking of it a lot, studying the problems. But they finally sat down and said, okay, let's get a plan. And they stayed focus on that. And they wound up getting the Montana Junior Chamber of Commerce to be the champion of the cause. So in 1963 it became part of the legislative debate. Eventually the bill gets watered down a little bit and it becomes an act where any subdivision of state government had to get a review by the Fish and Game Department and if they couldn't come to agreement it would go to arbitration.

INTERVIEWER: This was on water rights or channelization?
POSEWITZ: This was channelization. Any subdivision of state government that wanted to straighten the stream channel had to have a Fish and Game Department review. And if that

review could not come up with a suitable compromise or alternative then it would go to arbitration. That bill went through with some considerable resistance but it was signed into law by Governor Tim Babcock. And Babcock was a trucker. And here's a thing that was challenging the Interstate constructions at least in the minds of some, and still a Republican trucker Governor saw the value in trout stream conservation, signed the bill and it was designed year to expire in two years. So if the worst fears of the Fish and Game adversaries came true, it would die. And so in '65 it had to be rewritten and passed a second time. The story they told, but not verified, that it passed the second time, that it passed with one dissenting vote in the whole legislature. It worked so well. And the one dissenting vote, the story goes, this has to be verified by somebody… was a contractor from White Sulphur Springs. His name was Elmer Schye, a legislator. And he voted against it. And so the story line we ran around with was "We were one vote 'Shy' of unanimous."

INTERVIEWER: So that was the 1965 legislature. I can get that from the state library.
POSEWITZ: It should be true. (Ha, ha) At any rate, that's what we were saying.

INTERVIEWER: So to get back to your job, you were in Glasgow at that time?
POSEWITZ: Yes, and we were running up and down the hi-line with a slide show that argued for stream preservation. Guys in the Fish Division and the I and E Division would. Anyone who would sit down and listen, we'd give this slide show about the need for the Stream Preservation Act.

INTERVIEWER: Was that when Ron Marcoux was working for you or was that later?
POSEWITZ: Probably the same time when Ron came out for the summer. George Holton and those guys were in communication and sent him out to be the summer helper. It was really, really good.

INTERVIEWER: 1965. Then what happened after that?
POSEWITZ: Then the next big debate became the Water Quality Act. There was a law professor at Missoula, Dr. Les Rousoff, who was the architect of the language in the proposed legislation. That went through the legislative process in 1969. And that becomes a very pivotal

year. We get the Water Quality Act improved. I hope Art Whitney talked about stream preservation and the Clark Fork River?

INTERVIEWER: (Referring to the previous oral histories.) We will have to find out.
POSEWITZ: In the '60s with the Stream Preservation Act…. They were building the Interstate, laying it out between Garrison and Missoula. And the deal was that the stream would have to be the same length after construction as before construction. And that required condemnation of private land to build two artificial meanders where channel changes were inevitable. For the Interstate, the railroad and the frontage road. Just like Little Prickly Pear Canyon only bigger. Also you can see where the artificial meanders were built. And one was the Hazel Marsh meander up on the river and one was the Weaver meander further down the river. And the story Art Whitney told, I didn't witness this. But we talked about it a lot in the Fish Division at the time. And that was that the condemnation trial, the landowners challenged whether we had the right to condemn the land to build meanders to be consistent with the Stream Preservation Act. And so it was argued in the Philipsburg County Courthouse and like I said I didn't witness this but I was told Art Whitney was in the witness chair. And the old Philipsburg Courthouse, the plumbing had been added well after the building of the building. So it was exposed in the ceiling of the room they were having the arguments in. And Art was using the pipes as his visual aide to convince the Judge. The Judge said what does it matter there's so much water at Garrison; there's so much water at Missoula. Why should it matter how long it takes to get there? And Art was using the pipes to help the Judge see that if you had more piping you'd have way more fish habitat. And I hope Art told that story because that's one of those golden moments.

INTERVIEWER: Well, if not we got it down here.
POSEWITZ: And eventually prevailed. And those meanders are sitting there in the river today and the beauty of this thing is that, that fight for the river's channel was pretty dramatic, it was pretty intense, and at the time it was a river that almost had no fish in it at all. Because it was still polluted from the tailings and the slickings that are still being cleaned up to this day. The Warm Springs Pond. Which brings me to another little niche in history. I think it's the same time period. The Anaconda Company goes out on strike. Bob Woodall is the Attorney General and Forest Anderson was the Governor and Frank Dunkle was the Director. Frank goes over to

the Attorney General and he said, look, we have to get an injunction against the Union to not walk off the pollution abatement component of this operation. We had just started the cleanup. Dunkle did not want the Union guys to be able to walk off of this pollution abatement. They couldn't walk off the deal. The Attorney General tells Frank, and I'm getting this second-hand from Frank. He said nobody gets between the Company and the Union when they are fighting. So Frank then goes to the Governor's office with the same plea. And gets the same answer. And a few days later, he comes down to the office, my office, and said, get in the car we're going to Missoula. We're going to get the injunction.

INTERVIEWER: To go to a judge there?
POSEWITZ: To find a friendly judge. And so I get in the car, and I'm to be the technical guy. And I can remember quite clearly walking into the Missoula County Courthouse and the company lawyers are standing on one side of the hall, and the Union lawyers are standing on the other side of the hall. And Frank and I walk down through the gauntlet and into the Judge's chamber to make our argument to keep the pollution abatement going.

INTERVIEWER: Forget what the Governor says; just go to do it anyway?
POSEWITZ: Frank eventually challenges for the Governorship, he runs for Governor. And after Forrest Anderson's one term, Frank enters the political arena. Okay, we've got to go back here and catch an incredibly important transition. When Forrest Anderson ran for Governor, his platform was the reorganization of state government. "Twenty is Plenty." That was the slogan. He wanted to cut down to twenty state agencies with every department head being appointed by the Governor. For Fish and Game that meant, prior to that time in history there was an old model that the Governor appoints the Fish and Game Commission, but the Commission hires the Director, a state employee with qualification and with protection. He couldn't be just removed for no cause at all. Montana had that model that was the model that was widely spread through the country since probably the late 1930's. Frank and the Fish and Game were resisting that change. And the friends of the Fish and Game, like Montana Wildlife Federation were fighting making the Director a Gubernatorial appointee rather than a Commission hire. And lost that battle. Frank used that and other things to build his profile as a potential political candidate. And he was so threatening that Forrest Anderson, at this point, chose not to run for a second

term. And so Frank's nemesis disappeared, in the political context. The Republicans put up Big Ed Smith as the alternative to Dunkle for the Republican nomination and Ed Smith was a long time legislator from eastern Montana, a farmer, a decent human being in any measure, he prevails. He became the candidate for Governor and then Tom Judge beats him. And when Frank threw his hat in the ring, he wound up on my doorstep saying, would you leave Fish and Game and come on the campaign? And I'm sitting there in this house with all those kids by then and I said I don't think so Frank I can't take that kind of risk. The head of the I and E Division of Fish and Game Department was Max Stone.

INTERVIEWER: I and E?
POSEWITZ: Information and Education. And so Max Stone goes with Frank and subsequently they lose. And in their absence Don Brown comes in, the Commission hires Don Brown to be the Director. Don Brown looks down the corridor and sees the I and E Division without a division head, and he sees this little Environmental Resources Division and he says, well, why don't we just combine those two little divisions and I would be the Division Administrator.

INTERVIEWER: You were in charge of I and E?
POSEWITZ: I was head of the Water Resources Development section which had become Environmental Resources Division. I was in the Fisheries Division as the head of the Water Resources Development section. And then when they had the fight over the Heddleston Mines, Frank took that section and made it a division independent of the other divisions. And called it the Environmental Resources Division. And then when Frank checks into the political arena, Don Brown comes in and combines this fledgling Environmental Resources Division with this Information and Education Division which had no division administrator. So I got to be the administrator of the division of Environment and Information. (Ha, ha) That was the campaign of 1969.
[End of Recording #3, 9/20/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #4, 9/20/2016]
POSEWITZ: So it becomes Environment and Information Division for the convenience of administration initially. So it gave me administration not only of the environmental work, it

gave me the communication, the audio visual center where they make the movies, the magazine, the Montana Outdoors magazine. It set up the opportunity to capture not only the environmental missions but the communication functions. In short order we wind up in this battle for water in the Yellowstone River. We got not only the science but we got the communication. And we've got this huge problem of the public's perception of how we deal with water. This set up the ability to work inside the agency with all the tools necessary to wage a battle of that size.

INTERVIEWER: Gosh. I think we'll cover the Yellowstone River reservations in the next session. We want to take time with that.
POSEWITZ: Okay.
[See Addendum at the end of the transcript: "The Butte to Boulder Routing of Interstate 15."]

INTERVIEWER: So how did you feel with being the director of that division? Did you think you wouldn't be doing as much fisheries biologist work?
POSEWITZ: No just the reverse. We got the fire power and see what we can get away with. I never thought of it in those terms. We could start communicating and one of the things I did on a personal level… when I moved to Helena, one of the first things I did, and this is coming off my experience with the dams on the Missouri River that we battled, and the battle we were into on Libby Dam the minute I walked into Helena activity in the Water Resources Bureau, we need to communicate. I checked into Carroll College and I took a course on creative writing because I could scientifically write, which is what precision scientific writing required. But to communicate the emotions we needed to, talking about social and cultural and environmental values, I took this course in creative writing as a way to dilute the rigid nature of scientific writing which is boring because of the precision that's required.

INTERVIEWER: And you needed a medium to talk to the ranchers, landowners, everybody, all the public. So they could understand.
POSEWITZ: And could move them emotionally.

INTERVIEWER: So you took creative writing and then your reports weren't just technical.

