UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Research Participant Information and Consent Form

Title of the Study: "An Urban Removal Problem": Open-Pit Mining, Industrial Hazards, and the Disappearance of Ethnic Neighborhoods in Butte, Montana

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DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH

You are invited to participate in a research study about neighborhoods in Butte, Montana's that were lost to open-pit mining development. You have been asked to participate because you either are a former resident of these neighborhoods or are well-acquainted with the Anaconda Company's operations during the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. The purpose of the research is to determine the effects of displacement and relocation due to industrial development in Butte. Interviews with participants will be conducted in public places or in residents' homes in Butte, Montana.

Audio tapes will be made of your participation. Brian Leech will use this interview for his University of Wisconsin-Madison dissertation research. I understand that he may use information from the tapes and transcripts in future publications. Tapes and transcripts will be deposited in the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives for the use of other scholars. Unless you state otherwise, tapes and transcripts may be used in future research, publications and presentations. The Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives will permanently retain the transcripts and, if you permit it, the tapes. This does not preclude any use that you want to make of the recordings. You will receive a copy of the transcript of your interview.

WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

Your participation will require one session of 30 minutes to 2 hours of answering questions about your personal experience on tape. Your participation is completely voluntary. If you begin participation and change your mind you may end your participation at any time without penalty.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO ME?

You may consider talking about mining activities, life in the old neighborhoods, and neighborhood relocation to be sensitive issues. You are welcome not to answer any of the questions concerning these topics. If you do provide any information during the interview that you would not like to be used by researchers, then please describe it at the end of this form. It will then be subject to those restrictions for use by any researcher.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS TO ME?

This research provides no direct benefits for participants. Nevertheless, it can reclaim the history of neighborhoods and mining techniques that are now gone, benefiting the entire town of Butte—especially the offspring and relatives of former residents of the lost neighborhoods. Publication of research based on these stories will provide a lasting memorial to these neighborhoods.

HOW WILL MY CONFIDENTIALITY BE PROTECTED?

There will probably be publications as a result of this study. Your name may be used unless you state otherwise at the end of this form. If you participate in this study, we would like to be able to quote you directly while using your name. If you agree to allow both future researchers and us to quote you in publications, please initial the statement at the bottom of this form. You may also choose whether or not to remain anonymous. If you choose to remain anonymous, your name will not be present on the transcripts deposited in the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, nor may it be used in publications based on research in the archives.

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You may ask any questions about the research at any time. If you have questions about the research after you leave today you should contact the Principal Investigator Thomas J. Archdeacon, PhD at (608) 263-1778. You may also call the graduate student researcher, Brian Leech at (608) 215-6321. If you are not satisfied with response of research team, have more questions, or want to talk with someone about your rights as a research participant, you should contact the Education Research and Social & Behavioral Science IRB Office at 608-263-2320. Any questions about the storage of your tapes and transcripts should be directed to the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives at □406-782-3280.

Your signature indicates that you have read this consent form, had an opportunity to ask any questions about your participation in this research, and voluntarily consent to participate. You will receive a copy of this form for your records.

Name of Participant (please print): Fritz Daly

Signature

8-9-10
Date

TDS

You may use my name and you may deposit my taped interview in the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives. Tapes and transcripts are subject to the following restrictions:

Restrictions:

I wish to remain totally anonymous.

(Initials)

University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Leech: All right. It is August 4, 2010. This is Brian Leech and I'm sitting here with Fritz Daily, and we're going to talk about the Berkeley pit. Um, so, I'd just love to kind of establish kind of some general information. Now you were in the State Legislature from what '79 to '95 or something like that?

Daily: Right. Yeah, I served in the State Legislature. Well, I basically served seven terms in the State Legislature. And I guess the-the-the most unique thing I think that I bring to this discussion is the fact that I've been through the history of-of the Berkeley closing. I mean, I was, I was around when the Berkeley opened. I remember the Berkeley opening. But I served in the Legislature, when they closed the mines, when they closed the pit, when they closed the smelter, so I have a good historical background on a lot of the things that I think is really important in the process, because I think a lot of times, people can come here and you can look at the Berkeley Pit and say, "Well, here's this water or poison, whatever you want to call it." And say, "Well, it doesn't look that bad," not realizing that there's 41 billion gallons in there and not realizing that it's 1,026 feet deep, not knowing those things. So that's the thing I think I bring to the table more than anything else.

Leech: Yeah. If you don't mind, tell me, tell me a little bit about your personal history. How did your family come to Butte even?

Daily: My family, obviously, came to Butte. My-my parents came to Butte—or grandparents came to Butte through Colorado. That's where they came through the mines, my mother's family came from Nebraska. So they-they migrated here, and I guess I'm pretty lucky to be living here, actually. I think it's still the greatest place in the world to live.I enjoy living here. I enjoy being here, and I've said many times, "We're pretty lucky to—that-that someone got us here, ? And I've lived here all my life. I've never—the longest I've ever been away from Butte in my whole life is a couple weeks, to be quite frank with you, so-so, obviously, I have a special attachment to the place and love being here. And I, and I'm concerned about what's happening with it.I'm concerned about the environmental future of the town, . And I'm concerned about the future of the town. My family got here through mining, too, and, as most everyone in Butte did, you know? And I think mining is what made this town, but in the process, mining could be what destroys the town, too. So that's where I come from on it so...

Leech: Yeah. Where'd you grow up?

Daily: I grew up on the west side. I grew up on Henry and Antimony Street. And, when you live in Butte, you kind of identify by a mine where you lived.

Leech: Sure.

Daily: And I lived by the Anselmo Mine. And so I remember playing in the Anselmo Mine. I remember playing in the park there. Most of the things we played with as kids you got at the mine. I mean I remember getting the tamping pole from the mine. The tamping poles that they used to tamp the dynamite? We used the holes for our high jump standards.

Leech: Sure.

Daily: And the main timber yard was at-at the Anselmo, so we used to get our—they'd make the standards for us for pole vaulting and high jumping, and you'd go to the mine and get the-the bearings—we used to call them steelies for playing marbles. And you used to—they—we had an ice skating rink at the Anselmo Mine. And the guys from the timber yard would always drop the, lumber off and then things like that for us to burn during the winter. So you kinda, you kind of identified with the mine. You can live by a mine. I've—I was only down a mine once. It was a guest kind of thing, but I never really, I never worked in a mine. I had an opportunity to work in the mines, which is kind of interesting. After I graduated from school, I had an opportunity to work underground in the mine over a Christmas holiday. And I came home—I actually had the job, and my mother told me—, I came home and told my mother I was going to go to work in the mine, and she cried for two days, so obviously, I didn't go to work in a mine. And that was, that was pretty standard. Your parents didn't—especially your mother, didn't want you to go to work in a mine, because of the danger of the mining and because of the number of people who were killed and seriously disabled because of mines. So I had the opportunity to work in a mine but never did. I did work in the Berkeley Pit. I worked in the Berkeley Pit going to school. I graduated from Western. I have a Master's Degree from Western and graduated. I have my Bachelor's Degree from Western and I went to—when I was going to school, I was working at the Berkley Pit, working in the shops down there and would—

Leech: What'd you do at the shops?

Daily: I worked in the grease rack and worked in the tire shop and worked in the pit. Didn't actually drive a truck or anything, but we—I changed tires and that on the truck, so I mean I drove the truck, so I know all—what that was all like, but never actually drove a truck, per se. But worked for several years in the pit, actually. And, actually, worked in the crusher at the, at the pit, at the concentrator, so I'm pretty familiar with it, too.

