

Fred Quivik, architectural historical, partner in Renewable Technologies Incorporated, interviewed by Teresa Jordan in her home, February 4, 1986.

Notes taken at time of interview; not audited against tape.

Fred was born in Northfield, MN, grew up on a farm nearby. When he was in fourth grade, his father was elected to the House of Representatives, and the family moved to Silver Spring, MD. He finished High School there. He didn't like the East; went to Minnesota for College, at St. Olaf in Northfield, MN. His folks had gone to school there. He came out to Montana during the summers and worked for the Forest Service in Lincoln, MT. He met Mindy at St. Olaf. They were married in '71; Fred had just graduated, and he worked as a produce man at a grocery store while Mindy finished her last year of college. They came out here again when she graduated; Fred worked for the Forest Service; Mindy waited tables, they lived in a cabin. Fred was in heaven, but Mindy wasn't as sold on it; around Thanksgiving they moved back to Minnesota. Mindy had a teaching certificate and wanted to try to get a teaching job. Fred went to architecture school at the U. of MN. Spent two years there, was dissatisfied with the emphasis on building new buildings rather than working with old ones. He had met Cecil Garland in Lincoln and had become an avid environmentalist, thought it was sad to see the wasting of resources involved in tearing things down.

He received a Bachelor of Environmental Design at the U. of MN and entered the preservation program at Columbia in New York City. Mindy had become dissatisfied with teaching; she entered the History and Philosophy of Education at Teachers' College (now part of Columbia). They spent three semesters in NYC; came back to Montana for the summers.

In early February, 1977, they moved to Montana. Neither had jobs. Their car broke down in East Helena, so they got an apartment under the plume of the smelter. Fred's eyes are sensitive to pollution; he had had trouble in NYC, but not as bad as he had in E. Helena.

He worked part time for a couple architects; Mindy substitute taught. They had decided to combine their names. Fred's name was Quie; Mindy's maiden name was Kravik, though she had taken Fred's name. They decided to change their names to Quivik. Both are Norwegian, Quivik sounded Norwegian. They had decided that they would move wherever one of them got a permanent job, and that they would change their names at that time. Fred got a job at NCAT. They moved to Butte in April of '78.

NCAT combined many things for Fred. He had idealism for preservation from Columbia; an interest in passive solar from his work at the U. of MN; and an interest in re-using old buildings. He thought NCAT was a wonderful way to promote things like that

around the country. And he was glad to have the chance to do it in Montana.

In the summer of '76, he had worked for the State Historic Preservation Office in Helena. Up until then, he had the typical rest-of-Montana view of Butte. He thought Butte was a terrible place; he had come here on a visit in 1972, thought he would see people on the street with foreheads that sloped backwards. (laughs). And, at that time, he hadn't yet developed a love and appreciation of old buildings.

But in 1976, Butte was involved with the Butte Forward program, which, if it had gone through, would have razed the uptown and put a new Central Business District down on the flats. The Historic Preservation Office sent him to photograph buildings, document those that would be torn down. At that point he realized how wonderful the buildings were; more important, he came to know that the people were wonderful, too.

At the beginning, the NCAT staff pretty much shared ideals about appropriate technology, had similar political outlooks. But quickly things began to disintegrate. Traditional business people were brought in to run it, and about half the technical people who were recruited had fairly traditional attitudes (the other half had more liberal attitudes). That set up a conflict. Soon the board of directors divided. The traditionalists won, and fired the director, Jim Schmidt. Hiram Shaw became interim director for about 9 months. The next director, Ed Kepler, was a disaster; he had no background in appropriate technology. His main duty was to crush the staff. While he was the director, Fred and others tried to set up a union, which would have affiliated them with the machinists. But they lost. Fred had become an advocate of labor from reading Butte history, but in a textbook way; this was a chance to get involved with the local union.

Q: What were the attitudes of the community to NCAT people?