POSEWITZ: Sure because with the magazine, you could look at that and see the nature of how we were communicating. And you can see where that ends. We had… well, the very next director after Brown who set this up was Wes Woodgerd. Wes Woodgerd was a really good committed wildlife biologist. He was fully in support of what we were doing in the Environment and Information section. He was Tom Judge's appointee. The first political appointee. Whether Judge thought he would be temperate, he picks Wes who was his next door neighbor before Judge was Governor. Whatever reasons he had, the pick was perfect for what we were doing in the agency. Wes became the defender of the department in the Governor's office but the Governor's office wanted a messenger boy. So when Tom Judge entered his second term, he appoints Bob Wambach. And fishes him out of the school of Forestry in Missoula. Wambach understood that he was to be a messenger boy and not the agency defender. Before that, before Wambach's term ends, he's in drug rehab and left the department. I think maybe Judge learned that Wes was not going to be the messenger boy from the Governor. He was going to be a defender of fish and wildlife for the agency. And I make up that perspective because that's how I saw it. And Wambach's first job was to break up my unit. Take that information function out and put us solely environment.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think his purpose of that was? To break it up?
POSEWITZ: We were too effective. It was a perfect match made in Heaven for us. We had the cause, we had the communications…

INTERVIEWER: When he broke it up, what happened to you?
POSEWITZ: Environment became Ecological Services. The pieces stayed together. There were two pieces that had been welded together in the wake of Dunkle's running for Governor. And they segregated them and made information an independent function and environment an independent function. That continues through Judge's administration and continued until about 1982. Governor Schwinden broke it up then. Disperses my unit, Ecological Services at the time. And I got a special private file on that. We knew it was coming and the environmental people who were running in the streets with us knew it was pending. And they were contacting the Governor but the Director had not told me they were going to disband the Ecological Services Division. But he came to my office one day in December (12/12/82) and said we got to go see

the Governor. So Jim Flynn is now the Director. And we go see the Governor and when I walk in the Governor's office, there stood my buddy Phil Tawney. Phil Tawney was the environmental intern for Don Aldridge in the '70s when Montana went through the big reformation. He and his wife Robin were legislative interns. They eventually founded the Montana Environmental Information Center. And at this point Phil is in private practice in Missoula as a lawyer. And he's my dearest buddy. And he's sitting in the Governor's office when Flynn and I get there. And I asked Robin his wife subsequently, how did Phil know to be there. Phil told no one how he knew what was going down. But he was there. Governor Schwinden starts the conversation and he said, "Philip, you have a firestorm going out there and I want to see it stopped." And Philip's response was, "Governor, I haven't lifted a finger yet, but if you want to see a firestorm I will show you one." And we went on for two hours. And the net effect was that the people that were in the Environmental Division would be dispersed into other divisions and that I would be given meaningful work. And that was the deal cut that day.

INTERVIEWER: And what did you think about that?

POSEWITZ: I had, in fact I wrote this to my people. We had our moment in the sun and we wasted not one moment (12/12/82). Then stuff gets into bureaucratic detail and semi-ugly stuff. The problem with the plan was that I was out raising money for the environmental studies outside of the normal cash flows. And the other division administrators who picked up different people didn't have that ambition. So the contracts ran out. Positions ran out. Most of them were preserved one way or another. Reclassified. Twenty years after that day, Schwinden is retired and living in a condo in Arizona. And I'm on the Orion stump and I'm going to be in Phoenix, Arizona. So I worked through Terry Cohea on how to find him. His wife had recently died so he's living alone in a condo in Phoenix. He's got a daughter who also lives in Phoenix, which is why he's there. I said I'm going to be in town and I want to talk to you about why you had to take the unit down. He said, come on down. So when I got there I spend an afternoon with him. And he said, I can't remember.

INTERVIEWER: Oh no. I was wondering if he would have remembered what the impetus would have been.

POSEWITZ: Well, I didn't believe him. A week later, he calls up and my wife, Gayle Joslin, answered the phone. He said I just remembered. Glenn Marx was after my budget. It was all bullsh-t. He wouldn't tell me.

INTERVIEWER: He just needed someone to blame it on.
POSEWITZ: The legislature wasn't even in session when all that went down. So I never did learn why.
[End of Recording #4, 9/20/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #1, 10/3/2016]
INTERVIEWER: Today is October 3, 2016 and we are continuing the oral history of Jim Posewitz at his home in Helena, Montana.
POSEWITZ: Well, in the Fish Division, one of my assignments was to participate in the Columbia North Pacific Comprehensive Framework Planning. And that was a combination of federal agencies and state agencies from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. It was a bit of frustration for me because it was all abstract. And there was not a very rich database to which a planner could utilize and develop plans for all these waters, Columbia River system. So it was kind of a nice assignment because I could get on the train at Garrison in a little compartment, ride overnight and do my preparation, and get up in the morning in Portland, Oregon, so that worked. That was the pleasure part of it. The frustration part of it was the databases were so lean you really couldn't do comprehensive planning. So when I had the chance, when the Environmental Resources Division was created to deal with the, initially the Heddleston Mining District, the projects that involved both fish and wildlife. It was the Columbia North Pacific thing all over again, except on a tiny scale. So the first thing we did was we dispatched a small team of planners into the Smith River drainage to build the baseline of data that I found so lacking in mega planning. So they spent three years I think out there in the Smith River, White Sulphur, and right through probably 1971. And wrote the Smith River Plan based on the database of both fish and wildlife. While that was approaching termination the Arabs embargoed on oil, maybe that might have been 1970, so we had an energy crisis. Turning to coal and we had two plants built at Colstrip and we just came to the conclusion that if they were going to have major power development of the coal fields that they had to have more water. The

Yellowstone River could only be relied upon if they had storage. So the Allensburg Dam had popped up as it did time and time again in history. We made the assumption that we would have to fight it again because of the demands anticipated from the coal fields. Those demands were articulated in a thing called North Central Power Study. Companion to it the Bureau of Reclamation did a Montana, Wyoming aqueduct study. And that aqueduct would have taken water from the Yellowstone River and it would have taken one third of the average annual flow of the Yellowstone River just to cool 42 proposed coal fired power plants in northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana. The size of that disaster in retrospect could only be imagined. So we sent the Smith River team relocated to Livingston and began studying the Paradise Valley for fisheries, wildlife and upland game, which was our responsibility.

INTERVIEWER: So the team was working for you, as the chief, right?
POSEWITZ: Yes, at that time we were the Environmental Resources Division. They were, they did things that crossed regional boundaries and the three-man team crossed strict division responsibility. Fish guys, game guys, the whole spectrum. Three of them went up into the Paradise Valley in 1972. Meanwhile, up the bureaucratic level, we were fighting to rewrite the water law because the water law traditionally required a point of diversion. We won one exception to that… I think it was in '69 when Representative James Murphy from Kalispell gave us permission to file for instream flows on sections of blue ribbon streams. So up in the headwaters we had that opportunity and utilized it. So when you came to look at the whole river system, once you got out of the blue ribbon part of the stream, you were vulnerable. There was a campaign to change the Water Use Act; we had the state constitution that passed in '72; a very progressive document, a very progressive political era. And the legislature followed it up with changing the Montana Water Law to the Montana Water Use Act, which allowed state agencies and subdivisions of state government to reserve instream flows for fish, wildlife, water quality and future irrigation development. Any future use, you could reserve water for if you were a subdivision of state government. So our tactics changed immediately from fighting a proposed dam that we thought was inevitable to reserving the instream flow that was needed for fisheries, wildlife, water quality. That caused us to seek a lot of private money, private contracts, as well as what the agency could afford. I think we wound up with twenty plus people spread out across that river from the mouth of the Yellowstone, near the mouth of the Yellowstone at the Montana

border all the way to the headwaters, everything from bugs, paddlefish, sturgeon, trout. Sturgeon in the Powder River. (Ha, ha) The reason I'm laughing is we took all the tributaries as our responsibility we accepted the challenge to preserve whatever waters the fish and wildlife resources needed as best we could determine. So we studied everything from bugs to eagles. Geese, goose nesting islands, beaver and the whole spectrum. Somebody was looking at every inch of that river. And I don't know in your conversational recording what point to break for, what I call the little gems that occurred in the process.

INTERVIEWER: Any time you want. But I did want to ask, the Allensburg Dam was going to be located where?
POSEWITZ: Just upstream from Livingston. You could almost heave a rock across from one bank to the other.

INTERVIEWER: You were very limited in any database to keep all these data.
POSEWITZ: We had none. It was very limited. They had done some fisheries stuff but just by virtue of the size of the river, until Dick Vincent came along and developed the capture and release, we were blocking off streams trying to get every fish out of it with the electrofisher rather than doing the mathematics. Methodologies were primitive. We had to learn all of that in order to deal with that river.

INTERVIEWER: You were not only learning it, you were probably inventing it.
POSEWITZ: I sunk a trawler once in the Missouri River, but that was earlier.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, well, we might want to hear that story.
POSEWITZ: Nels Thorsen and I, I had just gone to Glasgow and what came up was the Corps of Engineers planning process for further damming the Missouri River. We had no idea how to sample the Missouri River at that time. 1964 roughly. So I thought, maybe a trawler would work. We rigged one of the fisheries boats to drag a trawl, we put it in somewhere just downstream from Loma and on the first trawling run we hung up on something big. (Ha, ha) Nels was in the boat, Bill Hill was in the boat, and I was in the boat. Nels had his cowboy boots on, he always had his cowboy boots on. So we hung up the trawler, and the minute it does it

pulls the stern of the boat under water. I was on the winch crank so I threw the brake to let the cable run and of course the stern comes back up and the guy at the wheel heads for the bank because we only got so much cable. Before we get to the bank, all the life preservers are tucked in their plastic sacks under the seat. (Ha, ha) We run out of cable, it's the end of the cable and that tips the boat again, but now its broadside and there's no more recourse other than to bail out of the boat. Then the cable parts. The three of us are bobbing in the river, only two life jackets. And Nels didn't get one. But at that phase of my life I was a really strong swimmer. I gave Nels my jacket and I swam to the bank and I was coaching them to keep them out of the sweeper that was in the river. We all got out safe and recovered the boat and reclaimed it all. That was one of the failures of how to sample big rivers. (ha, ha).

INTERVIEWER: Don't use the trawlers. Do you remember if you lost equipment from the boat?