Leech: Sure, sure, sure. How—well, how did you feel like the-the pit operated at that time? This probably would've been the—

Daily: Well, I think,at the time, I-I don't think we ever realized what was going to happen. I guess you were more concerned about-about the economy and working and we didn't think about the ramifications. I guess, I guess the truth of the matter is you probably thought it would never close. You probably thought it would last forever. But you probably thought the mines would last forever, . So you never really gave it a thought as to anything else, . And I-I enjoyed working there. I enjoyed the people—great people, . It provided a great opportunity for the town, . I mean the mining for the town—I mean just to give you an example, when they closed the smelter in Anaconda in 1980, at that time just a little side light—I mean at that time, the-the-the-the thought in the town was that they were going to build a new smelter and expand the smelter. That was the thought at the time. And so when they made the announcement that they were going to close the smelter, I knew it was a devastating blow to this community, and not only this community but to the state. But the point I was going to make is that there were 3,200 people that worked for the Anaconda Company in Butte and Anaconda. And now there's 300 work at the mine here, so quite a substantial difference,10%. So I mean it was—provided lots of opportunities for unskilled workers. And I had numerous friends who worked on the hill. And

they went to work on the hill when they got out of high school. They worked as boilermakers, they worked as electricians, they worked as carpenters, they worked as miners, they worked—I mean there was a lot of opportunities that were here because of the mines. And they paid good wages and you wouldn't get rich working in the mine by no means, but you'd have a good life and you'd live a good life, and so—

Leech: What was your perception of the difference between the workers and the work in the underground and in the pit?

Daily: Well, like I said, I never worked underground, so I don't really know. But there's no question that the people were hard workers, and the people that worked at the pit were hard workers, . They were—I mean they—and they-they cared about it. They had a concern about it, too. They, that it was their mine. It was their town. It's our town, it's our mine. And they wanted it to work good, and they worked hard to make it profitable and to make things work, so the workers in Butte were good and qualified and competent and they made the mine what it was. And they, I mean the reality of life is they made the Anaconda Company what the Anaconda Company was and they made ARCO as far as mining is concerned what it was, you know? And they did pretty well until the price of copper, obviously, determines—the price of copper determines whether the mine is open or closed. That's the bottom line is the price of copper. The price of metals determines, and it's been a cyclical operation. You've gone through ups and downs, and that's the sad part about what we have now is we're on a up now, but eventually it'll be down again. There's no question. I mean there's 20 years of my life left, and in 20 years, what the hell we going to do? Who knows what it—see, that's what I think about. And that's—I mean I'm not going to be around then. I'm 65 years old or almost 65 years old, and so I'm not going to be around then, but I could be around when it closes, but I'm concerned about the future of the business—of the community. I'm really concerned about it.

Leech: So, okay, so you finished up at Western, and you worked a little bit at the Berkeley. What did you do after that?

Daily: What? I worked in the school district in Butte for-for a long time. I had 30-some plus years I worked as a teacher. I worked as a counselor. I worked as various jobs in the school district, so had a great career, enjoyed it, and—

Leech: What was your, —so you started in the State Legislature then in-in '79, so—

Daily: 1979.

Leech: Yeah, so you would've been very present for all of the—as they were really kind of shutting down operations, right? What was that like in the town?

Daily: Well, it was devastating. There's no question, it was devastating when those things happened because you knew the economy of your town was going to struggle. And we did struggle. We struggled a lot, and we're still struggling because of it, Even to this very day. The mine determines the economy of the town, even though we've diversified somewhat—even though the town's diversified and we have different kinds of employment, it's still a one-horse

town. I think it's—and the horse is the mine and so when those things happened, they were devastating. We tried numerous things in the Legislature to help it and to stop it, and whatever else, but, obviously, you couldn't because it was the money. I mean I-I remember like it was yesterday when they told us that they were going to stop mining underground and that they were going to shut the pumps off. I mean the-the sole reason for doing that was money. It was all about money. I remember sitting in Frank Gardiner's office, who was in charge of ARCO at the time or Anaconda at the time, and I remember him saying that the cost to pump the water out of the mines was $10 million annually and that's the reason they were doing what they, what they did. And I guess I would—as a side comment to that, I would think right now if they knew then what they know now, they wouldn't have done that. They wouldn't have done that. And another sidebar to that I think is really important in this process is the fact that I have people say to me, "Why didn't you guys do things to stop them from shutting off the pumps?" "Why didn't you do that?" And I want to emphasize more strongly that ARCO shut off the pumps, not Anaconda Company. Atlantic Richfield shut off the pumps, you know? And so British Petroleum shut off the pumps, that's who did it. But the reality—what I was going to say to you, Brian, is what happened is they shut off the pumps at 12 o'clock midnight on April 22, 1982, and they didn't inform the community till the next day or the State that they had shut the pumps off. So we didn't actually know to shut the pumps off until a day and a half later, they knew that they had shut the pumps off. The other thing that's kind of ironic when you look on the information I gave you, the other thing that's really kind of ironic is the fact that April 22, 1982, was—April 22 is Earth Day which is kind of an ironic day for the thing, so—

Leech: Yeah, I've heard that, actually. I talked to Frank Gardiner, and he also emphasized the fact that it was an ARCO decision to shut off the pumps, and he didn't really have anything to say on it. Um, and I was, I was kind of curious about what the Legislature did to try and help out Butte that you can remember that was really important or—and this post-shutdown period or—

Daily: We did tons of things to try to get money into the town. That was our primary goal was to try to keep people working, to keep people employed,. So I mean we had tons of different bills to do that, but it was a tough battle, because, I don't know where you're from. Where'd you grow up?

Leech: I'm from Bozeman.

Daily: Yeah, so you, I mean, obviously, if you're from Montana, that there's that, I don't—I'm searching for a word. There's, there's a dislike for Butte. It's a historical dislike, I'm sure, because of what happened with the mining. And I'm sure it's because of sports and all kinds of things, and it's still real prevalent today. It's still here today. There's no question about it. So you're fighting the system, too. I mean I'm sure there were some people that were almost delighted that Butte was getting kicked around and getting kicked in the teeth and suffering and I'm sure there's no question there were lots of people who were delighted by that, so you were fighting your friends, you were fighting your enemies. You were—it was, it was a difficult time, and then that particular time when Anaconda shut down, the economy wasn't very good either. And the economy of the state wasn't very good either, and so there wasn't a lot of money. There wasn't a lot of money that you had to play with either, so that-that made it really difficult, too.

Leech: Yeah, well, and I remember, and I think kind of you related now, I was kind of curious, it seems to be like part of the-the label, the stigma that's placed on Butte today from the rest of Montana, a lot of it almost centers around the Berkeley Pit now, like they use it kind of as a symbol for Butte.

Daily: Oh, exactly, exactly. And to play into that, you're exactly right. And like whenever my wife's granddaughter is quite an athlete, so we travel all over the state. She plays for Butte High. And I'll just give you a good example, like at the State Tournament in Butte, three years ago, and Butte was playing Missoula for the championship game, and the girls were playing for the championship game. And those fans from Missoula, they always yell out, "Dirty water, dirty water," or they, "Clean your pit, clean your pit. It's your pit, it's your pit. Clean—"

Leech: Wow, really?

Daily: Oh, they're vicious, they're vicious. And the kids from Butte, they stand up and they're tough, too, so they—I mean they take it. They take it, and fire back, you know? But it's still a sad thing, but it's still there. I mean, when we follow sports and no matter where you go, there's an anti-Butte philosophy, an anti-Butte attitude. And it's a shame, but it's really there. Maybe we've promoted it over the years with their—less than that, but—