Gerry Durkin was the secretary out there, and still is. Her husband is a fireman; she comes from old Butte. She brought back the rumour that NCAT people were socialists. Because of that feeling, a lot in the community wouldn't give them a break. But NCAT wanted to be involved in the community.

Q: Was trying to unionize a way to belong?

Fred et al recognized that if they formed a bargaining unit out there, they would be able to participate in local union activities. but the main issues were the working conditions. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers has a professional branch; many aerospace workers in Seattle belong, for instance. If the NCAT contingent had won, Butte would have formed a professional wing.

But, NCAT management brought in some sophisticated union busters

from Seattle--men in suits who told horror stories. They were effective. All of the organizers were professional organizers; management convinced others at NCAT that it was not in their interest to join the union, even though many of them, especially the clerical people, came from union backgrounds. But they feared losing their jobs. And many of the professional people at NCAT didn't like the idea of unionizing. The vote was 33 to 31 against joining the union. There were about 80 in the building. Also, NCAT had about 20 more in field offices around the country and in Washington, D.C.

One of the things that NCAT had done was volunteer services to the community. But new management under Kepler saw NCAT as a national establishment, not involved with the community.

Q: What sort of things had NCAT been involved in?

A variety. They had organized a softball league. Schmidt had donated Fred half-time to the city. After Butte Forward shut down, the gov't recognized that something had to be done Uptown, and they needed to look at revitalization. Schmidt was interested in energy conservation for the Court House. Tom Peletier worked at NCAT, he was from Butte, a technical information engineer or something like that. He established the Butte Energy Office and the city/cnty later hired him. John McBride was also involved with the community all along.

Under Kepler, fewer 'weirdos' were hired. John Sesso, the current director, has been fairly active in community involvement.

Q: How does the community accept NCAT now?

They are used to it. It is not as visible as MERDI. When MERDI first started, the newspapers would refer to it as MHD--though MHD was a process, something MERDI had contracted for. But MHD is a smokestack industry, something Butte was more used to and could understand more easily than something like NCAT.

Q: Was there a problem because so many who worked at NCAT weren't from Butte?

Most of the clerical staff were from Butte but most others were not. There was some griping about that. But most looked deeper, saw that the necessary skills were not already here in the community.

Fred, from the beginning, was prone to want to stay here. He liked the people, the community, the buildings. It was a goldmine for Fred's skills and interests. He tended to think of it as a long term home. A few others had a natural affinity to the community; they were immersed in it, but moved on to other things. The folks at RTI, John Hirigoyen, Hiram Shaw, Toby Benson are some from NCAT who have stayed.

A good example of those who immersed themselves in the community is Andy Shapiro and his wife Carolyn Smithson. Andy was technical staff at NCAT; Carolyn did a little contract work for them, but was mostly 'just a spouse.' She got the mural going, the Butte Heritage quilt, the Butte ethnic dinners, which have now been taken over by the Chamber of Commerce, and was involved in a variety of political activities. She was attracted to the diversity here, the sub-communities, etc. She was a good organizer, and helped communities organize. She is now in Providence, RI, though she talks of wanting to come back. She is doing a lot of work with the Hmong; has published a book, essentially a translation of a Hmong woman talking about making quilts.

Merriam Kline was another who was very involved.

Some others at NCAT were used to living in cities and had a preconceived notion of Butte as a place with nothing to do. Some ventured out; others watched TV and made their prophecy come true.

Fred was laid off at NCAT in Sept. '81.

He says that Butte is the first place he had ever lived that felt like home. That was hard to define--it was based on real things, but also emotion. The buildings are a challenge, Butte history is fascinating and he like to work with it and help interpret it, he loves the weather. But there is something more, hard to define.

Other non-Butte natives had told him that no matter how long you live here, you're never a native. But it took him years before he heard people refer to the fact that he wasn't born here. He felt welcome, even though he had a pony tail.

Q: Why Butte?