POSEWITZ: Well, we left the trawl down; we never retrieved the thing. No, we learned quite quickly it really isn't going to work in the river. Subsequently, I've often said that I sunk a boat in every river worth saving. And that had to do with the Corps wanting to build dams. And intuitively we resisted. Anyway, that's a satellite story. Another satellite story is the Powder River which was included in the Yellowstone instream river flow study. Bruce Rehwinkle fresh out of college was the guy that helped us gather the data. And he found some interesting fish species. Needless to say they needed water and a few other things. When it came down at the contested hearings, we would always coach the guy who was going to testify the next day. When it came to Bruce's turn, I was quite convinced that the adversarial lawyers from Utah International and Intake Water Co., two international companies that wanted Powder River for slurry coal. And then Montana Power was in the full reservation thing. I could tell they were going to make fun of the Powder River by the way the questions they asked on previous days. So when we were coaching Bruce, I said, "Bruce, tomorrow they're going to start out by asking you whether or not this was a blue ribbon stream." Cause they were all concentrated on that. And I said, "what I want you to do, I want you to say, no, but I think it's becoming a black and blue river stream." (Ha, ha) And sure as fate, the question that came up, Bruce looked at me and I gave him the sign and he hit them with the line and it brought the house down. There was a couple of times we added a little humor to the process to lighten it up. We were down there for a

month. They'd cross examine one after another. Contested hearings on the Yellowstone reservations. It was pretty long. We were all housed at Eastern Montana College. There is a huge transcript of all of that somewhere, must be in my shed out back. The other humor tidbit in that process was Mona Jamieson. Mona was the attorney for the Department of Health arguing for the need to have instream flows for water quality purposes. And Mona was sharp witted and quick on the trigger and very intense concentrated person. A marvelous ally in this process. When it came my turn, after all the other guys that testified, we were down there in Billings and Star Wars had just come out. And I said, "Mona, tomorrow from the witness chair, I will call on the force to be with us." (Ha, ha) So the next day, Bobby Woodall is examining me, he was a lawyer who worked for Montana Power Company. He was making the point that I invented this whole thing and I didn't have commission approval and I didn't have the director's approval. At one point he said, "You did this all by yourself, didn't you?" And I gestured to all of my guys, I said, "No, this whole force was with me." (Ha, ha) Mona shrieked while no one else in the whole room got it. We pulled it off. Every time I bump into her, she tells me to tell the story again. (ha, ha) She was a great asset to the whole process.

INTERVIEWER: That must have been rather grueling, day after day.
POSEWITZ: It was. The boys, the people from the field were defending their data. They were poking at it. But in the end we prevailed. I don't know if you want to go to the end yet.

INTERVIEWER: Well, if there are some gaps in between we can fill them in.
POSEWITZ: Sure, there's about six, seven years. People like Liter Spence, Larry Peterman were sort of the lead field people in our division. And they were actually putting the application together. We had the riparian wildlife populations were in the application. The other thing we realized early on, and here's something I probably should have told you at the start. When I came to Helena I was, I had practiced fish biology for about four or five years in the field. More like five. But I realized that we, to win our battles, we had to be able to communicate in something other than the scientific language that we were trained to speak and write in. So the first thing I did when I got to Helena, I took a course at Carroll College in creative writing so I could break that scientific rigidity that is without emotion and without color, and not that it's not important, it's the basic of all this stuff, but to communicate it to the public you got to use

emotion and write with a little color, passion and not too dry, try to move people emotionally. Because we had a long way to go. We were in a state that basically required you to take water out of the river in order to claim a use for it. And we wanted to do just the opposite. And that water law, use it or lose it slogan, was emblazed in every forehead out there in the agrarian sector at least. So I thought I had to learn how to communicate in a more common language. And we knew we had this huge public information, public relations barrier to soften. The beauty of it was that at that time we had both environmental and information. I had the tools. We began in *Montana Outdoors*, the magazine, to hammer that stuff. In fact, we put out a special issue of *Montana Outdoors* magazine on the Yellowstone River. I think it might be in '78.
[End of Recording #1, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #2, 10/3/2016]
POSEWITZ: In addition, we published a movie called "Yellowstone Concerto." You should take a look at that.

INTERVIEWER: A video?
POSEWITZ: It was a VHS, at the time when we made it. And we used to run around, it was the next step after the slide shows. It was based on an editorial written by a guy named Hornby, maybe you can find one.

INTERVIEWER: It was a VHS?
POSEWITZ: We converted it from 16 mm.

INTERVIEWER: Was this when you wanted to show the public, a PR show?
POSEWITZ: I had the information guys and I had the magazine guys, we were running up and down the highway showing the movie and pitching the river. Then we published a special issue. We haven't come to the punch line yet. So we're pounding all this out and a whiskey company in Kentucky decides to market the brand new bourbon and name it "Yellowstone Mellow Mash." And a guy named Tom Pero working for Trout Unlimited in New York City, was aware of what we were doing on the Yellowstone – we had allies, you know. He called me up and he said why don't we ask Glenn Moore to take the money they were going to use to host a tennis tournament

to kick off Yellow Mash. And after I expressed some reservation about… we want this movie to go to school children and everything else. But Pero had seen the movie and he was moved by it. And I said let's do it. But there are a couple little caveats. And the truth of the matter, I didn't ask anyone's permission, I just said do it.

INTERVIEWER: Well, you were the chief.
POSEWITZ: Yes, but there's the commissioners, the director and there's a governor. (Ha, ha)
INTERVIEWER: So this was on purpose that you didn't talk to them?
POSEWITZ: Didn't give it much thought. It sounded like such a good idea. So Tom Pero approaches the whiskey company and they agree and he points out that the demographics of whiskey drinking and fly fishing are identical.

INTERVIEWER: Ha, who would have thought!
POSEWITZ: Who would have thought! So they hire Rand public relations in New York City to host a national press tour to kick off the campaign to promote the saving of the Yellowstone River. I told them that I think we need to do it right after the fall equinox because I wanted the cottonwoods gold and the peaks with snow on them, in the Paradise Valley. And so writers fly to and assemble in Billings. Ted Schwinden is the Lieutenant Governor at the time. And I do my little political talk by asking him to greet them at a breakfast. The day we start to kick off the field tour they all have breakfast together; Schwinden gives them some commentary and urges them to get both sides of the story. And that was primarily his message and we fly them over Colstrip, we land them in Livingston, we drive them up to Chico Hot Springs, and spend the night. The boys gave them the program, all the guys who were working on the river. We had some adversaries to our mission available to them if they wanted to talk, you know, get the other side of the story. So we're in Chico giving them the pitch, we co-mingle with all the writers that night in the hot pools, etc. and then the next day I had a river guide friend, Ray Hurley. Ray Hurley and his wife, Elizabeth (Boo), unabashed advocates for the river, hosting all kinds of little events in Livingston to promote this thing but he rounds up a floating guide for every reporter there. And they float them down the Yellowstone the next day. The net effect of that, here's one box that's full, we have Life Magazine, Wall Street Journal, New York Times…ten pages, full color in Life Magazine, December 1978. (Looking in the box of saved papers and articles.)

[End of Recording #2, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #3, 10/3/2016]
INTERVIEWER: Alright, we're back on.
POSEWITZ: Okay, that article comes out opening day of goose season, 1978. The commission and the governor all hunting geese opening day at Bedoin. (National refuge) And they're having breakfast in Malta. The Billings Gazette comes out with the story. Billings Gazette is lying in front of Governor Judge. And one of my guys that was in the room told me this, he said various aides grabbed sections of the paper and all that was left in front of the governor was the Gazette story of the press tour and Tom Judge was a PR guy, in his profession. I was told that he was reading that and he kept saying that son of a b----, that son of a b----. And then he turned to the commissioner and he said, did you know he was doing that?

INTERVIEWER: And he was talking about you?
POSEWITZ: Either me or Schwinden. And I never quite knew. And then he turned to Wambach who was the Director. And he'd say the same thing; did you know he was doing this? And they both had to nod and say that they did. And the Governor was taken aback. It was too late. We had all that coming. I think it moved the pin…

INTERVIEWER: We might have to get some copies of those.
POSEWITZ: (Looking through articles in the box.)

INTERVIEWER: Yellowstone, from 1978, Fly Fishing magazine, sporting journals, Wall Street journal, Times. And they were all in favor of what you were doing.
POSEWITZ: Well, they all reported the story. How could you not be?

INTERVIEWER: That was the pivotal time of saving the river.
POSEWITZ: And the Board of Natural Resources turned out a favorable instream flow reservation. I might tell you some stories that could be too farfetched for you even to believe.

INTERVIEWER: Do you want to record them? Sure, whatever you want down is great.

POSEWITZ: My chief field guy, the overseer of all the fisheries work is Larry Peterman. Larry Peterman is going to get an award at the FWP Commission meeting on November 17th from the Cinnabar Foundation. A conservation philanthropy founded by Leonard and Sandy Sargent and I was on the founding board. I'm now board emeritus. And the board, unbeknownst to me created the Jim Posewitz Professional Conservationist Award and they're going to give the first one to Larry on the 17th of November.

INTERVIEWER: What an honor for both of you!
POSEWITZ: Here's the thing you're not going to believe – Larry and I both were born and raised in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. (ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: What a coincidence!
POSEWITZ: Explain that to somebody. We were a few years difference, in fact, I might have been in Eco and Larry worked in Eco for a while. Ecological services, environmental information, three reorganizations of the same thing before they finally figured out in Schwinden's words, "We got to take the lightning rod down."

INTERVIEWER: What an honor to have an award named after you.
POSEWITZ: Yes, it is nice. Back to when the finish line was reached on the Yellowstone.

