

INTERVIEW OF MARK WAITE

BY GWENDOLYN CLANCY

EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA

YUCCA MOUNTAIN LESSONS LEARNED PROJECT

held in

PAHRUMP, NEVADA

on

April 15, 2011

1 MS. CLANCY: We have the tape rolling, and I will
2 just say that today is April 15, 2011. This is Gwen Clancy
3 running the camera and doing the interview. We are
4 interviewing Mark Waite. We're in Pahrump, Nevada in front
5 of the Pahrump Valley Times.

6 And, let's go ahead and just start out, Mark, with
7 your telling us about what papers you work for, you know,
8 just give us a rundown, and then, obviously, you're here with
9 the Pahrump Valley Times at this point in time.

10 MR. WAITE: Okay, certainly. I first moved to
11 Nevada in October of 1996. I took a job at the Elko Daily
12 Free Press in Elko, Nevada, which is Northeastern Nevada, and
13 I went to work for the Steninger (phonetic) family that owned
14 the paper. And, I worked there until just after the new
15 millennium, until January of 2000.

16 Then, I came down to Nye County, to Pahrump, Nevada
17 and I started working for the Pahrump Valley View, which is a
18 weekly tabloid put out by Stevens Media, the publishers of
19 the Las Vegas Review Journal. Then in late 2002, Stevens
20 Media acquired the Pahrump Valley Times, which is the regular
21 twice weekly newspaper here in Pahrump, and then I went to
22 work for the Pahrump Valley Times. I've been working for
23 them since late 2002, except for a two-year period from May
24 of 2004 until April of 2006 when I left town and went
25 elsewhere. And, I came back to Pahrump in 2006, and I've

1 been working for the Pahrump Valley Times again ever since.
2 So, it's been five years since I've been back.

3 MS. CLANCY: Okay, great. And, so, the questions
4 are both--we're looking for specific memories, but also
5 impressions of those years.

6 MR. WAITE: Okay.

7 MS. CLANCY: And--did you want to add something?

8 MR. WAITE: No, if that's your question, yeah, I
9 can--when I worked for the Elko Daily Free Press, I covered
10 almost all of Northeastern Nevada outside of Elko proper.
11 So, my coverage area extended from West Wendover, in Jarbidge
12 way, the borders of Utah and Idaho, all the way down to
13 Eureka and Austin and Central Nevada.

14 I can remember back then they were working on the
15 preliminary EIS for Yucca Mountain. And, it was supposed to
16 come out in the fall of 1999, and then it got delayed because
17 there were some concerns, I believe, by, I don't know, one of
18 the groups that was, I believe, opposing the project, so they
19 put off the hearings on the preliminary EIS until very late
20 in 1999. I covered the hearing in Crescent Valley in
21 Northern Eureka County, which is where, at that time, it was
22 one of the five proposed train routes they were going to
23 build through Yucca Mountain.

24 And, then, I covered another hearing in Austin,
25 Nevada, and I recall that hearing very well because while the

1 hearing was going on, it was snowing outside, and it was in
2 December and they had a hearing there in this old town hall
3 office building, a very old building, and I was just watching
4 it snow and snow and snow while the hearing was going on.
5 And, a lot of these DOE people were there, and then I had to
6 drive all the way back to Elko, which is normally a fairly
7 easy, probably two, two and half hour drive from Austin, it
8 was just white knuckle ride all the way back through the
9 snow. So, I kind of remembered it personally.

10 I remembered the hearing in Crescent Valley. At
11 that time, there were people that were concerned because the
12 route that they were proposing, one of the five routes, the
13 longest route, would have come from the Union Pacific tracks,
14 along Interstate 80, and branched out at a little town called
15 Beowawe, and then it would go all the way down to Yucca
16 Mountain, through Crescent Valley, through the Austin area,
17 and there were some residents there in Crescent Valley who
18 were concerned because apparently, there would be an average
19 of four trains a week carrying this nuclear material that
20 would be passing through there community.