No place is paradise. But he liked some of the urbanness of New York City. You tend to remember what you like and forget what you didn't, but he has fond memories about NYC. He has no fond memories in Maryland. Suburban living just isn't for him. And NYC was just too big. It was hard to comprehend as a whole, and his commuity of friends were all just like him.

Butte is large enough to have some urban character, especially in the 'built environment.' Culturally it is not very urban. But because it is as small as it is, people don't congregate in their own little groups in Butte. Here he has a chance to get to know people he wouldn't otherwise.

And, it is in the middle of God's country. Fred doesn't have much time to get out into the mountains or surrounding area, but he knows it's always there.

Q: What was your involvement with the Butte Community Union?

Fred had worked with the plant closing initiative, and got involved with the BCU after that. He was interested in something that didn't much development in the BCU, trying to determine alternative economic development. Some people said that Butte was a mining town and always would be; he felt there had to be diversity. For awhile, he was part of a BCU task force to look at other ways to stimulate economic development. But Bob McCarthy, director, was not very interested in that aspect; soon the task force disbanded. Some of the ideas they were talking about were things like setting up an owner/builder school--there are several around the country, mostly in California and the NE. They teach people how to build their own homes. As far as Fred knows, none teach how to refurbish an old home, which he thought could be done here, using some of Butte's old buildings as classrooms, both to teach people how to work on their own homes, and to teach public agency people how to work with revitalization.

Q: Was the idea that rehabilitation would make jobs?

Rehabilitation stimulates the economy, but it is like any kind of construction--the jobs are temporary. The real economic advantage of rehabilitation is that it enhances the environment, and that can lead to new business.

Q: Why don't you think the task force ideas were well received by the BCU leadership?

Bob has a strong sense that poor people are entitled to certain things so the purpose of the BCU would be to demand that they get what they are entitled to. But Fred thinks that is too narrow. For instance, in the Neighborhood Preservation Plan he worked on in 1985, as part of the RTI team under contract to the BCU to look at Central Butte, he had an idea that, if the area could get a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), it could take a portion of that and deposit it in a local bank. The bank could loan out that money, but would agree to make very low interest loans to the residents and owners of Central Butte Neighborhood (CBN). Fred's idea was that a small amount of money could be used in such a way that they could get a large amount of leverage, could get more value out of it. But the idea that banks would get some advantage from that money was obnoxious to Bob to even consider. He would rather put it directly into services.

Also, in CBN, there are many vacant lots that are messes. Bob's sense is that the city should do it. Fred and others discussing the plan said that the city has some responsibility, but residents should also participate--that would involve the directly in solving a serious problem, and give them more of a sense of ownership of the project; it would also demonstrate that they were serious to the City. But Bob was incensed at the idea.

Q: Is that also true of painting Silver Bow Homes apartments?

Fred understands Bob's position on Silver Bow Homes more. that is supposed to be maintained by Federal money. The money is there for that purpose; it's a problem of management. Time people would spend painting their apartments is time not available to work towards getting management to do the job it should. There is a line between what the govt should do and what citizens should do. Fred draws the line in a different spot than Bob.

Q: An issue in the past few months has been the inner-city competition to apply for a Community Development Block Grant. CBN felt sold out that the city did not choose their neighborhood, which had the greatest need. What was your response to that situation?

The Near North was needy; Central Butte was more needy. Fred understands the decision--that amount of money wouldn't have gone very far in CBN with all that needs to be done. Trying to find solutions for Central Butte, Fred goes back to his days in the Court House. CBN is a subsidence area. He is disappointed that the city has not tried to find out the scope of the problem and its solutions. The Community Development office attitude is that it is a subsidence zone and should be written off.

Q: On the one hand, Butte has taken a very active role in its own survival and has been, according to many, more successful than other communities faced with plant shutdown. Yet, it seems willing to write off one of its neighborhoods. How do you explain the contradiction?