INTERVIEWER: So it took, what did you say, seven years?
POSEWITZ: Well, we started moving guys in there in '72 to defend the Paradise Valley and the river there. Then we expanded the water law, authorized instream flow reservations to cover the whole spectrum. And then it wasn't just fish, it was waterfowl, riparian, wildlife, beaver, Canada geese. We barely knew how to sample the river. (ha, ha) We did a lot of tributary work. We could sample some things – bugs, lot of hydrology as well. One of the fascinating chance findings while we had a person down there studying Canada goose nesting on the river islands and river islands are something that disappear in managed rivers because of hydrological phenomenon in meandering streams. So the islands are important, especially important to goose nesting and while we were studying that they had a maintenance shutdown of Yellowtail Dam on the Big Horn River, tributary to the Yellowstone. And with the shutdown, it dropped the

Yellowstone to a low level so the islands were often accessible to the land. And we had massive mortality of goslings and goose nests because the predators all were able to get to them. It was too bad but it made a point that a meandering stream has all kinds of values that aren't immediately obvious. I was going to point out here… (looking in box of articles, etc.) I've had two academics through here studying what went on down there. I think it was a doctorate thesis. Probably around 2012.

INTERVIEWER: They are still coming to you for advice and information.
POSEWITZ: One of the guys who came, I had an open space downstairs and I just gave him the box and said help yourself. But they break it down, as factual as they can be. It makes me go through it again. I had forgotten there were 42 power plants that they wanted to build. They were going to build them close to the coal beds and the water was going to be piped to the Montana-Wyoming aqueduct. I think without exception they were either on the Yellowstone or tributaries. There might be an exception in southern Wyoming; they might have got on to the Platte River there. They wanted one-third of the Yellowstone. They would have taken it if we hadn't paid attention to it. The U.S. Energy and the utilities. You get a couple of politicians thinking that it's a heck of an economic deal and it's a runaway. And that's why we did that.

INTERVIEWER: What a great thing you did.
POSEWITZ: Then we moved all those warriors and scattered them when it was over. They were the field people, some went to the middle Missouri section, the Rocky Mountain front, and we kind of had to beat the Corps back. So we were building a database there, I think that's when Schwinden decided he'd had enough. Twenty years later I went down to see him and he wouldn't tell me. I think I already told you that story.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, we have it in the first recording.
[End of Recording #3, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #4, 10/3/2016]
POSEWITZ: A proposal to drain the oil and gas out from under the Sun River Game Range… Flynn was now the director; Schwinden was the Governor.

INTERVIEWER: Could you tell me the dates when Flynn was the director?
POSEWITZ: Yes. Schwinden's first term (1981-88), he does not reappoint Wes Woodgerd to directorship. Wes Woodgerd was a staunch defender of what we were doing. He came in after Don Brown interim and that was after Dunkle, but Wes was old time fish and game and he was committed to the resources and he became the agency's defender in the Governor's office. As our director. And what the Governor's office wanted a messenger. Judge, in his second term (1977), appoints Bob Wambach and he was a forestry academic from Missoula. He had no idea what we were doing. In fact, he was asked one time what it was like to be director of MTFWP and I was told that his response was, "Well I know I'm the director, I've got the steering wheel in my hands but I don't think it's connected to anything." (Ha, ha). The division chiefs and semi chiefs and administrators were all on a trajectory, a long trajectory that went back to the time when a director was hired for his qualifications and not a political appointee. Wambach was the first pure political appointee; he was a forester, academic, had no fish and game history. He wound up stealing a typewriter, and in drug rehab. And he was replaced by Keith Colbo on the interim basis to finish his four-year appointment. Colbo was appointed our caretaker because it was late in Judge's second administration. So Schwinden then gets elected in January of '81. His appointment is Jim Flynn from Anaconda. I think he was asked once if he ever slept "out" as in the outdoors, it was a big thing in the fish and game world, all these wildlife people in the forest. Said he hadn't. But he was politically true to the guy who appointed him, so he was just a political person. Without any particular fish and game experience. And maybe very little interest. He was going to be the administrator, but he was definitely the messenger from our other world. So that starts in January '81. I think it was in December of '82 that they break up the Environmental Unit.

INTERVIEWER: So Jim Flynn was the director while that was happening. He was hired to help do that.
POSEWITZ: He was the administrator and he did what the politicians told him. I have a file on that day. I remember pretty well, I could give you the exact day if I went to the file. (12/12/82)
(Paused recording)
[End of Recording #4, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #5, 10/3/2016]
POSEWITZ: The date I'm talking about is January 5, 1983, 1:30 pm.

INTERVIEWER: That was when they reorganized your unit?
POSEWITZ: Oh, wait that was a different one. We met with the Governor December 12, 1982. The other one was when Flynn subsequent to the December 12th meeting, it was in January '83. Because the fact that they're going to break the unit up, the '82 breaks it up. Although we worked out the budget year. Til June '83.

INTERVIEWER: And at that time you still had the magazine and the communication, the audio/video?
POSEWITZ: No, that was broken up sooner. They broke up the communication arm right after the Yellowstone thing. Wambach came in and did that. And that was just separating it. We were independent, we were together, then we were separated again. But in '82… and I never learned how my buddy Phil knew that this was going to happen.

INTERVIEWER: Phil Tawney?
POSEWITZ: Yes. When Flynn picks me up at 11 a.m., tells me at 8:15 we have an 11 o'clock appointment. So we go over there (Governor's office) and my buddy Phil is sitting in the room. And his political connections were so complete, somebody tipped him off, I guess. And Phil died before I ever got to wondering… I asked Robin, his wife, if Phil ever told her how he knew. And she told me he didn't. But, we go over there, 11 a.m., we stay just about two hours til 12:45 p.m. Schwinden starts by telling Phil, "Phil you got a fire storm going out there and I want to see it stopped." And that meant that the "ecos" were writing and contacting him. This was before the magic Internet that we've got today or at least to the degree which we've got it today. And Phil's response was, "Governor, I haven't lifted a finger yet. But if you want to see a fire storm, I will show you one." That was the tenor that meeting. The net effect was that they promised that the people in the unit would be dispersed into other parts of the department. And that I would be given meaningful work. Without defining that. This was the Resource Unit

attached to the Director's office. Eventually became assistant to the Director but not assistant director. That's '82. And it became effective in July of '83.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember what your meaningful work was going to be?
POSEWITZ: I got lucky. I got lucky because while I was sitting there wondering what meaningful work was going to look like, the Canadians proposed a coal mine in British Columbia on the north fork of the Flathead River and it got referred to the International Joint Commission for Review. And I thought, we got the politicians all looked like they wanted that mine killed. So they had me sitting in a cage and wondering and all of a sudden a project comes up that they wanted to see die. So I was appointed to co-chair representing the U.S. of the study team for the International Joint Commission Study on the North Fork of the Flathead. Which eventually concludes that after lots of interesting trips and things that the mine shouldn't be built.

INTERVIEWER: Did you write reports on that?
POSEWITZ: Oh yes, there's tons of stuff on that too. (Gets out another box of articles, files.)

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember how long it took before they came to the conclusion that the mine shouldn't be built?
POSEWITZ: I do have a record of it somewhere in the North Fork file.

INTERVIEWER: So you were successful with that.
POSEWITZ: There were half Canadian, half U.S., built the databases, pointing out what the perils were going to be then it gets turned over to the International Joint Commission and they recommended that it not be built. B.C. decided not to do it. So they backed off.

INTERVIEWER: You had a lot of success.
POSEWITZ: Good ol' North Fork. The thing all boiled down to a bull trout spawning bed, I think it was on Sage Creek. Where they had their waste rock disposal site and it would have included all the precip that fell on it that would leach down through their waste disposal sites, picking out residual nitrates and sulfur and then turning it into nitrites when it gets to… gets aerated in the flowing stream. The toxic nitrites would come up in the middle of the bull trout

spawning grounds and that was one of the key biological facts of life and they had to be treaty consistent because the boundary waters treaty held that one country can't imperil any resource in the other country. And the bull trout were out of Flathead Lake and they would be imperiled by it. It was going to be right in the middle of the bull trout spawning grounds. So I got lucky, otherwise I don't know what they'd give me to do.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that was very meaningful work.
POSEWITZ: Yes. Let's see… then Stan Stephens comes in and I'm sitting as this loose end in the director's office. Stan Stephens appoints a guy named K. L. Cool to be the director. And K.L. Cool had no idea why I'm there. And by this time Flynn and… first I had a guy with me, Bob Martinka, on staff. And I had a secretary. And under Flynn that gradually gets whittled away that I'm just sitting alone in a little cubbyhole in the basement.. secretary's gone, Bob Martinka moved on to a more meaningful position.

INTERVIEWER: K. L. Cool wasn't from Montana, right?
POSEWITZ: No, he was from South Dakota.

INTERVIEWER: So how did Stan Stephens find him?
POSEWITZ: I think he found him through Ducks Unlimited and I think Ducks Unlimited… Steve Bayless who was the chief of public information after me, he was active in Ducks Unlimited and he was very close to Stan Stephens because he had worked out of Havre where Stephens ran a radio station. So at any rate, Stephens appoints Cool and on the very first… and Flynn had me whittled down to where I was in a closet downstairs counting options to retirement, Cool shows up. I had just been to Washington, wrapping up the North Fork stuff. We'd meet every six months or so in Ottawa and in Washington, D.C. While I was there I was listening to the radio, this is about '88… when we were shooting every buffalo that set foot outside of Yellowstone Park. It was a state law that required it. I was listening to a talk radio show in Washington, D.C. that's all they talked about. And the count had gone up to 500 buffalo. So I came back and Cool just shows up and it was the first staff meeting, all the division administrators, etc. and I told them about what I'd heard in Washington, then I asked the assembled, "does any person in this room thinks we're doing the right thing?" And not a hand

went up. And Cool's jaw dropped, and he set out to get it undone. It was really a stupid thing to be doing, public outrage, hunting was getting slaughtered over it and as a result of that we decided to convene to do penance for what we had done. Convene the Governor's Symposium on the North American Hunting Heritage. Hunting was getting bashed. And we thought this would be a way of shining some truth onto the hunting issue. And we launched it in Montana and it was called the Governor's Symposium on North American Hunting Heritage and Stan Stephens, a Republican, called it. Sent out the invitations, etc. That turned out to be very, very meaningful series of symposiums. That was the first one. Then the Church Universal Triumphant came up for sale and all the republicans at the political level were preaching no more public lands. We had to get the Governor's approval to go ahead and pull this project off to get the Church going from private grounds to public grounds. They were right up against Gardiner and it would have opened a huge block of land for speculative development. It would have turned Gardiner into Jackson Hole North. Marcoux was then in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Gary Wolfe was their director… they were taking a shot at getting it. But we had to be sure that the land and water conservation fund channel was open to them to take it off their hands because they weren't buying it to hold and manage, but to get into public hands. Either Forest Service or Fish and Game.