Leech: Well, I mean I—

Daily: But it's there. And Brian, if I could, in this whole interview, there's some things that really to me, that are really important. There's some things that are really important that I hope you say in your dissertation. But the most important thing that I could tell you today is—well, there's several, but the one that would stick out more than anything else when you ask that question is, this just isn't about Butte. Lots of people think the Berkeley Pit is about Butte and that it's our problem and we need to deal with it, and we need to solve it and-and we're the culprit, so to speak. But the reality is that's just not true. The Berkeley Pit—this is a really important thing I'll tell you is the Berkeley Pit is right now, according to that information that I gave you, it's directly connected to the mines, no question about it. So it's like 4,700 feet deep, okay? It's the third deepest lake in the world. Yankee Doodle Tailings Pond sit on the edge of the Berkley Pit. They're over 700 feet high. It's the deepest earth—probably the deepest earth-filled damn in the world, and those two things sit at the headwaters of the Clark Fork River and the Columbia River. So whatever happens in Butte's is going to happen all the way to the Pacific Ocean if this water discharges—which it's going to, it's just a matter of time, when does it do it and how does it do it and what happens with it? It's going to impact the whole Pacific Northwest United States. It'll be as big an environmental disaster as the BP Gulf Spill or Hurricane Katrina. I always used to call it Montana's Hurricane Katrina, sitting there just waiting to blow up, you know? And it's going to blow up. It's going to blow up. There's no question about it, just a matter of when does it blow up? When it blows up, then what the hell do we do? And that's-—those are the things. The other thing that I'd say to you that to me is by far the most important—well I keep saying there's more important things, but the reality of life is that it's pretty important, and if it wasn't—Butte, Montana, is one of the—and I say this in all the presentations I do and stuff, but Butte, Montana's one of the very most important cities in shaping and creating this nation. If it wasn't for Butte, Montana, this nation would not be the

great nation it is today, no question about it. Ore from the hill was used to electrify the country, it was used as—that was the communication system. I'm sure you've heard it. Or from Butte Hill, they used to defend this country during times of war. I mean the Federal Government come over—come into Butte and took over this town two different times, because they needed the metals for ore, and the guys in Butte were on strike, and they wanted to, they came in and took over the whole town, nationalized the town so that, to make the miners go back to work because they needed the ore so bad. So I always say, "If it wasn't for Butte, Montana," I mean you and I might be sitting here talking in German or Japanese? And that's the truth, that's the truth of the matter. So we're an important town and-and-and we haven't been treated properly in this process. And the Environmental Protection Agency is a disgrace, and it's unbelievable to me how anybody could look at the Berkeley Pit, I don't care who you are, but especially people that have knowledge like the EPA folks and State folks and even the local folks that are in charge, how you could look at the Berkeley Pit, and it's got 41 billion gallons of toxic water sitting at the headwaters of the Columbia River and the Clark Fork River and say, "It's okay, no big deal. Don't worry about it." And they know they've got a treatment plant up there. They know the treatment plant doesn't work. They already know it doesn't work. They already know what they need to do, put some new steps in it, some new polishing steps and things like that to make it work. They know that. I mean—it's common knowledge within the community, you know? And yet these people say, "Don't worry. It's okay." Same thing, like I wrote a letter to the editor here a month or so back. And I remember when they had the BP Gulf Spill, when they had—when the oil well blew up, and I remember watching *60 Minutes*, and I remember watching a guy who jumped off the oil well, jumped 90 feet into the water. And I remember watching the guy, and the guy said, "Hey, everything they told us couldn't happen, happened." And the same thing here. You've got people like Sara Sparks saying, "Don't worry, it's okay, it's okay." But it's nonsense, it's not okay. It's nonsense. It's nonsense to think like that. And the other thing is, that water's going to have to be pumped and treated in perpetuity. And like I said to those people, "Perpetuity's a pretty long time." A pretty long time, you know? And I mean the old—Record of Decision on the Berkley Pit—

Leech: In '94.

Daily: Is for $47 million. They've already spent like $30 million on their new, their so-called treatment plant, which is just a lime treatment—all they're doing is lime in it, nothing else but lime in it, you know? And they've already spent 30, so they've got 17 million bucks left. Well, what do you do when the 17 million bucks runs out? We're going rely on British Petroleum? Holy Christ, or Washington to take care of us? It ain't going to happen, buddy. And then people like you that live here, young guys, young people are going to pay for this forever? I'm not going to pay for it, because I'm going to be gone, but hopefully, I'll be looking down and not looking up, but …

Leech: So do you still—so it sounds like you don't buy the ARCO or EPA argument that-that the discharge is incredibly unlikely. They're monitoring it. The Bureau of Mines is monitoring it and they say something like by somewhere between 2018, 2023, they'll turn on the treatment and they'll pour the water down Silver Bow and—

Daily: I don't. I don't buy that at all, no, not at all. No, I think the secret is, you've got to keep the water level as low as you possibly can. I mean I can tell you things—I can go on and on about this forever. I mean, right now they're pumping water out of the Berkeley Pit, taking the copper out of it, running it through the recip [ph] process, and putting the water back in.

Leech: Yeah, they are.

Daily: Putting the dirty water back in. How nonsensical is that? At the Yankee Doodle Tailings Pond there's pristine water flowing in it at the headwaters, and then they contaminate it every-every single day. I mean I think the State of Montana, and I think the EPA have totally failed this community. But not only have they totally failed this community, they've totally failed the whole Pacific Northwest. And that's what people don't realize. People from Missoula, when they're yelling, "Dirty water," "Clean your pit," they don't realize, "Hey, it's coming your way, buddy," you know? When this thing goes, it's going your way. It ain't coming my way. It's going away from here. It's going down your way. I remember, Brian, I remember—that's the thing, because I have some historical data, some knowledge that people like Sara Sparks should have, but they don't, and people in State government should have, but they don't. But I remember the Clark Fork River flowing red to Missoula. I remember that. I remember seeing it, you know? I know it happened.

Leech: Well, and I was also—I was curious, um, since you've been one of the more active people, what your feelings are about community involvement and participation in-in things like the Record of Decision on the Pit or other areas and if you felt like it was particularly low or high or…?

Daily: There's been a lot of involvement over the years, but they beat people down. They beat people down. The EPA process is totally backwards of the way it should be. The way the process works is they go through and study things, make a decision—this is our decision. This is what we're going to do. And then you've got to change that decision while it's-it's almost impossible to do that. In the early days, there were a lot of meetings and a lot of, —but in the last several years, there's no transparency. The transparency is zero, absolutely zero.

Leech: Well, someday—

Daily: The only, the only people who put out information about this stuff are me, basically. I mean they do the *Pit Watch*, which it comes from where? It comes from ARCO will come or British Petroleum comes from the agencies. That's where they get all the information. The only person that puts out information that I think it should—well, I don't want to say they're not truthful—but information that people really need is somebody like me. And it's a difficult challenge, and it's frustrating, and it's hard. And because I read the documents. I read the stuff. I'm not an expert, but I know how to read. I know how to read. I know what it says, you know? And I mean ARCO's driving the ship, BP's driving the ship. BP decides what you do, BP decides what happens, the agencies don't. They just buy into what BP tells them. I'm following the cleanup of Silver Bow Creek. Butte Silver Bow Creek, now it's an absolute disgrace, too. It's an absolute disgrace. People should be in jail over it. Absolutely, people from the agencies should be in jail over it. But nothing happens because BP's driving the boat. If I had—I-I've told

this to many people, Brian, and it's true, and it's so true. If I had $500,000, I'd tip that whole outfit over. I'd have a bunch of them in jail, no question about it. No question about it, but I don't have the money. I'm just a little one-man band, so to speak, that tries to at least put out the information that people need. And I'll tell you another thing, I'll bet if they did a survey on it, I'll bet 80% of the people in this town would be with you.

Leech: Yeah, really?

Daily: Not a question—no question about it. I don't go anyplace people don't say, "Hey, thanks for doing what you're do. Keep up the good work. Keep doing it, Don't stop." I mean I'll go to Wal-Mart today shopping—

Leech: Yeah, so they all feel that ARCO's running the show and, —

Daily: Yeah, they just, they just feel like it's almost like government and you can't really do anything about it, and they're, "it's going to happen," and just "it's the way she goes." And that's almost—and I, and I think sometimes they're almost in denial over it, you know? They just don't want to know either. Better if you don't know. But you need to know and you need to— now, like right now, like Dennis Washington, for example, right now he personally makes a million dollars a day off the operation. That-that's common knowledge to—

Leech: Yeah, that's, —

Daily: I mean that's what he's making, okay?

Leech: Very profitable.

Daily: But he's a billionaire because of the mine. He's not a billionaire because of his little trains and planes and little construction company and stuff like that, he's a billionaire because of the mine. That's why he's a billionaire. And he, they don't invest back in the community. They don't put money back in the community. They do little things here and there. I'd put $100,000 into the Folk Festival as long as they can get it matched. And they might give this little group $10,000 if somebody matches it. They won't, they won't do anything unless somebody matches it. But right now's the time, while there's money there, to try to do something. In 20 years, there ain't going to be no money. 20 years it'll be gone, all the money'll be gone. Then you say, "Well, what are we going to do?" Well, what are we going to do? We're going to, I mean who knows if you have an earthquake, or something serious happens? That's what you got to worry about is something like that. And I mean there's stories written monthly almost that there's,an earthquake in southwestern—a major earthquake in southwestern Montana is inevitable, you know? I got headlines after headlines that, "Earthquake Inevitable in southwestern Montana." Just a matter of when does it happen, what happens? I can tell you this, when they have earthquakes in Alaska, it affects the water levels in the Berkeley Pit and in the mines.