Over the years, the shots were called by one company here--the Anaconda Company. Unions responded to what the Company did, and they could react against it. But the initial shots were all called by AMC. So Meaderville, Columbia Gardens etc were wiped out and people felt that that was just the way it was. In Central Butte during the 50's, when the Emma was being mined, there was knowledge that homes would be damaged. Dave Piper, who was a mining Engineer for the company, said that the Anaconda Company was getting rich out of mining the Manganese, and Con Kelly told him that the mining was destroying homes; give their owners what they need to make it right. The homeowners felt helpless to change anything. Most took payment for damages, and signed easements releasing the Co from further liability.

A wife of a man in the neighborhood who had been a mine foreman told Fred that her husband had been discouraged from taking an easement; he had the fear his job would be jeopardized. Another man, Tom Power, had a four-plex on Gold Street. He wouldn't settle because he felt he could take care of the little stuff, and he wanted AMC to be responsible if something BIG happened like his building sunk. Piper remembered Powers, remembered that there was someone who had held out. It shows that there were some people who didn't JUST accept the Company, who tried to second guess them. But everyone had to reckon with the Company.

The community's attitude to Central Butte is similar to what it had been toward Meaderville or Columbia Gardens--it's sad, but you can't do anything about it.

Fred looks at old photographs of working class neighborhoods, and often there is much debris, huge ruts in the the street. He has a sense that in a mining community, people didn't care as much what their neighborhood looked like as long as they had a warm, tight house. Anaconda looks very tidy, even the workingclass neighborhoods. Butte doesn't. There seems to be a different attitude toward home if one is a miner than if one is anything else. Anaconda people worked in the same industry, for the same company. But the smelter doesn't destroy the earth; miners gouged their living out of the ground.

There are not many real wilderness advocates in Butte like there are in Missoula. Yet, recently the state held hearings around the state on recreation--to decide the Montana recreation plan for the next 20 years. Lots came to the hearing in Butte, advocating hunting and fishing. But wilderness was not a value often expressed. In other areas, wilderness itself is not seen of value.

When the whole identity of the community is of being a mining community, the physical environment isn't anything that would stand in the way of mining.

People did put up a fight in Meaderville; there wasn't much in the paper--it was owned by the Company. But not a big fight. Meaderville and the Butte Forward movement were strong indications of the willingness of the community to sacrifice itself for mining. At some of the early hearings about Butte Forward, people would say things like, if mining stopped to save the Central Business District, it would be a shame.

Q: So there was a sense that Butte would cut off any limb to save the life of mining?

Fred has been working to shift the identity of the town--so that people might be willing to cut off the limb of mining to save the life of the town if necessary.

Fred was talking with the owner of the Montana Bar, next to the Toucan Cantina. It is a white-brick fronted buildings, a "new" front put on some years ago, completely out of sync with the architecture of the building or other buildings in the block. Fred had mentioned to him what a shame he thought it was that the Miners Bank moved from their beautiful uptown buiding to a new one on the flat, the ugliest building in Butte as far as Fred is concerned. The man said, "That's not ugly, that's new." And for many, new means good looking. Many think that Uptown is dirty and old; they are still convinced that it will empty and die, crumble and go away.

Many people here haven't lived elsewhere, and they don't value the buildings here, realize how unusual they are. Fred has been using slide shows as education, and he points out all sorts of details. Many people come up to him afterwards and say, I've lived here all my life, but I never noticed that. Fred has been trained to notice those things, and they haven't had the chance to look around.

For a long time, there was a real split between Harrison and Uptown. After the consolidation of Butte/Silver Bow, they needed a new zoning ordinance. Fred argued for a zoning ordinance that would not allow sprawl to run rampant on the Flats. The Flats wanted the Uptown to die. Fred thinks there are still vestiges of that feeling, but both parts now realize that they can both exist and that each part can handle certain things better than the others; if something happens in one part, it is good for the community as a whole.

Q: Butte is so steeped in its own history, yet--and its that contradiction again--it seems so willing to sacrifice buildings.