INTERVIEWER: Was that in the late '80s?
POSEWITZ: It was '88, '89. I think it might have been 1990 that the Cinnabar Foundation gave those two guys an award for pulling that off.

INTERVIEWER: So, Cinnabar had already been formed then?
POSEWITZ: Yes, '83. I was working for both the state and Cinnabar for a while. The story line is that Stan Stephens had just become governor. He had made some questionable appointees because there were twenty years of democrats in front of him. And some of the guys he picked he was getting criticized in the media, so he was having a rocky start. The Elk Foundation, knowing that we had to swing the political spectrum in favor of this thing otherwise we wouldn't have access to the land and water conservation money, so they invite Stan down to keynote their annual convention in Denver. And I wrote his speech. (Ha, ha) Negotiated it with his speech writer. Stan goes down there as he is getting beat up at home gives the keynote to a thousand

people and gets a standing ovation. Stan was a radio broadcaster and he could read a script. The Elk Foundation negotiations were really difficult and tricky, but Marcoux pulled it off and Wolfe stood behind him every step of the way. That range just north of Gardiner is public. And it might have gone, like I say, Jackson Hole North.

INTERVIEWER: You have been involved in some incredible projects for Montana.
POSEWITZ: Then, when Racicot gets in, the legislature, he comes in January of '93, appoints Pat Graham the director and that legislative session offers a three year bonus for retirement if you go and that's when I jumped.

INTERVIEWER: So you took advantage of early retirement.
POSEWITZ: Yes, in fact I went to my 40th year class reunion in August in Sheboygan and with that bonus I had 39 years, 6 months for retirement because I recovered my military time and my seasonal time with FWP while a student and for a portion of my football playing career we had jobs on campus and that's where our scholarship money came from, some of it. So I used that too. It would have been 36 years.
[End of Recording #5, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #6, 10/3/2016]
INTERVIEWER: I think we paused when you were telling us about your retirement. And simultaneously you were working for Cinnabar Foundation?
POSEWITZ: Yes, I took retirement from the state in '93 and I became a member, board member of the Cinnabar Foundation in 1983. That was the founding year. The idea at the time was the owners of Cinnabar Ranch, Leonard and Sandy Sargent, they wanted to have a foundation that carried on with their personal philanthropy that they had been engaged with. They had been supporting a lot of small groups in Montana and individuals. They thought it was getting active enough in the environmental world by that time to create the foundation to carry on through the long term. (Looking through boxes.) They created this foundation and the idea was that when they had to sell the ranch they would endow the foundation.

INTERVIEWER: And the ranch was outside of Helena?

POSEWITZ: No, the ranch was in Cinnabar basin. It was at the road's end, south of their ranch was national forest and then Yellowstone National Park. Leonard and Sandy had that place and it was quite a valuable place.

INTERVIEWER: What had they done for their careers? Was he a wildlife biologist?
POSEWITZ: No, he was a middle school teacher back in New England. Robin Tawney has subsequently written a biography of the Sargents. (Looking for a copy of the book.) (Paused)
[End of Recording #6, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #7, 10/3/2016]
POSEWITZ: We'd go up to the Cinnabar Ranch and hunt and we'd sit around in the evening and talk about what to do when Leonard died. The ranch had to be sold. Leonard did not have any natural born to his family and Sandy had adopted two children so when Leonard and Sandy got together there were Rick and Judith Sargent and Judith is currently on the Cinnabar board and Rick is deceased. At any rate, early in the history the board was Leonard, Phil Tawney and myself. For the first couple of years we didn't do any granting but then Leonard put a little money in. The chronology there was in 1985 we made our first three grants.

INTERVIEWER: What were the grants for?
POSEWITZ: That year we gave the Montana Environmental Information Center $723 and the second $200 grant, and the third grant was also $200 and that went to the Great Bear Foundation. That was 1985 and a result of Leonard having put $10,000 into the Cinnabar account when he created the foundation in '83. One day Leonard said, I don't know why you and Phil should have all the fun when I'm dead. So he dropped a million bucks in and then we began ramping up our activity. (Looking at papers.) Here's a couple of charts that track the growth of the foundation. And the growth has mainly been the Sargents. Unfortunately you eventually lose the Sargents but the foundation fortunately continues. Robin Tawney is the chair, Phil Tawney's widow, and she's now Robin Tawney Nichols. I had a chance to be the first guy to get off alive but they made me board emeritus so I am honored to be, but I don't have to work as hard as I did at one time.

INTERVIEWER: What was their purpose to start the foundation, for keeping land public or ?
POSEWITZ: It was general environmental protection and they were on-sight when the Montana Environmental Information Center got founded. They had been engaged in personal philanthropy. They got to thinking in the long term and also could have some buffer between all these fledgling groups now trying to work Leonard. So we set up the foundation, we'd have a place for them to come. We'd have a review. And then a board meeting and make the allocation, so put some structure to it rather than Leonard writing them a check out of pocket. Many of the early board meetings when we had to say no to somebody Leonard would pull the checkbook out and say, maybe I'll see if I can help them. He was a very generous man. It was for Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. I think some of Leonard's distant shirttail relatives had been involved in the creation of Yellowstone National Park. He had been a school teacher, I can't think of the exact town on the east coast and he would make annual trips through the west looking for the ideal place to buy and live in retirement and he found this ranch at the head of the Cinnabar basin and often brought students up there for the summers. Very interesting life story for sure.

INTERVIEWER: You've been on the board since then?
POSEWITZ: Yes, since the beginning. We started with those three grants and now there are 130 who apply each year and maybe 60 or 70 get something. The folks have to match it, but it's very active in spreading money to the grassroots and keeps a lot of them alive.

INTERVIEWER: And this is the organization that created the award in your name?
POSEWITZ: Well, yes, behind my back. We had been giving Leonard and Sandy stewardship award for quite a while. I think maybe the second one of those went Ron Marcoux and Gary Wolfe for pulling off the Church Universal and Triumphant deal. This was a big deal. Gayle Joslin, my wife, eventually won one of these. And it's just picked the person who has done something outstanding in contemporary context. The award is a framed letter and $5,000 that they can choose whoever they want to give that to. Ron and Gary, of course, they were working for the Elk Foundation so they just gave it to the Elk Foundation. So there was another five grand in their name. In Gayle's case, she divide it up with folks she had been working on in various projects. So it comes with a $5,000 grant to whatever group the recipient chooses as

long as they are 501 (c) 3 conservation consistent with Cinnabar but it gives recognition for extra effort. Their last board meeting, prior to the one we just had, they decided they would reserve the Sargent stewardship for volunteers, people not working for an agency. And they simultaneously created this other award to give to professionals in the field recognizing professional contributions. And they named that one after me.

INTERVIEWER: So that's the one Larry Peterman is getting.
POSEWITZ: Yes, November 17th commission meeting.

INTERVIEWER: It's a great honor for both of you.
POSEWITZ: In the normal flow of historic events, all this stuff gets left behind when you always tell Montana history from the perspective of how we exploited the place. What industries came and Lewis and Clark followed by the fur trade followed by the buffalo hunters and followed by the miners and then the agrarians then the loggers, and that's Montana history. We have more ink in Montana history books about William A. Clark then we have George Bird Grinnell, or Theodore Roosevelt's conservation. Clark left us the Berkeley Pit. Grinnell claims Glacier justifiably. And a vast portion of our forests in the state came from Roosevelt setting it aside. Refuges, game ranges and things of that nature. Down to the state level, there's a hole posse of those people out there who have done exceptional things. But they haven't cracked mainline history education. And the same with the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame. We have to get the stories wrapped up, but when you rotate a generation or two they're hard to find. I think we're moving on it sooner now since we're getting some of the stories tied down. Like the book Robin Tawney Nichols wrote on Len and Sandy Sargent. And you look through the years and all of the grants from Cinnabar; and here at the twenty-five year mark there must be a total in here somewhere… (Looking for papers.)

INTERVIEWER: Yes, it looks like in 2006 there was $500,000 given out.
POSEWITZ: Yes, passed down in the Montana conservation community.

INTERVIEWER: Certainly helps Montana stay the way we are with resources and the environment without too much exploitation.

POSEWITZ: Just like conservationists, the exploiters come renewed with each generation, the battle goes on. Just like public lands, when you look for how long the exploitive interests have been trying to penetrate the public resources and capitalize on them. Theodore Roosevelt set aside two hundred and thirty million acres for conservation purposes. They tried to derail him when he was doing that. But he out snookered them and that story is about his midnight forests. Where congressmen from six western states put a rider on an ag appropriations bill that forbids him for creating any new forest reserves in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, Wyoming and Colorado.

INTERVIEWER: Really, was that because the railroads wanted to come out west?
POSEWITZ: They just didn't want it public. He had seven days to sign or veto that bill and because it was a rider on the ag appropriations, they had the muscle to override a veto. In those seven days, he creates twenty-one new national forests, adds sixteen million acres by executive order to the forest reserves, signs the executive order and then signs the bill prohibiting him from ever doing it again. (Ha, ha) And he wrote in his autobiography, "My opponents did hand springs in their wrath and dire were their threats which only attested to the efficiency of our actions." And a lot of that was Montana. Very bold. That's where she starts. He's off in Africa hunting, just left the presidency, hunting white rhino in the Congo and a native runner comes out through the savannah with the news that Roosevelt's successor Taft had just fired Gifford Pinchot.