Leech: Yeah. I-I—

Daily: Now they return to normal, but-but it does affect them, changes them.

Leech: Oh, really? The tremor, you think—

Daily: Yeah, yeah, no doubt about it. I mean the Bureau of Mines puts that stuff out all the time, yeah. Yeah, we're lucky we have the Bureau of Mines, because the Bureau—the people who work at the Bureau like Ted Duaime, at least they, at least they put out honest, reliable information that is transparent and they're not afraid to put it out. But as far as like the media putting stuff out is, as far as ARCO, as far as the local government, they don't do that. They're not transparent at all. I mean our local government won't deal with the goddamn dogs, let alone deal with something like this, you know? We try to pass a dog ordinance to get rid of pit bulls, and they say, "Well, we've got to send that to a different committee. We don't want it. Well, how do we," —so they're aren't-aren't going to work on this kind of stuff. But it's a shame they don't, . It's a shame they're not more involved. The-the people who lead the community should be as involved as I am and should be as knowledgeable as I am, and they're not, and that's the sad part of it. They don't want to be knowledgeable.

Leech: Are they just too chummy with, —

Daily: Yeah, that's a lot of it.

Leech: ARCO and the EPA and Montana Resources?

Daily: Sure, that's a lot of it. Yeah, and they're afraid of what's going to happen. What—, they're— I can understand some of it, because they're afraid of the economy and they don't want to talk about it, because it presents a bad light. But the reality is that, at some point, it's going to become a disaster, you know? And I've said for 20 years since I've been doing these presentations and stuff,,, this has such an impact on the economy, the future economy, the future environmental part of this town, the future social issues of this town. I mean right now, just—I mean just think if you were a large business and you wanted to come in, you were Microsoft and you wanted to come in and put a—I mean you're not going to come put a business in Butte, Montana. Let's face reality. You come in and you look at it and you see this environment, looking at all—and I mean attracting doctors and it's so difficult. Just to use a good example, Brian, like in my lifetime, and I lived through good times, and I don't want to be so negative, but I'm smart enough to see what's happening. I mean 30 years ago, 35 years ago, Butte had the premier hospital in the whole state. Now we got a little hospital, you know? 40 years ago we had, we had the premier airport in the state. Now we got a little, tiny airport. I mean, we had the only TV station, the first TV station. Now we got one reporter and she—thank God she's from Butte, because if she wasn't from Butte, she'd be gone. If she wasn't from Butte, she'd be gone, too, and we wouldn't even have a TV station. We wouldn't even have a local reporter, so you can see the backlash from this thing happening, you know?

Leech: So I think it's not just some kind of gradual population decline, you think that a lot of it just has to do with kind of a stigma of-of attracting people based almost on the environment?

Daily: Oh, yeah, absolutely, absolutely. No, no question about it. No question about it. I mean if you were a doctor and you were going to—okay, I'm just graduating from medical school and I

want to get into practicing medicine, am I going to go over to Butte, Montana? Am I going to go Bozeman? Am I going to go to Missoula? Am I going to go to Kalispell? Am I going to Helena? If I can go to one of those places, where do I want to go? Well, I mean your wife comes in and she says, "Holy Christ, we're not working here." "You're not moving my kids here. Look at the environment," you know? I mean it's just, again, I hate to be so negative, but that's the reality of it, ? And-and,maybe—I-I don't know. Maybe sometimes I'm too harsh or too tough, but I don't know how else to do it. And I'm not going to do it different, you know? I'm not going to sit back and pussyfoot all over the thing. I'm not going to sit here and tell you that I think, well, it's ok. I'm not going to tell you that, because I don't believe that. I believe it's going to destroy the whole town. I really believe that strongly. I believe that, you know? And it's just a matter of when does it happen. It's just not a matter of if it happens, but when does it happen? But, again, remember, as I told you, it's not just about here, it's about up and down the valley, too. So I mean it's a serious issue. It's a serious issue.

Leech: So you think the—

Daily: It's a serious issue.

Leech: The causes could be the earthquake fault that's nearby. They could be—which I know, um, the EPA and ARCO said they are not as concerned about or other things could essentially ,the worry is discharging that water in one way or another.

Daily: Sure. I'll just give you a perfect example. I mean I-I just read a thing here just about, oh, it was probably two months ago, and I'm pretty sure his name is Darrell Stigmy [phonetic], okay, But—I know it's Stigmy, his last name, but I'm trying to think of his first name, but I'm pretty sure it's Darrell. But-but anyhow, he-he's in charge. He the seismologist person for the State of Montana, and they're located at Montana Tech, okay? And-and they're trying to get some money from the National Resource Damage folks to study the possibility of earthquakes and the faults. And there's two faults that run right between the two pits, The Continental Fault and the Kleffy [phonetic] Fault running right through the middle of them, you know? And so they're trying to get some money for it, and I asked if I could use this, and they said, "No, you can't yet, but—because we haven't released it publicly yet." But-but the first thing—the very first sentence in his request for money says, "I have people asking me all the time, "What will happen if there's a serious earthquake? What will happen to Yankee Doodle Trailings Pond? What'll happen to the Berkeley Pit?" And you know what his answer is? "I don't know." That's his answer, "I don't know."

Leech: I'm wondering if some of the, um, points also kind of relate to the process. I know how the EPA works, right? You have community participation until the Record of Decision where they make this decision. But then when you get to a Consent Decree afterwards, which says with the Berkeley Pit I think the Record was in '94 and the Consent Decree was in maybe 2002 or something like that. I could be wrong with those dates.

Daily: That—they had the Record of Decision and Consent Decree, '89 is when it first happened, and then in '94 they-they redid the Consent Decree with no, with no input from the community, zero input. They did that in Washington, DC, in secret closed-door negotiations with

ARCO and the EPA. And so that, Brian, without—you can take this to the bank and spend the money, buddy. The only reason the EPA has meetings—the only, the only reason the EPA does-does anything is-is so that they satisfy the requirement under the law that they have a meeting. Otherwise, they wouldn't even have a meeting. They just, they just have a meeting to have a meeting, because the law says they have to have a meeting. That's the only reason they have it. They don't listen to people. They're not listening to anybody. They're not going to do that. That's the last thing they're going to do. I've been through so much of it.

Leech: Well, they know, they know after a Consent Decree, you're not supposed to have any community input. And I imagine there's a lot of frustration over that.

Daily: Oh, yeah. And I mean and right now, they're trying to do a Consent on the Butte Hill and be proud of ourselves. And that Consent Decree was supposed to be issued two years ago, and because of the negotiations in the process, because Butte [unintelligible] a potentially responsible party, you. It just hasn't happened yet. Plus, they know that—plus, now at least there're some people speaking up and they know that, they know that things aren't quite like they said they were. And-and so, and then people are starting to realize, I think, on some of these other things, that they're not quite like they said. And we need to be a little more conscious of what-what's happening. And the, and I mean the judges, they buy into whatever the BP wants, too. They're all bought and sold by the, by the BP and whatever else, too, and it's a sad thing, but it's the truth of the matter, I-I wish it wasn't that way, but it is.

Leech: Yeah. I'd be curious to hear your thoughts, um, because, say when I, when I was going to college, the big issue on campus in Missoula was the Milltown Dam, right?

Daily: Hm-hmm [affirmative].