People think of history more as nostalgia--something in the past, rather than something that you can bring to life in the present. Preservation is an activist field, it tries to bring those elements into everyday life. In the architectural historian profession, there is a raging debate over whether an architectural historian should be involved in preservation. Lots of academics don't think it is important to have the buildings around as long as they are documented, recorded.

Q: And what IS the importance of having the buildings around?

Everything is changing around us. A lot of change is good, a lot is damaging. A lot of change is allowed to happen because leaders don't have a commitment to the well being of the community, and that happens because our society is so transient. In that is a loss of commitment to place. Fred thinks that if people who live in a place have a sense of continuity with the past, how we got here, then we can have more of a sense of responsibility toward that place. In the beginning, Butte was a wild town, mostly single men; it was hard for people to start families, build schools, churches, theaters. But they did it. Buildings are an embodiment of the struggle. That's where interpretation comes into play, to help transmit that history, value.

There is not much homogeneity in the neighborhoods here--that shows family values, people's aspirations, their craftsmanship, and the economic system. For instance, a lot could be fabricated here because the industrial structure was already in place. Butte was more self-reliant than some places. Yet, it was a part of the national economy, too, and a lot was shipped in.

If through slide shows or neighborhood tours or books people can be helped to understand what is embodied in the buildings, if

embodied

that can be brought to the fore so they understand it, then they have a better base from which to make decisions--decisions like whether to sell bonds to help finance a chain hardware store that wants to come in; whether to build a new library; how to help a new mining company. Decisions can be informed, they can help people act more responsibly toward the future rather than just work for what gives immediate gain.

Butte seems obsessed with its history, yet, when Fred and Mindy moved here in 1977, the Butte Historical Society was only a year old. That contrasts with the earliest pioneers, who started a historical society right away after they got here. Communities early on start to think of their own history. Fred remembers seeing a piece in the paper from the 1890's mentioning a remodel of a Butte house--the paper said it was important because it was ^{one} of the "important historic houses" of Butte--yet the house was only about 20 years old.

Butte has a strong history because of the strong characters here. Mary Maclane was moved by it. But much of Butte's sense of its history is the myth--Copper Camp; A Mile High, A Mile Deep.

It's neat to see how people want to bring that history into the present--the success of the ethnic dinners is an example. It's easier to have a dinner than to preserve a neighborhood or even a building; but the interest is there.

Q: Could you talk about the Mine Yard Plan?

Back when the Anaconda smelter closed and the Company demolished it, the Butte Historical Society worried that that would happen with the headframes in Butte. They realized that they would have to do something with them if they were to have much of a chance to save them. They started talking with AMC; about 2 years ago, AMC said they were interested. AMC said that they had also been approached by other parties who were interested in a variety of things. They were inundated with ideas, and wanted to see a master plan that they could consider. They said they would help pay for the plan, and offered a \$5,000 challenge grant; BHS would have to raise an equal amount to show community support.

July 27, 1984 was Butte History Day--costume contests, other contests, music, dancing, balloons, pasty contest, food, etc. BHS co-sponsored it with the Uptown Merchants Association and the UMA urged individual members to donate 5% of the day's gross proceeds to the project. The day was advertised and people were asked to patronize Uptown businesses. It raised \$5,000; the Co provided \$5,000. Anaconda then raised \$2,000 and the Co matched that. So that \$14,000 was matched by the National Trust for Historical Preservation under their Critical Issues Fund--they felt that the conflict between mining and preservation in the West was a critical issue, as was the conflict between preservation and reclamation. Then the BHS got a \$30,000 grant from the State Historic Preservation Office, which they matched w/ in-kind donations.

They set out to do the plan. They did an inventory of mining and mining-related sites; brought in information about sites around the country; collected information about related activities and such in the community, like Our Lady of the Rockies. Then they began to prioritize sites to work on, looking at which were the most important, which were the most accessible, which most prone to interpretation, which needed the least preservation. They call it the Butte and Anaconda Historical Park System. If they work on it steadily, it will take about 15 years to complete. They have settled on around 25 different sites which interpret mining and smelting from prehistorical times up through the Berk. Pit.