INTERVIEWER: Oh my gosh, was that his Amazon trip?
POSEWITZ: No. I think he had a son with him but this was in Africa. The Amazon came later, the "River of Doubt."
[End of Recording #7, 10/3/2016]

[Beginning of Recording #1, 10/7/2016]
INTERVIEWER: Today is October 7, 2016. We are at the home of Jim Posewitz in Helena, Montana. We are continuing the oral history of Jim Posewitz when he worked for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
POSEWITZ: We talked about the North Fork.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, we did.

POSEWITZ: Through all these periods, we were pretty much living in the perspective of the day to day. As the issues came up, we dealt with them. We had very little historical perspective. I knew there had been fights over rivers and dams before but I didn't know who the combatants were and what the specific issues were. When it came our turn, like on the Yellowstone it was pretty obvious that there was a major, major decision going on it becomes an inevitable juggernaut especially if it's not challenged. And again in retrospect to the Yellowstone, had we not challenged their claim on virtually the life of the river we could have been in a horrible position now if we hadn't prevailed. With forty-two power plants and a third of the river average flow being diverted and one thing and another; in context of what's happened to planet earth we weren't aware, that wasn't part of our arguments then. We had very little knowledge of what the cumulative effects would be coming. So I'm getting ready to leave the agency and they want me gone. (Ha, ha) Then when the incentives came up and they offered the accumulative time plus I had these other projects going on. At the time I was already into Cinnabar for about ten years serving as a part-time executive director and the founding board member. I had some contact with people who were trying to follow up on the Governor's Symposium series on the North American Hunting Heritage. That's something else that surfaced near my career end. And that came about when Stan Stephens was the Governor, K.L. Cool was the new director. We had this terrible bashing nationwide over buffalo and we were doing a stupid thing with the buffalo.

INTERVIEWER: This was the buffalo coming from the Park?

POSEWITZ: Yes. Every buffalo that stepped foot out of the Park got shot. And rangers and wardens were leading the shooters to do this.

INTERVIEWER: At that time, was the meat going to the Native Americans?

POSEWITZ: No, they were going to the guy who shot them. It was obviously socially, culturally unacceptable. The very next legislature it was… the legislation that required us to do that was changed.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that was around ’93 or ’95? It was about the time you were retiring?
POSEWITZ: It was the first legislature session after Stan Stephens became the Governor when it got corrected. (Paused)
[End of Recording #1, Oct. 7, 2016]

[Beginning of Recording #2, Oct. 7, 2016]
POSEWITZ: So Stan Stephens is Governor from ’89 to ’92. So that would be the time slot this bill gets changed early in his career. Maybe ’89. Bob Ream was a state legislature and he carried the bill to revise that.

INTERVIEWER: So it had a sunset on it?
POSEWITZ: No, it was permanent bill that we shoot every buffalo that sets foot out of the Park. But we had to change that because of the public outrage over it. Two things were done: one, Bob Ream as a legislature introduced the bill to change the terms of that and we wouldn’t be shooting every buffalo that came out; and we also felt a sense that we had to mitigate the impact of all that. So we launched the Governor’s Symposium series on the North American Hunting Heritage and that was a pretty important thing to have done. Stan Stephens was the Governor and he sent out the call and that’s why we named it that. It went to seven different locations in ten to fourteen years.

INTERVIEWER: Just the northwest region?
POSEWITZ: No, it was international. Canadian and North American. Eventually it leads to the articulation of the North American model of wildlife restoration where we start putting together the critical check points or accomplishments that start lining up through history. Then attracting the attention of people who were almost exclusively biologically trained to start thinking in the context of social movements and cultural achievements and public social cultural values. We had no training, we were just biologists and that was important. I don’t want to demean that because if you wanted to make something happen with fish and game populations and understand how they worked. And we never thought of putting things in the context of cultural movements in a democracy that basically restocks the continent with fish and wildlife. To

stimulate the conservation ethics among people in our society. We were not trained to think, speak or communicate in that context. About the time my tenure… I had other interests that I wanted to pursue as I was exiting FWP.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, you were taking the early retirement.
POSEWITZ: Well I had 32 years of straight time and I wound up with 39 years, 6 months with credit of my military time, my seasonal time and my three years bonus and that suited me just fine. It seemed like the time to go because that three year bonus was temporary. Take it now or it passes you by. It was fortuitous so I did it.

INTERVIEWER: That was when Marc Racicot was Governor?
POSEWITZ: Yes, exactly. Racicot was Governor. In fact his first year in office is the year I went out.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, 1993?
POSEWITZ: Yes. About that time, Bill Schneider, he was the publisher of Montana Outdoors when I was Environmental and Information. He worked for me then and he called me one day in the early '90s, just about the time I was leaving the agency and he threw a little book in my lap called, "The Elements of Style" by Strunk and White. And he said I want you to write a book like this for hunter ethics. And I want to call it the Little Brown Book of Hunting. I think he thought of that because at the time everybody was talking about Chairman Mao's Little Red Book. Bill wanted a little brown book. I said okay and I went and wrote this.

INTERVIEWER: Had you written any books before? I know you had written a lot of reports. What did you think about being an author at that time?
POSEWITZ: Well, I didn't think of it as any big deal. So I sat down and I wrote it for him. And in the course of events we also started Orion, the Hunter's Institute that same year, '93, when I left FWP. Running on the energy and ideas generated by the Symposium series. It was plain that it needed some kind of non-government advocacy to get these ideas spread around. A big part of the criticism with the buffalo slaughter and other things that the hunting community was most commonly criticized for was the lack of any ethics. Just go out and kill something, do

anything you can to get it. So I wrote a draft of this *Beyond Fair Chase* in that time window in 1993. Bill Schneider or Chris Cauble of Falcon Press went to a meeting of hunting educator coordinators in Alaska with some pre-publication printings of this book. Just the text and the size, it didn't have anything like illustrations. He took it up to Alaska and you can read this in a very short time. He got a very positive response from the hunter educators there at the conference. So the next gathering of the entire hunter education coordinators group, they call it the International Association of Hunter Education Instructors. These are the coordinators from all the states, provinces and Mexico even. And so they were going to have their annual convention in Des Moines, Iowa in May 1994, the 2nd through the 8th of May. We were readying the book for publication. They had the advance reading edition that circulated among a bunch of them. So I wrote to the guy who was putting together the annual meeting in Des Moines and said we had this book that I'd like to come talk about. Some of their guys had already seen it in draft. And I said I'll take any spot on your program that you can give me. Somebody cancels or you have a slot you can't fill, I'd like to talk about what's in this book. He gave me the luncheon speaking spot. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: Oh, of course he did.

POSEWITZ: Well I thought we'd be in a panel somewhere and I could get a shot at it but he gives me the luncheon speaking spot. I prepared this great speech. Falcon Press hires Gayle Joslin on a part-time basis to help the initial sale of the book. And we go down and the place is held in an old historical Hotel Fort Des Moines. And by that time I had started to learn a little about this and I always knew some of Aldo Leopold. I learned some stuff about J. Norwood Darling. These were people who spent time in Des Moines. They called Norwood Darling "Ding." He had become Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of the Fish and Wildlife Service. He was the guy most responsible for calling the first North American Wildlife Conference in 1936. Which led to the path and the formation of the National Wildlife Federation, Montana Wildlife Federation, Pittman-Robertson Act, all that came out of that conference and those people. Leopold and Darling had the vision. A guy named Schumaker from Oregon actually wrote the bill. A very important checkpoint in the conservation history of America. So we go down there to Hotel Fort Des Moines, I get the luncheon speaking slot, Gayle and Chris Cauble of Falcon Press have a table set up in the lobby while I'm in there giving the speech. I get in there and

here's this wood paneled banquet room and I'm thinking, those guys in this historical hotel, those guys that were my heroes, Aldo and Darling, spoke in this very room. I made that assumption and I think it wasn't too far off. So I threw away my prepared speech and that's what I talked about. That these walls hold the echoes of their words and here we were at this juncture and it went over pretty good. Before we left Des Moines, Gayle and Chris had pre-sold 100,000 copies of *Beyond Fair Chase.* Pre-publication sales of that book.

INTERVIEWER: That's incredible. Incredible. Do you know how many you've sold now?
POSEWITZ: Somewhere between 700,000 and 800,000.

INTERVIEWER: Truly amazing.
POSEWITZ: So that put wings under Orion Institute.

INTERVIEWER: The goal of the institute was…
POSEWITZ: To teach hunter education instructors why and how to teach hunter ethics. And the big focus there was, well I wound up going to 41 different states with the lectures. We got a couple years' grant from Fish and Wildlife Service to cover all our travel, we could go without cost to the state. I got into the speech making habit of starting every presentation by telling the guys in the room their own conservation history. I found I could get it in two places – when the states, most of those states or agencies were formed in the late '30s as the result of the first North American Wildlife Conference. I would write to either the state or to the National Wildlife Federation affiliate and asked them to look in 1987 and see if they published anything about the conservation history of your state. That would have been the 50th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson act and the building of these agencies. Either or both of those inquiries I would get a positive response. I would get a copy of their magazine or a newsletter that took recognition of their 50th anniversary. There were historical gems from each of those states. Some a big production, some just a little but they all had something. It was the most effective tool to start the conversation by telling them their own conservation history that none of them had known -- it was two generation rotations. It just opened the door, telling them something good about themselves and then they thought we should listen to this guy. It was a really effective tool. As I go through the history I get to strengthen my own knowledge. At one of the conferences – the

National Wildlife conference held in Boston and Dr. Jack Ward Thomas who was at the time the head of Forest Service Biological Research Program gave a paper on elk in the managed forest. It was based on the fact that they were going to manage all the forests now and manage elk and things that are being managed for timber production. It really bothered me because my philosophy was heavily oriented in keeping as much of it wild as possible and to stop subsidizing the logging of marginal forestland. I woke up at three in the morning in a hotel room in Boston and I couldn't sleep because it was bothering my brain. I pulled the books I carried figuring one of these days I'm going to read it. It was called, "Speaking For Nature." A Sierra Club book. About all the transcendentalists who started the early thinking and lecturing in America about finding compatible ways of living with nature. Emerson, Thoreau, Marsh. Those guys used to have their debates in the Boston Commons. And here I was three blocks away learning about them for the first time. And as part of the National Conference of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and I thought, oh my gosh, that was the fire. I wrote up this nasty letter to Jack Ward Thomas and I said we have a common friend, his name is Dr. Les Pengelly who is the professor at Missoula, later Fish and Game Commissioner here. I said Dr. Pengelly's favorite way of tormenting me is to send me your papers. (Ha, ha) That was the opening line.