21 Now, I will mentioned that, really, before I moved
22 to Nevada in 1996, I had worked for a newspaper back in the
23 Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and that's where I was back when
24 the Nuclear Waste Policy Act was first signed, and the
25 Amended Bill was signed that designated--I was aware back

1 then that--aware of I think five sites that they were talking
2 about for Yucca Mountain.

3 And, then, of course, eventually, I think it was
4 1987, what they refer to as the Screw Nevada Bill, where they
5 had narrowed that down to the Yucca Mountain site in 1987.
6 Well, of course, at that time, I was still working in Texas,
7 so I might have read a little bit about it in the national
8 press, I didn't really hear a whole lot about it until I came
9 to Nevada, and, you know, there were other things that you
10 never really heard about in the East, like the BLM, the U.S.
11 Bureau of Land Management, that's a very big deal out here.
12 The Sagebrush Rebellion was, Elko was very much, kind of
13 almost like the epicenter of that. So, you never really
14 heard about all of that back East, where they didn't have all
15 this public land managed by the federal government.

16 MS. CLANCY: Can I jump in here and ask you in
17 Elko, where you were first, what sort of sentiment was there
18 about--was there a mixture of sentiment?

19 MR. WAITE: It was very anti-fed, anti-federal
20 government up there. There were a lot of people, like I
21 said, it seemed to be kind of almost like I had to get a
22 really quick introduction to the Sagebrush Rebellion, and the
23 people who ran the Elko Daily Free Press at the time, the
24 Steninger family, including my editor, Rex Steninger, were
25 very anti-federal government. Usually, if I wanted to get on

1 the front page of the paper, I usually--all I had to do was
2 quote somebody that was criticizing the Federal government,
3 and they would put it on the front page, whether it was a
4 water dispute, a grazing allotment, something like that.

5 And, generally, with the State, they didn't have
6 too much of a problem, although at the time, they were really
7 attacking someone who was the head of, I believe, like a
8 natural resource type of agency, Pete Morrels (phonetic), who
9 was a State official. But, generally, it was the Federal
10 government.

11 One of the first headlines I read when I first came
12 to town was somebody was accusing a county commissioner of
13 being a Federal stooge, and they really were attacking the
14 BLM field office manager up there. They had a weekly column
15 called Barbed Wire every Friday, and woe to you if you were
16 on the bad side of the editor and his brother, the business
17 manager, because they wrote the column every week. Very much
18 anti-federal government. This was all new to me, so that was
19 basically the sentiment.

20 As far as Yucca Mountain, you know, my editor
21 didn't seem to really be opposed to it. He just said, "Well,
22 if you looked at the country down there," he said that there
23 was no better place for it, in his opinion. So, you know,
24 this was also somebody who didn't think we should have wild
25 horses, he said they should be shot, they were a nuisance to

1 ranchers.

2 MS. CLANCY: Do you think it seemed far away enough
3 that it really wouldn't impact Elko?

4 MR. WAITE: I think Elko felt like they were
5 insulated enough for it. The only impact there could have
6 been would be perhaps they had a very busy train route
7 through Elko, the Union Pacific train tracks went right
8 through there, and they were very busy. That probably could
9 have been their only impact.

10 Of course, here in Pahrump and Nye County, we're at
11 the site county for Yucca Mountain, so we're a lot more
12 impacted. And, Elko County wasn't even really one of the
13 what they call the ten "affected units of local government,"
14 or AULGs. Those are the ten counties that get oversight
15 money for Yucca Mountain that surround Yucca Mountain. Elko
16 County didn't really--wasn't really a boundary of it. Eureka
17 County and Lander County were, and as I recall back then,
18 they would typically get about \$180,000 a year for oversight
19 money.

20 Now, Lander County, they use most of theirs for
21 public education. They sponsored a lot of trips to Yucca
22 Mountain. One of the trips when I toured the facility was
23 with Lander County officials, including the sheriff, a few
24 other people. It was kind of nice driving down to Beatty in
25 February from Elko where it was warmer, and we all stayed at

1 the Burro Inn. We all ate steaks because it was all on the--

2 MS. CLANCY: The Federal Government was banker?

3 MR. WAITE: Somebody was--I guess the Oversight
4 Program was. They had a woman in the old courthouse annex in
5 Austin, Nevada, Tammy Manzini (phonetic), who was kind of
6 coordinating their Yucca Mountain Oversight Program. So, we
7 took the tour, went in on the trail.