The plan is now complete; hope that it will be to the printers soon. They are creating a tax-exempt corporation to run it. Now they are putting together a package of legislation for the Butte and Anaconda legislators which hopes to get an appropriation to begin implementation.

Q: How does Montana Resources' purchase of the Butte mines affect that plan?

Fred isn't sure. AMC donated the Anselmo and the Original mines. The Anselmo is the highest priority because it is intact. AMC wanted to finalize the gift before the sale, but for liability reasons, the BHS wasn't able to take it yet. AMC has recommended that Montana Resources go through with it; but Fred doesn't know if they will. The World Museum of Mining is facing the same concerns. AMC was set to donate the Orphan Girl to them.

Q: What has the community reaction been to the plan?

Extreme enthusiasm. It's different than saving the Uptown, because industrial sites are not involved in the day-to-day activity; they don't pose a threat. People want it; they ask how they can help. At this point, they can help by lobbying the legislators.

The only opposition has been from people at the Mining Museum; they see it as competition. Fred met with them at their last board meeting, went over how it complements the Museum rather than competes with it. But they are worried that tourists are going to want to do only one thing. Fred is hoping that people will want to do more than one thing. Also, the Park, if properly promoted, will greatly increase the number of people who come to Butte.

The Museum has said it is all for the efforts to save the headframes.

Q: Do you think some opposition--like Al Hooper's which seems to have a personal component as well as relating to his work with the Mining Museum--is based on a fear of making all Butte a museum?

That's possible--if you make a mine into a museum, it wouldn't be a mine anymore. But Al Hooper is also extremely loyal to Butte natives and Butte miners. He resents the fact that we didn't hire any former miners when making up the plan. Our feeling was that this is a park so we needed a park planner--Dennis Glick. We needed historians. We feel that miners are needed for implementation of the plan, and they will be hired then.

Q: Are miners supportive of the plan?

Yes. Jim Kolloy, Al's buddy at the Museum, has been very supportive. Al is the only one who has voiced dissatisfaction, and he was the only one quoted in the newspaper.

The only other negative Fred hears is that many are dubious whether they can raise the necessary money.

Q: Do you think this is something that could get the sort of amazing support Our Lady of the Rockies had at the end?

No, because it is not religious. That tapped into a different core, very deep. And the Mine Yard Plan need isn't as immediate. Perhaps if the head frames were being torn down, it would be.

Q: Does the plan foresee renovation of buildings for other businesses, as was done in Lowell, Massachusetts with the old mill buildings?

No, because the buildings aren't there. This plan looks at investing in amenities--recreational and educational facilities for people in the community. That has been shown to be a very effective economic development tool. Portland, Maine is finding that true. The plan hopes to see the Original developed--there is a headframe and a couple buildings there now, but many vacant acres. Would build an amphitheater for Shakespeare in the Park type things; playgrounds, softball diamond. Something comparable would be developed from the old works in Anaconda. Janet Cornish [Urban Revitalization Agency head] wants to work on livening the night life in Butte; this would help. Close to Uptown, accessible.

Q: The Historic Preservation commission just denied a request by the Catholic Church to tear down the old rectory on Galena Street. What was the reaction to that?

Janet Ore, Preservation Officer, said that one old man called her up, complained bitterly, hung up. But others were supportive.

Q: Do you take heat over a decision like that for 'standing in the paths of progress?'

They want to replace the building with a garage, and it's hard to see a garage as progress. If there is a real community or

business need, the procedures that are set up allow tearing down an historic building--if the need is demonstrated. The ordinance just requires that any need that is made is considered. On the one hand, it's hard to see how the garage is progress. And on the other hand, that building is the oldest Catholic building in Butte; it's something that can remind people that Butte started out small. In the beginning, the Catholic church was very modest. With it gone, you only have the ornate Church there and the rectory. Christ was born in a manger; perhaps a reminder of humility is good for the Catholic Church to maintain.