INTERVIEWER: Well I guess that got his attention. (Ha, ha)
POSEWITZ: Worse than that. He did not take offense. He wrote me back and said okay, that's a valid point of view. Why don't you get up on the stump and give it? And then I started getting invitations to places that would be appropriate for giving that and I'm almost certain he was sending them my way. We became very good friends. This is during the Symposium series. We become very good friends. He just recently deceased; I went to his memorial service a few months ago in Missoula. He eventually settled in Montana and he had risen to the Chief of the Forest Service and I've got his book in there, Journals of the Chief. The point was with that challenge that he threw back at me, I had to really get in gear. I start uncovering how this whole thing becomes part of our culture, part of our democracy, I wrote this book, same style and size as *Beyond Fair Chase* and this talks about how the common guy got to be the hunter. This is how we became hunters and this is how we got to be the hunter, *Inherit The Hunt*. I wrote this because the more I learned about how these resources came to our generations so much of it

hinged on the fact that it was the hunter who stopped the carnage and began restoration. That was led by Theodore Roosevelt when he gets to be the President.

INTERVIEWER: What's the subtitle of your third book?
POSEWITZ: "Rifle in Hand, How Wild America Was Saved." This whole genesis of the effective movement to introduce the sporting code and start the restoration of wildlife, it gets triggered right here in Montana. Theodore Roosevelt comes out here as a 24-year-old New York state legislature determined to kill a buffalo. He grows up as a sickly kid, has to build his body and his mind is already pretty sharp. On the second train, the first train that comes west to drive the Golden Spike connecting Pacific with Minneapolis/St. Paul, or New York City basically, coast to coast railroad, drive the Golden Spike; the second train TR's on that one; he's on the second train going on a buffalo hunt, he's 24 years old. A New York state legislature. He gets off in Little Missouri North Dakota Territory, hires a guide, borrows a gun and he's one month after the last commercial slaughter. He hunts with a guide named Joe Ferris and they hunt for seven days or so, finds a lone wandering bull, in Little Cannonball Creek, Montana, and shoots it. Does a war dance around the fallen buffalo. All this leads into writing that book.

INTERVIEWER: What was the year of publication?
POSEWITZ: *Rifle in Hand* was 2004. *Inherit the Hunt* was 1999. With the election of 2012 it occurs to me that it was the 100th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt coming back to try to save his conservation reform and other reforms because the minute he leaves Washington to go hunting after his second term they start squandering his reform; starts with the grant of coal in Alaska by his successor, Taft. Taft's Secretary of Interior gives a bunch of coal to the Guggenheim conglomerate and a whistle-blower in the Interior Department which was managing that went to Gifford Pinchot. Roosevelt left Gifford Pinchot behind as the head of the Conservation Council that was to keep that idea going that he had planted well during his seven years as President. Pinchot tells the whistle-blower you got to go to Taft with this and so he goes to Taft, the whistle-blower gets fired, Pinchot takes on Taft for firing him, then Taft fires Pinchot. Roosevelt is in Africa hunting white rhino in the Congo. That white rhino is mounted in the Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. My last time there I went to have a look. Behind all these stories, every time you see something like that there's a whole ton of meaning to

it. A native runner comes up to Roosevelt's camp in the Congo with the news that Taft has fired Pinchot. Roosevelt planned after his safari to tour Europe and he's in Italy and a guy sneaks over from the U.S. under an assumed name; the guy adopts the identity of Gaylord Smith. It was Gifford Pinchot. He met Roosevelt in Italy to tell him all about what had happened. Two weeks later Roosevelt gives his famous "Man in the Arena" speech – in the Sorbonne in France which is the most often-quoted Roosevelt line – "Not the critic who counts but the man who's actually in the arena who's covered with blood and sweat and dust." His most often quoted Roosevelt line. He challenged us. This is the last line in the little book. "Who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at worst if he fails at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

INTERVIEWER: Which book is that?
POSEWITZ: *Taking A Bullet For Conservation.* I self-published this little thing with this story in it that was exactly one hundred years old in the last presidential election. 2011 publication. The title comes from the fact that during the campaign in Milwaukee Roosevelt's riding in an open car and a guy named Schrenk shoots him. It goes through his metal glass case, goes through fifty page folded speech, lodges a quarter inch from his heart. Roosevelt asks his aide, am I coughing blood. And the aide said no. Then Roosevelt knew he wasn't lung shot. He goes to the rally that we was on his way to, hushes the crowd, and says I can't speak very loud, I've just been shot. Gives an hour and a half lecture on progressive politics and he's wearing a black coat and he unbuttons the black coat and opens it up and his white shirt is drenched in blood. That was the final line.

INTERVIEWER: I remember reading he gave his speech after he had been shot. Quite a man.
POSEWITZ: In Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 1912. So we start becoming aware of all this stuff, this guy put aside as President 230 million acres for conservation, forests, refuges, game ranges. Earlier when he was in Montana he gets a conservation epiphany and he's on the North Dakota border hunting into Montana. He's a member of the Montana Stockgrowers. A representative from the Little Missouri drainage, part of which drains Montana. So about 1886 he goes to Montana Stockgrowers Meeting in Miles City and also at that meeting is Granville Stuart and Granville Stuart was the Montana pioneer who did a lot of things including he and his brother

James launching the first conservation measures in Montana state history. Taking fish in 1864 our first territorial session and wildlife in 1872 broadening, asking for some closed season protection for things. Both those actions were before Custer died at the Little Big Horn in 1876. That's how early this conservation ethic shows up in the people. Guy like this comes along and gets infected with this conservation idea and gets to be the President quite by accident because Republican party was trying to bottle him up in the vice presidency. In fact when he was Vice President he writes, "This job's nothing but the fifth wheel to the coach, on the road to nowhere but oblivion." He goes mountain lion hunting in Colorado and he kills two mountain lions with a knife. He said she was doing considerable damage to the pack so I ended the struggle with a knife thrust behind the shoulder. The second one was the knife thrust going straight to the heart. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: He was quite the hunter.
POSEWITZ: I can't imagine Vice Presidents killing mountain lions with a knife. But he was that incredible man. When you look at it in the context of our lifetime and our participation in this cultural movement and we took it from a bone yard or a continent as far as wildlife was concerned. Both Stuart and Roosevelt wrote about the obliteration of everything in that time period from pre-Custer through about 1884. Roosevelt gets here in '83 and he's got to hunt for a week to find one. Such a great story. And the tragedy is when you take a job in the Fish and Game nobody preaches you that, nobody gives you that history. I went through college for two levels of degrees I got none of it. Not one credit hour of history or philosophy of ethics.

INTERVIEWER: Maybe you should write some more books. You can write curriculum for classes.
POSEWITZ: Well I keep promoting that. In fact at one point when I was in my kept man status the head of the program in Bozeman called up Fish and Game and said we're having a meeting to discuss curriculum and we want to know what we could do to make our students better suited for employment in your agency. So they send me down because I'm sitting there handy. And I start some of this conversation and after several hours of it the head of the department finally says, look, if we really had more room in the curriculum we'd make them better biologists. And that's because all that they knew.

INTERVIEWER: But all of this knowledge you have about the history of conservation and ethics… you could get that down in a book that they could use in their programs.
POSEWITZ: I'd have to trick them.

INTERVIEWER: Write a letter to Random House which does most of the curriculum books for schools.
POSEWITZ: It needs to be done. Well, here's the problem. Part of the problem goes back to Forrest Anderson when you could no longer tolerate a fish and game department that wasn't directly under the political control of the Governor. Why? Well it gave you the second master and I think anything that people get to be governors do not like is to have to employ people who hear a different drummer. There was nobody more prone to hearing the different drummer than was the fish and wildlife agency. We were restoring something that the classic cultural development of economics had exploited; it was falling by the wayside. Everybody winked at it; nobody really wanted to make the sacrifices it took to stop the carnage and then start the restoration except in a democracy the people could do it, in the non-government context. So to this moment, all you have to do is look at the political television ads to see how important fish and wildlife are to the people and how all the politicians have this modestly deceptive approach to trying to get the vote. I just started an op-ed piece this morning, got the first line down to point that out. That all the stuff we see on television is politically deceptive. Political history of the political parties… the guy who did the most… when Roosevelt ran for office in 1904 the New York Sun, a conservative newspaper, taking note of his conservation ethics, endorsed him and in their editorial they wrote, he has ruled his party against his will. They pointed out that he did nothing more important than what he was doing relative to our natural resources to protect them. Roosevelt wins that election by himself by the largest margin in American history. He fought both political parties. When McKinley was shot, first of all Roosevelt gets to be Governor of New York coming off of San Juan hill, party boss, guy named Thomas Platt in New York says, I don't want him raising h-ll in my state any longer so they put him on the ticket as vice president to lure him in there and he finds out that isn't working. When McKinley gets shot on the train carrying McKinley's body back to Washington from upper New York where the assassination occurred, the National Republican Party boss named Frick was talking to a reporter

and Frick says, I told McKinley it was a mistake to nominate that wild man. Now look that cowboy is President of the United States. (Ha, ha) Just random acts of violence changed everything, this room wouldn't have all these antlers if that guy hadn't assassinated McKinley. The party did everything they could to suppress TR. But the people put him up on Rushmore.

INTERVIEWER: Talking about those days, we've all seen so many photos of things like fisherman in Yellowstone holding lines and lines of fish that they caught. They're all so proud and they've gotten these fish.
POSEWITZ: Sure, they all came from industrial slums that the fish were not aplenty.

INTERVIEWER: So to get back to you – what are you doing with the Orion Institute now?
POSEWITZ: I'm a board emeritus. I'm trying to get the time to do what you suggested ten minutes ago.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, write some textbooks.
POSEWITZ: I'm not getting there very quickly.