Leech: And the Clark Fork Coalition was heavily involved, and every—, everyone on campus was aware. There were protests all the time, um, this would've been like 2000, 2001 and those kind of eras, and, but it seemed like everyone was very involved and concerned. And I was kind of curious if you felt like that was—and, certainly Missoula's a very different place, and I'm wondering if the kind of [unintelligible],there's certainly a lot more people who would be about environmentalists there, um, but I was also wondering if something about Butte, say some of the reasons people in Butte would've seen both the benefits and the problems with say mine waste or things like that, that maybe they would be less likely to be angry about this? I'm just kind of curious if my impression is totally wrong or—

Daily: I think that probably the biggest thing with that, Brian, is when you talk about Missoula and the environmentalists involved, and they're very conscious of the environment and very conscious of the environmental issues there, well, Butte doesn't have that. We're kind of—the Butte mentality is almost anti-environmentalist. It really is. That's the mentality.

Leech: Why do you think that is?

Daily: I think it's because of what's happened in the past, and I think it's because of-of mining has made the community, and mining's made us what it is, and we kind of lived with it, and so

we—we don't have the concerns that we should have because of that. No question about that. The other thing that I think is really important, too, is like with the Milltown Dam, they were dealing with one issue, one single issue, where here, where here there's 10 major issues, . So it's hard to wrap your arms around one thing and it's hard to understand and it's hard to put it all together. It's like when-when I give presentations, too, Brian. I stress especially now when I go to Missoula, for example, I stress the fact that all of these things are connected. The EPA and the State present it like the Berkeley Pit's its own little problem. Butte Priority Soils is its own little problem. Montana Pole its own little problem. Silver Bow Creek is its own little problem. But they're not. They're all connected together, but they don't present it that way. They present it that they're all individual little pockets of information. And so people don't—

Leech: Well, maybe otherwise it's overwhelming, right?

Daily: It's hard to wrap your arm around it. It's overwhelming. It's hard to wraps your arms around it, you know? And there's another perfect example of how screwed up this system is: The Environmental Protection Agency. I mean the Milltown Dam Decision was a 100% political decision, not-not—it wasn't an environmental decision whatsoever. It was a total political decision that-that because the people in Missoula put so much pressure on-on Judy Martz and on the government and that they all relinquished and said, "Well, let's get rid of it and we'll get the people in Missoula off our back," you know? But you can think about this, and I use this example all the time, too. The tailings behind the Milltown Dam came from Butte. That's where they came from. All of it came from Butte. We removed the tailings from behind the Milltown Dam, because it was so important to remove those toxic tailings so that they would no longer contaminate the river and contaminate the area. Yet those same exact tailings are all left in place in Butte. They're all still here. The same tailings that, the same tailings that were removed from Milltown that came from Butte, the Environmental Protection Agency said, "We can leave them in place in Butte." We cleaned, we cleaned Silver Bow Creek from Montana Street to the Warm Springs Ponds and took out all the tailings, but we left all the tailings in the headwaters of the Creek in Butte. Makes no sense, does it? Makes no sense. I mean common sense tells you, and I'm going to give you another example in a second, but common sense tells you, if they're so contaminated we need to remove them from the Milltown Dam, we need to remove them from Butte, too, I mean because that's where they came from. I mean common sense tells you that. Parrot tailings, I don't know if you've heard about the Parrot tailings, maybe, Parrot tailings that lie underneath the county shops and underneath the Civic Center and that whole area there?

Leech: Right.

Daily: They did a test here, just finally did a test, like two months ago. I can show it to you, I got it. The groundwater in that area is more contaminated that Berkeley Pit water. It's more toxic than Berkeley Pit water, yet we already have or there's already a Record of Decision in place to leave those. There's a Record of Decision, the Consent Decree isn't out yet, but there's a Record of Decision in place to leave them there. Those contaminates every single day, that groundwater every single day is going down Silver Bow Creek and going to where we just spent $80 million cleaning it. How totally nonsensical is that? Excuse my language but [unintelligible].

Leech: Well, and I-I was also—

Daily: Hope that answered your question—

Leech: Yeah, well, I mean it's—

Daily: I get fired up about it.

Leech: So even the-the tailings they removed from the Milltown Dam that they've left in Butte, I mean those-those tailings they drove down and dropped off in the Opportunity Ponds, right? And that was—

Daily: Exactly. They're very few tailings have ever been taken out of Butte, very few. I mean there are, there are some that they took out of Silver Creek, but it is minimal.

Leech: Seems like kind of a capping process system?

Daily: Right. Waste in place they call it. We put waste in place and leave it there, whereas they removed it from the Milltown Dam. But like I tell students like when you go to Missoula, I mean, and I didn't, I didn't even realize it myself, okay, till I'm going down to Missoula to give a presentation. And I'm driving past the Warm Springs Ponds and here they're putting all that—the tailings from Opportunity, the tailings from Milltown in the Opportunity Ponds. Warm Springs Creek, which is directly connected to the Clark Fork River, does not go through the Warm Springs Ponds, no. It doesn't go through the Warm Springs Ponds. It's only 200-300 away from the Opportunity Ponds. I mean you got a direct connection for them to come back or a direct connection for the contaminants to come back. I mean it's direct, it's right there, you know?

Leech: Well, I'm wondering how often, if some of the, some of the reasons say like they leave in place, a lot of the tailings and various dumps and things in and around Butte. I mean I know that there's long been a discussion with like the people who are interested in historic preservation that there's historic meaning to mine waste even, and so, um, and I was kind of curious if you had thoughts on how like historic preservationists and environmental cleanup has interacted here.

Daily: Well, I mean probably the best way to answer that and it probably answers a lot of the questions that you asked in a sense is that, you know, someone like myself and my wife and, when-when I look at the Berkeley Pit or I look at the mine dumps or I look at—I mean the Butte Hill, I don't they're ugly. I mean I know the value of them. I know how they got there. I know why they're there, okay? And so I don't think they're ugly. The gallows frames, I don't think they're ugly. But when I drive Calivarjo [phonetic], I think it's ugly. So it kind of, it kind of tells you what the mentality of the community is, okay? And the other thing you got to keep in mind is that, you-, that there's two kinds of waste here. There's waste that comes out of the mine, so—but it's not contaminated tailings. There's heavy metals, obviously, in it, okay? But then there's the smelter waste, which is toxic, which is contaminated. So those are the kinds of the things and the contaminated soils, because like at Montana Pole, those are the kinds of things that-that need to be dealt with.as far as leaving a mine up on the Butte Hill, I mean I don't have any problem with that, as long you, as long as you could, as long as you catch the water that

comes off of it and those kinds of things, and don't continue to contaminate the Creek and stuff like that. Now I think, I mean honestly a mine dump, I think a mine dump looks fine, you know? But in turn, I also know that a lot of people don't, I also know the problems it's causing as well. And lots of other people don't see that at all. Now especially, the old-time Butte people, the old miners and stuff, they are thinking, "What the hell's wrong that guy? Is he losing his mind, or what the hell?" You know what I mean? Bu it's amazing how many old-time miners and stuff support what I do. It's amazing, just absolutely amazing. I mean. I'm not kidding you, Brian, I get so many comments. People tell me stuff.

Leech: Really? So even-even people who worked for a long time—

Daily: Oh, yeah, yep.

Leech: Doing mining and—

Daily: Sure. Absolutely.

Leech: , they're-they're seem to be as concerned in some ways?

Daily: No-no question about it. No question about it. Plus they know, a lot of them know from working underground. They know how the water would operate underground. They know how the gradient of the groundwater would shift because of mining or reverse. But we know that the gradient of the, of the underground water in Butte is reversed four different times because of mining. We know that's happened, ?

Leech: Wow.

Daily: And they know it, too. And they know that they'd be mining underground and there'd be, going into a drift, drifting in, and all of a sudden a stream of water'd flow out from underneath, you know? I mean they know these thing. They know from being underground that when the dripping off of the drifts and slopes and whatever on them, when it's burning them, and they know that stuff. They know they're getting blisters. They-they know about people that have died because they had to con and those kinds of things. It was pretty rare for somebody that worked in the mines,, to live a very long life. They just didn't live very long.

Leech: Sure.

Daily: I mean that—and they know that. They know that.

Leech: Yeah. So they learned about these dangers just kind of through their work in a lot of way?

Daily: Oh, sure. Oh, absolutely. No question about it. No question about it, . No question about it.