Q: Have you seen a change in attitude over time?

When the local preservation ordinance was passed, it covered the boundaries of the Central Business District, the West Side, and the mining area. The Anaconda company was asking that the mine yards be exempted. Some on the citizens advisory board thought we should give in so the whole ordinance wouldn't go down. Fred encouraged them not to--they could use that as a fall back position if necessary, but 'should try to hold out for the mine areas. Even without Fred's urging, though, the Council of Commissioners stood up to the Anaconda Company request, said the headframes were important. By that time, AMC was more a 'ghost from the past,' and Fred thinks the Commissioners might have enjoyed the chance to rough them up a bit.

In terms of community interest, Janet Ore gets lots of visits from people who want to know more about their homes or business. And when Entech was approached about their remodeling of the Hennessey building and asked not to damage the look of the building, they immediately reacted to that. They saw something important about that building. These things indicated that people have a sense of the importance of preservation, and are paying attention to it.

Q: How much of that attention comes from an understanding of the long term economic advantages of preservation; that a preserved Uptown will be a draw to people.

Probably, right now, their awareness is more in the sense of historical importance. But Fred sees the implementation of the Mine Yard Park Plan as a chance to educate the legislators and the public about the economic development side of preservation. Janet Ore tries to make people aware.

Q: Several business have tried to locate in Uptown and have had trouble--the Uptown Cafe took a long time to find a location; Pat Van Alton (sp?) has been trying to find a location for the Sweetgrass Bakery [and just signed a lease].

Although there is a lot of empty space uptown, there is not much groundlevel stuff. Because of the extra space, a lot of ground level retail space is taken up by businesses that would normally be on upper floors--lawyers and such. A goal for the future would be to move them upstairs and open up that space for retail.

There isn't as much available space as you might think. A lot of buildings which look like commercial buildings on their upper floors were actually boarding houses for miners; they are harder to rennovate for commercial space.

A lot of people were waiting for the Company to buy them out, so their buildings have stood vacant. Right now there are some plans for the Empire Building, where the Old Stockman's Bar was. There is a second buildings there which looks like part of the Empire but actually isn't; it belongs to a man who keeps his antique cars there. He isn't interested in selling it because he could't find another place so cheap to house his cars. That's a problem with an area deteriorating to a point where buildings seem useless; they are so cheap that people aren't willing to give them up. That works both ways. On the one hand, a business can get a building cheaply to start up. On the other hand, it works against rennovation, because why would anyone want to pay \$7 or \$9 a square foot, even though that's cheaper than out on the Flats, when other Uptown space goes or \$2 or \$3?

But over time we hope to see an increase in the value of real estate, and an economy revitalized to help pay the higher rates.

Q: Is there a problem with codes that works against re-using old buildings?

You can sell a building without bringing it up to code. And through the historic preservation ordinances, a building can get an exemption from following the letter of the law.

Q: Hillstead's Department Store is talking about building a new building uptown; why don't they rennovate something?

Harp Cote is intent on building a new building. The Miners Bank where his office is now could have been a good choice. But many think that a new buildings Uptown could be a boost--there hasn't been a large new building built Uptown for 10 years. The design of the building will have to be approved to fit into the Uptown. Fred would like to see the new building build faith to the point that people will buy up some of the other old buildings.

Q: You have been here through the closing of the mines. How did you react?

That situation demonstrated the spirit and commitment of the community in its response. Fred wishes that it hadn't taken the mines actually closing to do it. He thinks it's the best thing that ever happened to Butte--it forced it to diversify. He is a little sorry that Montana Resources bought the mines so soon, yet he realizes that the concentrator would have been demolished if they hadn't. A lot of people have realized that we have to do new things; that we can't let ourselves depend on the mine alone.