8 MS. CLANCY: Let me jump in on you. Can you hold
9 the thought? I want to get to that tour.

10 MR. WAITE: Okay.

11 MS. CLANCY: I want to get to it. But, can we ask
12 you first how did you get involved, though, with being the
13 reporter in a way for the Yucca Mountain Project?

14 MR. WAITE: Okay.

15 MS. CLANCY: How did that become your beat, so to
16 speak?

17 MR. WAITE: It kind of became my beat because when
18 I worked for the Elko paper, like I said, I covered Lander
19 and Eureka Counties, and they both got oversight money. They
20 were, I believe, cooperating agencies in the studies. So, I
21 got involved with it. And, when I came down here, I was the
22 only reporter that wrote copy for the Pahrump Valley View.
23 And, then, at that time, the preliminary EIS was just--that
24 process was all unfolding, and the public hearings.

25 MS. CLANCY: You were sent out to a lot of places

1 to do that, I mean, to cover your stories. What kind of
2 public sentiment was coming up, both in Elko and in Lander
3 County and Eureka County, what do you remember about public
4 reaction?

5 MR. WAITE: I don't remember too much from Elko. I
6 do remember some concerns at the Crescent Valley meeting,
7 like I said, about being right on the rail corridor for that
8 proposed route. There were some residents there that really
9 didn't want to see four trainloads a week of highly
10 radioactive material coming through there.

11 At that time, the Eureka County Commissioners,
12 though, they seemed to be fairly neutral on it. There were
13 some thoughts that perhaps if this train route could be used
14 for other purposes, like--of course, Eureka County, I kind of
15 laughed because they don't have much industry there, but I
16 think they were hoping they could ship their bails of hay or
17 something. They wanted to be able to use this train route
18 for dual purposes, not just for shipping the nuclear waste.
19 And, so, I think there was some hope in Eureka County, and I
20 think this was also shared by other counties in Nevada, that
21 if they built this rail line, that it could be used for other
22 purposes.

23 As far as the regular citizens, I didn't see a big
24 outcry against the project, like I say, other than some
25 people in Crescent Valley at the public hearing were just

1 concerned about the train shipments.

2 MS. CLANCY: Well, okay. Well, let's talk about
3 that. You said there wasn't really--your paper wasn't taking
4 an editorial position at that time?

5 MR. WAITE: No. And, I don't think my editor, he
6 just felt, like I say, that this Southern Nye County, where
7 it was proposed, was just a big wasteland, he said that was
8 probably the perfect place for it. He didn't seem to really
9 have any objections to it. That was Elko.

10 MS. CLANCY: That was Elko. So, even though Elko
11 had an anti-federal stance, they were okay with the feds
12 coming in for Yucca?

13 MR. WAITE: They didn't seem to have a big
14 objection with the project. And, that is kind of a, you
15 know, that is sort of hypocritical, I guess. If they're
16 anti-fed, why would they be in favor of this--I don't think
17 they just took a big stand against it. And, part of that
18 could have been maybe because they didn't really like the
19 environmentalists very much either. So--and, as far as, like
20 I say, Eureka County and Lander County, I don't think--the
21 only thing I remember Eureka County advocating was just dual
22 purpose for that train line. They felt it probably could
23 help their economic development situation if they could use
24 the rail line for their own purposes.