Leech: Yeah. Interesting. Um, just wanted to ask maybe a couple final questions about, um, your experiences with, both the closing down and what, um, what people were interested in, what

people were talking about when they were shutting down the Pit in '82 and then closing out ARCO in '83, and, um, entirely—although, obviously, I guess ARCO they debated whether or not they're going to reopen for years before finally it was sold out to Denny Washington. Um, and I was just kind of curious about some of your ,if you have any other thoughts about that, that maybe I haven't covered?

Daily: Well, the people were very concerned. There's no question, because they could see the town dying. They could see the town dying, and they could, they could see the economy, how it was struggling, and-and-and what was happening, you know? So there's major concerns, but they just didn't see the help? And they just didn't see the help-- I guess this is kind of the example, "I'm from the government. I'm here to help you," kind of philosophy, so that they just knew it, you know? That you were fighting an uphill battle. You were fighting that battle of the anti-Butte philosophy and you're fighting the battle of there is no money. You're fighting the battle of the battle I fight. You don't have support, you don't have help which you should have. I mean the most help I ever got in this whole process I got from Conrad Burns, believe it or not, a Republican Senator, but at least he took the time to sit down and listen to you. At least he took the time to care. At least he took the time to be involved. I mean I've written Governor Schweitzer several times, ? I said, "Hey, come down and talk to some people like me. Come down and talk to Don Peoples. Come down and talk Sister Mary Jo. Come down and talk to the people who care,who are concerned. Come down and talk to us." But, he won't do it. Because he's getting his info from the people he wants to get it from, and they're not giving him the right, the right scoop, ?I mean when, I mean all you got to do is look at the town, and all you got to do—you don't have to be genius to figure this out. I mean in 19—in the '60s, we, my wife and I just were doing presentations for class reunions, you know? And in 1959, 1963 when I graduated from high school during that era, I mean there was nine Catholic grade schools in Butte, nine Catholic grade schools. There were 17 grade schools, public grade schools. There in the Catholic school system in Butte, when I graduated, that-that was over 3,500 students, between 3,500 and 4,000 students in the Catholic grade school system. how many they have now? 126.

Leech: Wow.

Daily: . Well, I shouldn't say that. They have 126 in the high school. We had 800 in the high school. They have 126, ? They have in their grade school, They probably have 150, you know?

Leech: Right.

Daily: There was 3,500. In-in the public school system, there was 8,000 students, ? Now there's 3,000 or, ?

Leech: Sure.

Daily: I mean these are the things that, .

Leech: Well, I know that, I mean that has a lot to do with all sorts of mining shutdowns and closing out [unintelligible].

Daily: Exactly. It comes back to the one-horse town.

Leech: Sure, sure.

Daily: And you try to diversify, but it's so hard to diversify it, Brian, because of the economy, It's so hard. I mean we get people that come in and try and do. The only people that come back to Butte are Butte people. I mean we just—they just opened that SeaCast business and beat the town. And it's a fabricating business, . And it's a big-time business, and they've been all over, they have plants in Marysville and Seattle and Rhode Island and whatever else. But the Butte kids who live here come back home. I mean the majority of doctors you get are Butte kids that come back, or that's just, the people that live here love it. The people who are gone want to come back. The people who when you live in this town, because that's a good thing, in a sense, That anti-Butte mentality that's out there, and it's really prevalent now. Now there's no question about it. But it makes the kids in this town tougher. It makes them stronger. And there's a loyalty to this town that you don't see anyplace else, . Maybe some other mining towns throughout the country, but there's a loyalty that exists in this town amongst the youth, amongst the people who live here. I mean it—there's a loyalty beyond recognition. I mean it's—people that live here and people who have lived here are loyal to the town. And people who were devoted to the town. And we don't want to see the town go away. And my best friends, my very best friends that I still have today are guys I went to grade school with and high school with. I mean we still get together and do things. I mean they don't live here anymore, because they can't live here, because there's no jobs, you know? But we get together and do things together. My sister—I just met my sister the other day. She's 10 years older than me, so she's 75 years old, just had a reunion with 10 of her classmates, you know?

Leech: Sure. Yeah.

Daily: I mean how many—where would you ever here of that happening other than Butte, Montana? But there's just an espirit de corps, a loyalty. It's just it's built within you. And a lot of that comes from that anti-Butte mentality that's out there. And it's a shame that it's out there, but it is out there and, like I said, we probably promoted it over the years, too, with sports and whatever else. I understand that, too, but it's now it needs to be different. Now people need to realize that this just isn't about us, you know?

Leech: Yeah. Do you think things like the-the lots of the summer festivals are changing any of that or—

Daily: I think they help. They help. They bring people here. People get to see it, you know? I mean, like you asked about Missoula and about the only real environmental push that's ever happened in this town, I think is the hula dance that the ladies do. And that comes out of Missoula. But what do most people in Butte think about that? They think it's kind of goofy. And they do. They think, "What in the hell are they doing?" you know? But my wife and I went and I know Kristi Hager. I don't know if...but I know Kristi pretty well. Just communicating it.

Leech: Yeah. I was up there at the time.

Daily: Oh, were you? Yeah, I was there. We went. But the thing that I told Kristi and the others involved is what it does, more than anything else, is you bring a focus to it. And that, Brian, is the thing that I've been able to do more than anything else, too. That's—if I've done anything in this whole process, the thing that I've done in this whole process is I've kept the issue out there. If it wasn't for me, the issue wouldn't even be out there. I mean I'm telling you, it wouldn't be. I mean, now that I'm anybody special, because I'm certainly not, but because of what I do, at least it gets out there. At least it stays out there. I mean look at what it did for you. At least you brought that emphasis to you. I mean I was on the Jon Stewart Show, *the Daily Show*. And I've, I mean I've done, I've been involved in issues in *Time Magazine*. I've been in *Harper's Magazine*. I've been in *Outdoor Magazine*. I've been in numerous articles around the country, you know? And it's people know of you and hear of you, and so I just come from the other side, and maybe sometimes I'm too strong, I'm too hard or mean or whatever about it, you know? But I don't know how else to do it. Like I told you earlier, I'm to the point where I'm not going to—I mean I'm not going to tell anybody that, anybody that comes here that that's okay, because it isn't okay. Don't lie about it. Even though you want to. I mean, is the glass half full, is the glass half empty? Who knows? But don't lie about it. I mean that—this is a serious environmental issue, boy. I mean it could be the biggest environmental issue in the whole goddamn country right there. I mean think about it. 342 Canadian snow geese down on the Berkeley Pit and they all die within a day? Every single one of them died within a day. Just think if that water gets into your, into your streams, into your, just think of the terrorists. My wife always thinks of terrorist stuff. What could a terrorist do, you know? Well, lots, lots. I don't think of it that way, terrorists that way, but I know the environmental consequences. I know what can happen. And I know that the thing that people don't realize is that the decisions that are made today have forever consequences. They're forever decisions and they have forever consequences. And so you'd better be making right decisions, and you'd better be doing it right. And we're not doing it right. And-and we're leaving the future of this community and the future of this state in jeopardy because of the incompetent decisions that these folks are making. And it's a serious issue and it needs to be addressed. But I don't know what else I can do about it. I can talk to people like you and hope that you do your dissertation. I'm one little tiny part of it, Maybe two sentences, you know? I know that because I've done enough of this stuff, but maybe that one sentence might be the one that sparks the interest in the right person who has the money and the ability to change it, you know? Because you're not going to change it with a guy like Fritz Daily, because I don't have the money. Because it's all about money, and I'm not changing it. But I'm not going to, I'm not going to sit by when I know something's wrong and not do something. I guess it's—I can't remember. I think it was a guy from—I can't remember, but anyhow, I have a quote, I've seen a quote here recently where the guy says, "It's not wrong to make a mistake, but it's wrong to know you're making a mistake and are making a mistake and don't do something to change it. That is wrong." And that's what these people should be doing. Yeah, that's what they should be doing, and they're not doing it.

Leech: I'd be interested in hearing some of your thoughts as a long-time Butte resident on a few other kind of major events. I was kind of curious what your perception was as someone who-who didn't live in these areas, but you certainly were involved in the community when lots of parts from the McQueen and then East Butte were—

Daily: Oh, sure.

Leech: Being taken out. And I was kind of curious, what—how other people in Butte seemed to feel about that or were—was there a lot of anger or was it just resignation?