But Butte has been very successful compared to someplace like Leadville, Colorado, which dried up when the Molybdenum mine

closed. Of course, Leadville was closer to Denver, which had attractions and jobs. But Butte has a very special commitment.

Q: Why do you think that commitment is stronger here than elsewhere?

People have family ties here, though of course there are family ties elsewhere. People who are here are survivors--they survived a sever climate, but more important, survived a severe work enironment, political and economic environment with Anaconda the dominant force.

Gramsci is an Italian who has done much philosophical writing about how people respond to hardship in the work palce and how they develop other things that are a counterforce--community organization, activities, ties. Fraternal organizations, strong ethnic ties. The counterforce had to be stronger than the hard workplace to be effective.

Q: What stands in Butte's way as far as it's survival goes?

It's hard to say. If too many people wear blinders, Fred supposes. It's up to the people who live here to make it or not; if too many insist on putting all their eggs with Montana Resources or into something like the Amax situation, it will be bad. Amax at one point talked about building an aluminum plant. All they said was that they were looking at Montana and considering Butte. There was a dinner for 800 at the Copper King. If everyone got started trying to get one industry in here to solve our problems, it would be bad. What we need is a lot of people to keep working in a lot of different directions--that could be great. If we can fix up the old buildings, people will have the option of living in an ethnic city.

Q: Who do you see as the main players in Butte's future and present?

Don Peoples, certainly. He is incredibly effective. Fred worries that he may have ambitions to take the next step, whatever that is, move on from being Chief Executive. And the next mayor might be run of the mill.

More than players, Fred looks to movements that will help Butte. He sees it developing as a tech center. Because of the Anaconda Company first and now Montana Power, as well as Montana Tech, MERDI, etc, there are more engineers per capita here than elsewhere in MT. And engineers are innovative. Montana Power spinoffs are doing inovative stuff. RTI, Multi Tech, others have the potential for innovative people to develop new technologies.

Tourism can be a significant part of our economic base, assuming people continue to travel.

Reclamation--in the short term, because millions of dollars will be spent to move dirt around; in the future because of the

condition it will leave Butte in. That could work both ways--if the reclamation is done well, well designed, it could be beneficial. Or it could be neutral, or if done badly, it could hurt, leave Butte ugly. Butte is already ugly, but it's an interesting ugly.

This summer, AMC will be doing a lot. There is a small staff in Anaconda working on reclamation. The EPA can do it but they charge three times the cost. AMC is trying to get the jump on it, minimize their costs. ASARCO is taking a different tack, going to fight it all the way in the courts. It's fortunate for Butte that Anaconda feels the way it does.

Also, Bureau of State Lands is capping mine shafts.

There is a lot to be done with Silver Bow Creek. Anaconda will do a lot of it. But the problem is they don't know how to handle it, nor does EPA. Terrible problem, lots of heavy metals--arsenic, copper, cadmium, lead. Problem of stirring that stuff up when you try to do anything with it. One option is to stabilize it, and leave it.

Some people say that the medical community here will grow; Fred doesn't understand that.

Q: Will you be here 10 years from now?

Fred says he will probably be here 10 years from now, but will leave in the interim to go back to school. This feels like home to Fred, though he realizes anything could happen. Other places haven't felt so much like home.

He dreams a lot, and he is incredibly work-oriented in terms of dreams. He day dreams a lot about what he could do here--and those things involve work. He supposes he could be doing that someplace else but it's really satisfying here--the old buildings, the Montana landscape. He's interested in the history of technology and Butte provides the opportunity to look at that. It is intriguing here--heavy industry in the midst of the frontier; and the technology systems that operated to make the mines function are interesting. He is interested in the human side, how people organized in relation to that technology, who controlled the scene, and how Butte fit into the nationwide experience. Here he gets to live in the midst of it, go to the archives when he has a chance, dig around. Deluth, Minnesota is also interesting.

After we've turned off the tape, Fred says that he is a dreamer, and Butte gives him a chance to put his dreams into action.