25 And, it was kind of interesting, too, I remember

1 the hearing in Austin on the Lander County comments, the day
2 that was snowing like crazy, there was a--

3 MS. CLANCY: And, what year was that?

4 MR. WAITE: That would have been December of 1999.

5 MS. CLANCY: Okay.

6 MR. WAITE: And, there was a guy named Bill Elquist
7 (phonetic), they only had a three member county commission,
8 and they had this old guy who always wore bib overalls, Bill
9 Elquist, who was on the Lander County Commission, and he was
10 reading a statement because he was their appointed liaison
11 for nuclear waste, and they didn't really have a consultant
12 like Eureka County has, Abby Johnson, so anyway Bill was
13 reading this statement that Lander County had for the
14 preliminary EIS, and he really couldn't even pronounce a lot
15 of the long words. He was stumbling over them trying to
16 pronounce them.

17 And, you know, meanwhile you had the DOE people,
18 the real government people sitting at the one table, and then
19 you had this kind of old country guy from Battle Mountain,
20 Bill Elquist, trying to pronounce these long words, and
21 stumbling over them. So, it kind of looked like we were
22 really--it was sort of like a David and Goliath sort of
23 thing. These were the bright consultants and technicians and
24 scientists for the Federal Government, and here was just sort
25 of a country county commissioner from, you know, in Nevada we

1 call them the Cow Counties, from one of the Cow Counties,
2 trying to read this statement.

3 MS. CLANCY: All right, Mark, let me ask you, let's
4 go ahead and talk about that meeting there.

5 MR. WAITE: Okay.

6 MS. CLANCY: The EIS meeting in Crescent Valley.

7 MR. WAITE: Okay.

8 MS. CLANCY: Okay?

9 MR. WAITE: Well, I personally went to meetings in
10 Eureka County, even though Elko was--well, Elko is about 60
11 miles from Crescent Valley, I made it a point to personally
12 attend meetings. And, it was a public hearing. It was on a
13 weekday night. And, I know that there were concerns, looking
14 at the story that I wrote at the time on December 10th of
15 1999, that one woman here who owns the hot springs in
16 Crescent Valley said that, "If this rail line goes through
17 Crescent Valley, it will put the people here in a no-win
18 situation. If we stay, we will get nuked. If we leave, we
19 lose our property."

20 So, there was talk about 12,227 shipments of
21 nuclear waste, that would be via the Carlin route, which was
22 one of the five routes that they were proposing for the rail
23 shipments. And, another person mentioned they didn't know
24 why they would build this railroad through one of the highest
25 mineralized areas in the U.S. There's some very prominent

1 **gold mines near Crescent Valley, the Cortez Gold Mine being**
2 **the one that comes to mind most common.**

3 Then, of course, there's American Indian concerns,
4 too. There was the Dan sisters. Carrie Dan was a very
5 prominent activist for American Indian rights, and they
6 considered the hot springs there sacred, and she had voiced
7 objections on behalf of the Western Shoshone tribe. And,
8 obviously, atomic energy and that sort of thing didn't quite
9 fit into their philosophy of the natural world.

10 **So, the project would have been the largest**
11 **construction project in the U.S. since World War I, I'm told,**
12 **and there were just concerns by Eureka County that there**
13 **wasn't enough information.** The County Commissioner at the
14 time, Pete Ocochia (phonetic), who is now a State
15 Assemblyman, mentioned that 59 percent of all the assessed
16 parcels in Eureka County were within ten miles of this route.

17 Then, of course, eventually, though, there was--the
18 five routes were narrowed down to the Caliente corridor, and
19 that was the one that was chosen, which would come from
20 Lincoln County, Caliente. It would skirt all around the
21 Nevada Test Site, and then come down Highway 95 from Tonopah,
22 down to Yucca Mountain. And, people kind of wondered why
23 they couldn't go through the Nevada Test Site, because that
24 was also Federal land, but apparently they had to go around
25 Nellis Air Force Base, they had to go around the Nevada Test

1 Site, and then come down. So, that was the rail route option
2 that was eventually approved.

3 Now, I remember the Crescent Valley public hearing.
4 It was a crowded room. It wasn't a very big room to have the
5 hearing. It was in their little town hall, and it was pretty
6 packed full of people. They were all coming there to
7 comment. I saw Abby Johnson there, and I believe she made a
8 statement on behalf of the County, and was pretty actively
9 involved in the hearing.