INTERVIEWER: And you're on Cinnabar.
POSEWITZ: Emeritus as well too.

INTERVIEWER: And we have to think about your autobiography too.
POSEWITZ: Well, I'm talking to you now. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: So we pretty much covered your career with Fisheries. I want to thank you very much for agreeing to be part of the Oral History Project for Fisheries. We have some wonderful stories down and incredible information that probably isn't written down anywhere else.
POSEWITZ: For the moment that's true.

INTERVIEWER: Can you think of anything else that you'd like to talk about?

POSEWITZ: Well, one of my sons who became a fly fishing guide on the Missouri River. My son Matthew he got into fly fishing and fly tying and took a box of wholly buggers that he had tied up to farmer's market and the guy from the fly shop saw them and he asked Matthew to tie him ten dozen. So we were planning a backpack trip which we did a lot of with the six boys growing up. And Matt had to stay home to tie those flies. He eventually becomes a guide for this fly shop. And he put himself through college guiding on the Missouri River.
[End of Recording #2, Oct. 7, 2016]

[Beginning of Recording #3, Oct. 7, 2016]
POSEWITZ: Today's news. Gold mines in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park. The last Cinnabar board meeting was 23rd and 24th of September and it was tangled up with the Bobcat homecoming on Saturday, Cinnabar board meeting was Saturday-Sunday, Cinnabar field trip was Monday. Friday in association with Bozeman homecoming they unveiled a statue to Sonny Holland at Montana State University stadium. He was the center on the '56 Bobcat team that went undefeated and won a national championship and he coached the '76 team to a national championship. I played with Sonny on the '56 team so we went to the statue dedication on Friday, the game on Saturday and Cinnabar on Sunday. The Cinnabar board meeting field trip on Monday went up to look at those gold mines that the people are rallying to prevent because they are almost certain to pollute the streams and the Yellowstone River. Part of the Monday field trip was going to Tom Minor Basin and we watched four grizzlies digging roots. Yeah. Makes an old duffer feel pretty darn content, you know all the pieces that had to fall in there for that to happen. When these guys were putting that together, time and time again in their writings, Roosevelt put it most eloquently, "that we do these things for the generations within the wombs of time." And there we were. He loved to write and he wrote a lot. I think he left 100,000 pieces of written correspondence for the historians to look through.

INTERVIEWER: He was from a very well educated family.
POSEWITZ: Their view of themselves was because they had such privilege much was expected from them. That was how they motivated their lives. How they could contribute to the greater society.
INTERVIEWER: What do you think might happen with this gold mine?

POSEWITZ: I don't think they'll make it. Not when you've got the basic grassroots saying no.

INTERVIEWER: Are they doing an EIS on it now?
POSEWITZ: Probably go through that. Culturally the people of the community are saying no. We're tying our wagon to this other one that brought us here and who wants another Berkeley Pit. Of course it's more dramatic over the Smith. That's another interesting one to watch. The copper mine proposal for the vicinity of Sheep Creek and Sheep Creek is a major tributary to the Smith River. And of course White Sulphur views itself struggling economically and doesn't have the commercial attraction that the Yellowstone has. But we now have two county commissions who have jumped into the dispute. The Helena commission saying let's not plunge into this mine and then the Meagher county commission saying let's listen to the mining company, they're promising to be good this time. When you get, when you've been around that track time and time again you know that it doesn't end well. Look at Golden Sunlight, all you have to do is drive by and see the sacrifice that was made, things like Zortman Landusky, same pledges and then the people have to go into and clean them up after the mining company has walked away from it. All you have to do is look at the Berkeley Pit – that defies solution where the solution becomes perpetual treatment. The best kind of an interesting phenomenon culturally because we have invested in a lot of restoration already, the superfund and other sources. A citizen community that's active, promoting and participating in the restoration of the tributaries of the mainstem in that whole Clark Fork when the Stream Preservation Act was new, Montana Fish and Game would not let them channelize that river because the boys had the belief that we would someday clean it up. I think that's a proud thing to have done. It was Art Whitney and John Peters. Ralph Boland, Whitney, went to court to battle for that river because the landowners didn't want to give up the land for the artificial meanders.

INTERVIEWER: So, as we think of the fisheries story here.
POSEWITZ: Yeah, I just got an email from the Park County environmental council – they are one of the leading advocacy groups that are now protecting the river and I just saw their newsletter and here's the Yellowstone River meandering.
[End of Recording #3, Oct. 7, 2016]

[Beginning of Recording #4, Oct. 7, 2016]

POSEWITZ: One more story. Shortly after Frank Dunkle creates the Environmental Division. The Fish and Game Commission had a Butte lawyer on it name of Joe McCafferty. And he was also a lawyer for the Anaconda Company. That's was the tradition in the late '60s. This thing all sprung to life over the debate over the Heddleston Mining District on the Blackfoot River where they wanted to open up an open pit copper mine. One day the Fish and Game Commission was meeting and Dick Munro who was the head of the Information and Education at the time came running down to my office. I just started this environmental stuff. And he said anything you've got on the Heddleston Mining District get it out of your office. McCafferty's after you. (Ha, ha) Get my files out. So I took all my files and put them in the trunk of my car. And on the way home, now here I'm going pretty young, my first enviro battle in the open, directly confronting the Anaconda Company and I didn't want to go home and look at my little kids right away. (Ha, ha) So what the heck am I going to do? So I stopped at the Red Meadow Bar on Rodney Street, it was right on my route home. I had a couple of beers when the phone rang in the bar and the bartender says it's for you. It was Dunkle the director. He said, it's okay Poz. I got him off of you. You can go home now. (Ha, ha) How he knew me so well.

INTERVIEWER: Well, you were mulling things over that you were in the middle of.

POSEWITZ: But he knew that's the most likely place I'd be. (Ha, ha)

INTERVIEWER: Thank you for that story. Thank you for agreeing to be part of this Oral History Project for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fisheries Division. We have been able to capture a lot of good information that might have otherwise been lost to time. And I was honored to be able to conduct your interviews and to transcribe them so others may read and know the incredible work that has been done.

[End of Recording #4, Oct. 7, 2016]

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INDEX TO JIM POSEWITZ

ORAL HISTORY

ADDENDUM

BUTTE TO BOULDER ROUTING OF INTERSTATE 15

It was in the early 1970s and the legislature had just passed the Montana Environmental Policy Act. At the time, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks was in negotiations with the Montana Highway Department relative to the design of the Interstate (I-15) between Butte and Boulder through the narrow upper Boulder River Canyon. We, at FWP, called for an environmental impact study to assess the alternative of taking the interstate from Boulder through Whitehall and then South to Dillon where the landscape was more open and stream channelizing could be avoided. The intersection with interstate I-90 would then have been somewhere near Whitehall.

Butte felt there was an economic benefit to have an interstate intersection in their town. One day a person named Dean Hart showed up in director Wes Woodgerd's office. Dean was the liaison between Montana's U. S. Senators (Metcalf and Mansfield) and state government at the time. Wes called me in to discuss our proposal to re-evaluate the location of I-15 with Mr. Hart who directly informed us that the senators had promised Butte the interstate intersection. In the discussion that followed I suggested that: "… *with the denial of an easement on Alice Creek the Anaconda Co. has learned they don't get everything they want; and with passage of the Major Facility Siting Act Montana Power learned they don't get everything they want; so maybe it's time someone tells Butte that they don't get everything they want."* Dean leaned across the table and in a whisper said, *"You tell 'em."*

Shortly thereafter I got an invitation to address the Butte Rotary Club on the subject of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' challenge to the interstate alignment. They met in the old Finlen Hotel in downtown Butte and were an influential civic organization. Beneath the speaker's podium was a round table around which the Butte legislative delegation was seated. I prepared a pretty passionate speech and emphasized our responsibility to protect streams and to *"not take a dive when politically pressured."* I was trying to talk to them in 'Butte-speak.' It worked for a little while, but they beat me up pretty good in the questioning period that followed.

In the course of this battle, Butte (I think it was the Chamber of Commerce) hired Frank Dunkle, who at the time was running an environmental consulting company, to represent their interest. So for a brief period Frank and I became adversaries with dueling press releases. At one point I challenged him to a public debate which was not accepted.

The net effect of it all was the alignment remained through Butte and the governor (Judge) told the Highway Department to grant FWP all the concessions possible to protect the stream as best we could. Some twenty years later, as I was nearing retirement, I got another invitation to address the Butte Rotary. By this time the grand old Finlen Hotel had faded as had the Rotary Club now meeting in a motel/dining facility out on a commercial strip. I used the occasion to revisit the old confrontation we had and we all had a few laughs together. When the talk ended an old timer got up at the back of the room and hollered; *"I remember that meeting, we called you young man!"*

C-K Creek in the Mid-1960s

A graduate student from MSU (Bill Hill) was doing a study of the Goldeye fish. We were trying to collect young of the year Goldeye in upper Fort Peck Reservoir and were camped where C-K Creek flows into the reservoir from the North. There were four of us: Bill, his professor Dick Graham, a field worker Jack Robinson, and myself. We planned to spend the week and had enough food for that purpose plus one case of beer. The first night it started to rain, the roads turned to gumbo, and we drank all the beer except one last can. It rained for three days and all of our vehicles were of the two wheel drive variety – we were stuck until things dried out. We had no radio communication and cell phones did not exist. We were able to do our fish collecting without problem but each night we stared at that last can of beer. On the third or fourth night one of the guys broke down and drank the beer. The very next morning the storm broke up and the sky started to clear. Late in the afternoon we heard an airplane engine and through the parting clouds our regional supervisor (Wes Woodgerd) and a Fish and Game pilot were soon circling our camp in a single engine Piper Super-Cub. After we signaled them that we were OK they circled one more time and tossed out five small hand-made parachutes. Attached to the parachutes were four six packs of beer, and a package of steaks. Communication between supervisor Woodgerd and his field crew could not have been clearer. – Jim, Region 6, Glasgow