Daily: I think it was more this is what you have to do. This is what we have to do kind of thing. We don't have any choice. And the other thing that happens with it, Brian, is they put the pressure on you, and they say, just like when they closed the Columbia Gardens, okay? Perfect example. When they closed the Columbia Gardens, they said, "If we don't close the Columbia Gardens and move the Columbia Gardens, we'd have to shut the mining down. You won't have any jobs. The jobs will be all gone." And that was the same philosophy and attitude with that. People are-are concerned that if we don't do this, then we're shutting down the mine, you know? And I think a lot of that attitude is still prevalent today. I mean look at the environment. Look what the Christ Dennis Washington's doing over here. I mean it's a disgrace. Let's face facts. Let's face reality. But nobody questions it because we don't want to, we don't want to stop the mine. We don't. we don't want to stop the people from working. And so that's the attitude. That's what it is. So you just accept it. You just accept it as part of life. That's just the way it is. That's what we have to do. They just accepted putting the Pit there, because if we don't put the Pit there, you guys aren't going to be working anymore, so hey, we got to do this, you know? I mean, it's like Butte's probably—was the strongest union town in the world. I mean numerous unions started here. I'm a union man myself. I love unions; unions are what made the country. They make the economy work. They're but—they'll make things go. But this community was willing to let Dennis Washington go nonunion, because we knew it was going to create some jobs,and keep the mine going, you know? So that's a perfect example of, a perfect answer to the question you're asking. The Columbia Gardens. The reopening the mine. I mean the staunchest union men in the country, Barney Rask, Max Salazar, Don Peoples. "Hey, if that's the only way we can keep the mine open, that's what we got to do," you know? And that's the same way with moving houses and moving neighborhoods and I mean, my wife, their house is in the middle of Berkeley Pit. That just—I don't know the exact number, but somewhere in the neighborhood of 5,000 houses were lost and destroyed because of the Berkeley Pit, .

Leech: Yeah, yeah. Um, I'd also be interested to hear your perception of the, um, the movement by that—the group Butte Forward, who was interested in the, in the '70s at moving a lot of uptown. At least moving some of the central business district out of the way in case they wanted to mine up there, um, and how you felt the community dealt with that.

Daily: Model Cities is what you're talking about. Yeah, again, it was the same philosophy. Anaconda Company wanted to move uptown to mine and the same philosophy was prevalent there. If we don't do this, we're going to close the mine, and, in essence, we're going to destroy the town, because-because we're a one-horse town and if the horse is gone, the town goes with it. And so the same attitude was prevalent throughout the community, you know? And the community leaders were really pushing on it before that. They actually had a vote. I couldn't—and that one was a very close vote. I mean it was within 100 votes of moving the whole uptown. And at that time there was a lot of money available, federal money, and so they saw an opportunity and they were trying to seize the opportunity. And in the process, and in the process keep the town going and keep things, you know? And..

Leech: You have to destroy the town to save the town, kind of.

Daily: Yeah. And, well, it's just, it's just like now, Brian. I mean, I talked about this all the time, too, it's just like uptown Butte, Uptown Butte has some unique buildings and there's some unique architecture. And that's all great and I'm all for it, but in the last 20 years, we've put $50 million in uptown Butte, and nothing's changed. It's still the same, you know? I mean there's-there's no businesses that, or very few. There's probably only five businesses uptown—in the whole uptown. And probably 80% of the space uptown isn't used, you know? When you talk about the stores and things like that. And so it's the same thing. What do you do? I mean these are major decisions and monster decisions, and how do you make them? And, what's best? And, but, again, when you ask about why and how and whatever, I mean it was always that, you're afraid of what'll happen if you, you know? What if we don't do this? Are we the ones? It's kind of like me as a vocal activist or whatever. I'm sure there are some people who say, "He's risking the future of the town, the way he talks and the things that he does," and that, because, if you don't have the mine, then what happens? I mean if—when—if that mine closed today, Butte would be a 10,000 person town. I mean what would happen is all the old people, as the old people died off, there'd be no new people. People aren't going to move here and so there you don't have growth, you don't have development, and so, eventually, it's going to get you anyhow, but people are afraid of that happening to you. And that's always been the attitude. That's always been the attitude.

Leech: What about, say, the tours and maybe something like the Berkeley Pit brings to Butte? Do you think it brings any or, the Chamber of Commerce is trying to make money on?

Daily: I think the people come here, go to the people—it's not a destination. It's not something people come to see. No, that doesn't happen. Do people go over there to look at the Berkeley Pit? Sure. The people traveling through here that know of the Berkeley Pit and want to go look at it, sure. Sure, it brings, sure it brings people too—but, I mean,, the only person probably in the last 20 years—no, I shouldn't say it like that. Let's put it this way, the only person that came here in the last week to look at the Berkeley Pit was you. You're the only destination person because you want to do what you're doing. Now, you know what I'm saying? It's not a destination thing. If people go and see it.

Leech: People aren't-aren't in town, are they?

Daily: Like it's funny, One guy I told the guy at the *Butte Weekly* here a couple weeks ago, I said like if this was—if the BP oil spill happened in Butte, our Chamber of Commerce would be out there advertising, "Come see the oil spill, Come see all the animals dying. Come see the oil on the beach."

Mrs. Daily: I'm on my way to my Chamber of Commerce—

Daily: She's a Chamber of—

Daily: But people they did try to work with people, stuff with that, like that, too, you know what I mean? Because they needed it, too. And they knew they had to do things right to get her done.

Mrs. Daily: You asked about dust. Until 1960, see what did the Pit just started in what, '50?

Leech: '55.

Mrs. Daily: 5, so there wasn't a lot of dust. It was underground mining when we lived up there, so we didn't have a lot of dust and stuff.

Leech: Sure.

Daily: You can, you can hear that, like I, said I lived up on by the Anselmo. There were times you could actually hear the men talking underground. You can actually hear it.

Leech: Oh, right.

Daily: You could. I'm not kidding you. You could, I remember. You could hear the blasting, you could hear the work going on. Yeah, yeah, no doubt about it, you could, you could, it—

Leech: But you saw like people who were filing claims and who were moving their houses, did you feel like they were treated fairly and got decent prices or—I was just kind of—

Daily: In the most part they did. There was a lot of people from Butte who took advantage of, people took advantage of older people in the process and bought their home for relatively little. Come in and convince them to buy the homes, and I mean that was a big scandal in town there, I mean when they were buying homes and stuff where there was a certain group of people who'd go in and like, for example, I know of one instance where the lady sold the people the property for like $10,000. The next day the people from Anaconda Company who were in cahoots with them bought the thing for $270,000, because she had the mineral rights. Which, that—and I don't know how this ever came about, Brian, but a lot of people in Butte have the mineral rights, but a lot of people don't. Some have them and some don't. And-and as time progressed, not many had the mineral rights, you know? But if you had mineral rights, you really had something, but—

Mrs. Daily: and like $10,000 seemed like great for those houses up there.

Daily: Oh, yeah, in the '50s and whatever, that was a lot of money.

Mrs. Daily: Seemed like it was a great price, but they were all—

Daily: Sure, sure. I mean there was a man right down the street, Gail was talking about, just right at the end of this block here, there's a house that was down there that was moved that was right by her house, ?

Leech: Oh, sure.

Mrs. Daily: Yeah, and-and I don't know if you've ever noticed, there's a big two-story brick place out on Continental Drive.

Leech: I've seen that place.

Mrs. Daily: I mean, it was two houses from us on.

Leech: Oh, really?

Mrs. Daily: Yeah, and they moved that with the brick on it.

Leech: Yeah?

Mrs. Daily: Most of the time I think they, —

Leech: They take off the—

Mrs. Daily It was really expensive to have it moved with the brick. And maybe they took the brick off, I don't know, and just re-bricked it.

Daily: There were hundreds of houses that were moved where the Anaconda Company would come in and buy it for $10,000 and then the people could buy it back for a $1 and move it. That was real common. That was real, real common. Then they could move it. A lot of people, there—I'll bet there's a thousand houses in Butte that were moved out of that area that are still here. They're still here.