10 MS. CLANCY: And, when--do you remember Bob
11 Halstead?

12 MR. WAITE: He's been at a few of the hearings that
13 I've been to, both in Eureka County and also in Nye County.
14 Yeah, he's the, I believe, the State--he's the head of the
15 State Nuclear Agency Project Office, or something of that
16 sort.

17 MS. CLANCY: And, Abby was saying that he was
18 remembering that the citizens did a lot of outreach. So,
19 there was a lot going on in the town, I mean, there was a lot
20 of sentiment about this at this meeting.

21 MR. WAITE: Around that time, yes, there was. And,
22 I don't remember really seeing a lot of signs or anything,
23 but I do remember there being, you know, they being very
24 involved around that time of the preliminary EIS, because
25 that's when it was announced, that's when the rail corridor

1 was announced, the Carlin corridor.

2 And, it was kind of interesting, too, during that
3 time, just as an aside, there was a shipment of nuclear
4 material, nuclear waste on the Union Pacific train tracks
5 along I-80 that was part of the Atoms for Peace program, and
6 it was a very--a pretty publicized event. It turned out to
7 be almost a non-event. They shipped this container like on
8 a--it was like on a little package container on a flatbed
9 rail car, and they were shipping it through Elko to the Idaho
10 National Engineering Laboratory, and it was some of this
11 highly radioactive material, and I believe it was from Korea
12 or Taiwan or one of the East Asian countries that was
13 returning some of this nuclear waste to be buried in Idaho.
14 And, that was sort of a big thing. But, it was interesting
15 because I was trying to get photos of the train when it went
16 by, and it just came by in just an instant. You know, there
17 you saw the flatbed train car with the containerized
18 shipment, and there it went.

19 MS. CLANCY: Was there any kind of PR value that
20 was supposed to do with that, like it was okay to ship
21 radioactive waste?

22 MR. WAITE: Well, I think there was some objections
23 to it being shipped when it arrived at the Oakland Harbor,
24 but there was no sign of any sort of protest or anything as
25 it passed through Elko, and it was something I covered as a

1 reporter to get a photo of it. Again, it went by so quickly
2 I don't even know if I got much--a very good photo of it.

3 MS. CLANCY: Interesting tracking on that.

4 MR. WAITE: Yeah.

5 MS. CLANCY: Well, before, you started to talk
6 about the Yucca Mountain tour. Let's now get into that in
7 detail. What year was that?

8 MR. WAITE: Okay, that would have been, oh, I'm
9 thinking that also could have been 1999. I remember it was
10 in February, because it was cold in Elko, and I obviously
11 welcomed the chance to take a tour of Yucca Mountain in the
12 wintertime when it would be warmer down there.

13 So, I went with the Lander County delegation. It
14 included the sheriff, or the undersheriff, one of the two,
15 and we went down to Beatty and stayed at the Burro Inn. We
16 all ate steaks because it was all on the expense account.
17 And, then, they took us down to Yucca Mountain. I remember
18 how barren the desert looked.

19 And, what's interesting is there was really not
20 even a sign that said Yucca Mountain, you know, this way on
21 Highway 95. You just turned off on what looked like a quiet
22 paved road, two-lane road. I believe there was a sign that
23 said ERF, or something, which I think stood for Exploratory
24 Research Facility. Then, you went through a check point.
25 And, then, after that, then you got into the area up there

1 where they took you on the tour, and we went in on the train.
2 First, we had to get outfitted with all the safety gear, with
3 the hard hat. I remember the oxygen tank that you had to
4 have on your belt buckle, all this gear which is really
5 cumbersome, safety glasses, and then they took us in on this
6 little train which almost looked like an ore cart, and we
7 rode the train into where they were doing all the testing at
8 the time.

9 And, at the time, they were testing the thermal
10 load, I guess, because the radioactivity, the radioactive
11 material is hot. So, they had some temperature gauges there,
12 and they had a big readout there that was measuring how many
13 kilowatt hours that they had accumulated, and how much it was
14 costing, and what the temperature was. And, it seems to me
15 like I thought it was more like 500-some degrees that they
16 were heating up the rock, I guess just to see what effect the
17 radioactive heat would have on it.

18 And, then, at the time of course we were told that
19 yeah, in a couple years, they're going to start building all
20 these alcoves into the mountain where all the nuclear waste
21 is going to be stored. And, I remember getting out of the
22 tunnel and back out into the light of day and thinking how
23 happy I was to get out there and breathe the fresh air again.

24 Okay, I guess I had never been in an underground
25 mine before, so I wasn't used to--perhaps I was a little

1 closterphobic being under there. So, yeah, it was very nice
2 to get out and see the sunshine and breathe the fresh air
3 again after the tour.

4 MS. CLANCY: How many people were in that little
5 car you talked about?

6 MR. WAITE: I'd say probably 15, 20.

7 MS. CLANCY: And, did you go down deep, did you
8 feel, or did you stay on one level?

9 MR. WAITE: We stayed on one level, it was all
10 pretty level, and I can't remember whether they called it the
11 North Portal or the South Portal. They had this huge tunnel
12 boring machine that was right there that they had used to
13 bore the tunnel through there, and it was still there, and
14 actually, they were trying to sell it, I think it was for
15 sale for \$20 million. And, it was amazing to see the cutter
16 heads on that thing that they used to just bore this tunnel
17 all the way in there for the research.

18 And, I think we--I remember stopping at an office
19 there, too, some sort of a--it might have been a DOE office
20 of some sort, you know, where we saw--we talked to the people
21 there, and then we pretty much went back to Beatty. That was
22 my first tour.

23 I also had another tour when I came to Nye County,
24 to Pahrump. Do you want me to talk about that one?

25 MS. CLANCY: Yes, please.

1 MR. WAITE: Well, that was when I worked at the
2 Pahrump Valley View. And, it's interesting--

3 MS. CLANCY: Was it a predecessor to this?

4 MR. WAITE: That was a--the newspaper that I first
5 worked for when I came to Pahrump. It's no longer published
6 right now. It was like a weekly feature type tabloid. So, I
7 went on a tour and I remember that I met a bunch of people
8 that came out from Las Vegas.

9 MS. CLANCY: And, what year was that?

10 MR. WAITE: That would have been about 2000, 2001.

11 MS. CLANCY: Okay.

12 MR. WAITE: And, oh, it was 2001 because I remember
13 it was right after 911, it was right after the terrorist
14 attack of September 11th. And, whereas, you know, I had
15 previously taken a tour out there not long before that,
16 because I toured the Nevada Test Site for the 50th
17 Anniversary of the Founding of the Nevada Test Site, and so,
18 then they--I had this other tour of Yucca Mountain was not
19 long after that, but this was right after September 11th, and
20 they had a lot of heightened security out there. And, I
21 remember driving my car up there, right up to the check
22 point, and then I got out and there was two men and a woman,
23 and they worked for, I think, a private security firm,
24 Wackenhut.

25 And, I rolled down the window and I said to the

1 woman, "Well, I think I'm here for the tour. I'm meeting the
2 tour from Las Vegas, and I'm from Pahrump. And, I was just
3 going to park my car right over there," and she was very
4 officious, and she said, "Oh, no, you're not. You're going
5 to get out of your car and we're going to search your
6 vehicle." And, I was just sort of, like, okay. You know,
7 she was wearing her sort of military fatigues and her boots
8 and everything. And, they checked my car. They checked the
9 trunk. They checked under the hood. They checked
10 everywhere, and I thought, I guess everybody was very touchy
11 right after the terrorist the attack, so I was just very
12 taken aback by how officious she was.

13 And, I kind of--I could probably make a little
14 joke, I joked with my friends when I got home. I said, I
15 think she's a dominatrix on the side, or something, because I
16 was just so put off by her manner. It was like, you know,
17 all I wanted to do was just park the car over there, I was
18 right outside the check point, and wait for the bus to come
19 out, or whatever. I can't remember how they drove us out
20 there. And she was just very, very officious.