Mrs. Daily: Day on the—just— where the Post Office here, here on Dewey?

Leech: Yeah, yeah.

Mrs. Daily: There's a block—what? Is it two blocks east?

Daily: Hm-hmm [affirmative].

Mrs. Daily: There's four houses that were moved in that one block from just up where I lived in the—either on my block on Galena or else that other one, it's a big, two-story gray house. It's beautiful now.

Daily: Yeah, Morotoni's [phonetic] house over here came out of the—

Mrs. Daily: Yeah, the green one right across the alley.

Daily: Yeah, just right across the alley. That's come out McQueen, And there's one—they're all over, if you drive around. You can tell because they're pretty square. The old style of houses.

Mrs. Daily: Any of those old houses, you can see they got new basements in them so damn well they didn't do basements like that when those kind of houses were built, but—

Leech: Yeah.

Daily: But the biggest thing was, as I said, is people were always afraid of what would happen. They were, if I don't do this, then I'm the bad guy so to speak. There's a house up on—we always talk about it. It's up on Park Street, at the very end of Park Street, just by the Belmont, but it's on Park Street. And I don't know they offered—eventually they got to a point where they offered them $150,000 for it or something.

Leech: [unintelligible] hold out [unintelligible]?

Daily: Now it's—they're the hold out. Now it's now they got zero and there it is,

Mrs. Daily: And they were so greedy, they wanted more, and so, —

Daily: But that's—I mean that's the attitude right there, like she said.

Mrs. Daily: They-they didn't come east or west anymore, so they didn't buy them out.

Leech: Right, sure.

Daily: All of a sudden here you are, and we don't need you anymore, ? I guess it's kind of like being in Iraq, you know what I mean? People—they kind of—the whole thing probably, it's probably the same thing, you know what I mean? I mean I'm an anti-Iraq guy. I'm an anti-Afghanistan guy. I want us out of there tomorrow. And I'd be happy to see that happen, but most people you talk to say, "Well, we got to stay there at least for a while and make sure everything's okay and,whatever else.", they don't want to, they don't want to rock the boat, ? I mean I want the, I want the boat rocked, you know? It's kind of the same thing here. People don't want to rock the boat. They're afraid to rock the boat, because, are you going to be the bad guy if you rock the boat? Well, I think, around here somebody needs to rock the boat. I've tried to rock it, but it's a difficult rock, I can tell you. But I'll guarantee you one thing, Brian, down the road, 10 years, five years, next week, whatever it is, they're going to be saying, "God, we should've listened. We should've paid more attention. We should've been more involved. We should've—"? Because eventually it's going to tip us over, boy. But it's going to tip Missoula over, too, and that'll be the—I mean I-I don't wish anyone bad luck or whatever, . But it, but-but they're going to pay the consequences, too. They don't realize it but—

Mrs. Daily: All the way to the—

Leech: I just wanted to, um, ask, because I know you-you were, um, as I recall, involved in the final movement of some of that Columbia Gardens equipment. And I just wanted to-to hear, um, what had, what had happened with that. How you had gotten involved and—

Daily: Well, it's pretty simple really. I mean, obviously, it comes back to like with the Columbia Gardens. Columbia Gardens, like I tell kids was really the very first Disneyland, really. It was pretty. it was a pretty special, fancy place. And the way that I became involved with moving this equipment is-is when they, when they—again, it comes back to the people's attitudes and stuff about it, ? And they gave you the philosophy that if you don't move it, if we don't destroy it, we're closing the mines. And so anyhow, they did come up with some dough to-to move it, okay, to move the equipment. And so they were going to move the carousel. They were going to move the horses. They were going to move the horses. They were going to move—but in a—but-but those-those things were destroyed in a fire, okay? So they lost that. But they did move a lot of the playground equipment up to Beef Trail, up here, just up the road up here. And so they were going to try to create a new Columbia Gardens, and-and in the process, it kind of comes back to a lot of people stole the money, and a lot of the people there was money available, and they didn't spend it right. And they didn't do things right. Well, they moved the equipment up there, the playground equipment, and then as things progressed, they never opened it and they never developed it and they never—but they did move this equipment. Well, I happened to be riding a-a trail bike with my son. My son and I were riding a trail bike. We were riding up through Beef Trail, and we saw all of the equipment, and we—and the cows were eating the benches. And the cows were shitting on the benches, and the equipment was laying around just rottening, and so I just—I said to myself, "We got to do something about this," you know? And so we, we ended up writing a letter to the editor and we ended up getting involved with Don Peoples and that was a struggle, too, just getting them, getting them moved back. But we did, at least we did get some of the equipment moved back, you know? And,

Leech: What happened to the stuff that-that didn't get moved? I know a lot of it got in—is in Clark's Park, right? The—

Daily: Right. That's basically what.

Leech: What was out there?

Daily: The play—most of the playground equipment that was up there got moved back to Clark's Park, but there were some things that just got destroyed in the process, and then they took the pavilion had—each of—on the pavilion on each corner of the pavilion there were what they called cupolas, and those became the picnic shelters out there, okay?

Leech: Oh, sure.

Daily: They took those off of there. And then there's a big archway, . The archway, it was moved up there, too. I mean they had, they had good plans, They—I mean they were good intentions, but in the process the people involved saw a lot of money and they saw opportunity to make a lot of money, and they took the money and used the money for different things. And it was, it was real fortunate, Brian, that we happened upon that. It was really, really fortunate. And we took some pictures, and then we, and then we-we-we brought the pictures to the *Montana Standard*. Well, then they published them on the front page. So people got really up in arms over it then. But it was real fortunate that we did it when we did it, because the-the-the equipment was moved to the Butte Ski Club's property, and the Butte Ski Club was going to sell that equipment.

They had, they had intentions. They had actually had buyers for that equipment. They were going to sell the playground equipment to an outfit in Alaska. And so because of all the pressure that came about then on the Ski Club people, they all, then they, then they caved in, you know? Then they caved in and consented to move it and…

Leech: Right. So people saw the photos and they—I imagine a lot of people in Butte had-had either forgotten or didn't even know a lot of the, what was remaining was sitting out there, huh?

Daily: Exactly, exactly. Yeah, exactly, exactly.

Leech: Yeah. Interesting.

Daily: There were probably, I don't know, 50 picnic tables up there at the Columbia Gardens. And a lot of them were destroyed because they were—I wish I still had the pictures. And I don't ever know whatever happened to the pictures, to be quite honest with you, but I wish I still had them, but then we had given them to the *Montana Standard.* And so they—I know they've looked, too, and they can't find them either, but—

Leech: Yeah, sure.

Daily: And, but there were pictures in the paper and there—

Leech: Yeah, yeah, I've seen them all.

Daily: Pat Kearney wrote a book on the Columbia Gardens, and we're in a little chapter in that book, so some knew what we did and stuff, so you can do positive things that, in life I've been fortunate to do, be involved in a lot of positive things in the community. When I was in the Legislature, I was very fortunate that I worked with a great group of people, and there were people who, Butte people are tough and resilient and they fight back. And so we were able to do some positive things. And that's kind of how I got involved in a lot of the environmental stuff that I do, too, so we were able to use some environmental money to build some parks and move that equipment, and build a baseball field. And we did a lot of real positive things, and so that's the good part of this thing, ? But we still need to do—there's still a lot of work to do, that-that's the sad part. Now if-if it doesn't get done, it is going to destroy the town, ? And that's the saddest part of this whole thing. I and I really believe that really strongly. I see it happening. I mean it's—and it comes, it all comes back to the one thing I said to you at the very beginning of this thing. How can people who have knowledge and know what's there and go look at it, how can anyone like Sara Sparks go look at the Berkeley Pit and say, "It's okay"? I mean I just—I-I—it's beyond my comprehension how you could go look at the Berkeley Pit, you go look at Yankee Doodle Tailings Pond, and it's right—sits right at the headwaters of the Columbia River, and the, and the Clark Fork River, sits right at the headwaters of Silver Bow Creek that you just spent $80 million cleaning it and say, "You don't need to worry, buddy" yeah. Beyond my comprehension, beyond my comprehension, because it's not true. Hope that answered your questions.

[End of Audio]