21 MS. CLANCY: What about the earthquake you
22 mentioned?

23 MR. WAITE: Well, it's interesting because right
24 after I moved to Pahrump in January of 2000, not long after I
25 moved here, probably within six months, I was lying on my bed

1 about 5 o'clock in the morning in Pahrump, and I felt a
2 little shaking on the bed, sort of like magic fingers at the
3 Motel 6 where you put your quarter in, and I felt just a
4 little bit of shaking. And, I read in the news that day that
5 there was an earthquake I believe about 4 or 5 on the Richter
6 scale, and they said that it originated in Skull Mountain,
7 which was apparently right near Yucca Mountain. Then, I
8 thought, well, that's a good place to have an earthquake.
9 So, that's really the only one that I've felt since I've been
10 here. But, that was just something I thought I'd mention.

11 The second tour, yeah, that was when I lived in
12 Pahrump here. And, at that time, also, they had a Yucca
13 Mountain information office here in Pahrump, and they had
14 someone whose job was just to work there for the DOE and give
15 people tours of Yucca Mountain. I think they had them about
16 once a month. I went on like an official delegation.

17 And, again, we went in on the train. This time
18 they also took us up on top of the mountain to show us the
19 topography of the area, and we looked at a little, you know,
20 some other--just about everything there that we could. I
21 think they were still doing the thermal testing, but they
22 were just about to finish.

23 MS. CLANCY: When you were on the tours, either
24 one, were there scientists and people who seemed very well
25 versed, the experts?

1 MR. WAITE: Yeah.

2 MS. CLANCY: And, how did they answer questions
3 such as what if there's an earthquake, or, you know, what if
4 there's groundwater trickling through here? How did their
5 scientific evidence sort of strike you?

6 MR. WAITE: Well, they were talking about how the,
7 apparently, the water table was like 1000 feet below the
8 mountain, and that it was--they made it sound like the
9 mountain was almost pretty much, you know, seal proof, as far
10 as leaks, and that sort of thing. It was very dry.

11 One thing, there was a guy named Mike Vogel on one
12 of the tours that I spoke to, the second tour, and he was, I
13 believe, the chief scientist for Bechtel SAIC, which was the
14 company that had the contract managing the Yucca Mountain
15 project. And, one interesting question at that time, people
16 were starting to say, well, they were starting to talk about
17 reusing the nuclear waste. And, apparently, I had heard that
18 at countries like France, that they were reusing a lot of the
19 nuclear waste instead of just burying it all. And, so, I
20 asked Mr. Vogel, I said, "Well, why don't they just do that
21 here in the U.S.," and he just gave a simple answer, "Well,
22 raw uranium is cheaper." So, I thought that was sort of an
23 interesting answer.

24 Now, of course, people are still trying to talk
25 about recycling it, and maybe the attitudes are changing a

1 little bit. But, at the time, they just felt that was the
2 cheaper way, let's just use raw uranium instead of recycling
3 this. And, then, we'll just bury all the waste.

4 MS. CLANCY: What sort of--did they answer
5 questions like earthquake or like, you know, problems with--
6 they were coming up in the press, problems that you were
7 talking about, how were they handling that? And, were they
8 convincing, I guess?

9 MR. WAITE: They didn't really have a lot of real
10 Yucca Mountain critics there. Now, I do remember one of the
11 tours I was on, I believe the first one, there was a woman
12 who used to work for the Las Vegas Sun named Mary Manning,
13 and if you get a chance to speak to her, she was a--wrote on
14 the Yucca Mountain project very very heavily for the Las
15 Vegas Sun. This was before they merged their paper with the
16 Las Vegas Review Journal. And, she was along on one of the
17 tours, and she was obviously a lot more knowledgeable. She
18 may have had some more critical questions. I think they
19 pretty much tried to explain the permeability, the volcanic
20 activity, or earthquake activity that could occur. And, of
21 course, they were always trying to relay the impression that
22 this project was totally safe, that there were no problems
23 with either of those, or any of those problems.

24 The second tour, I think I got to see a lot more,
25 and perhaps that could have been because I was right here in

1 Pahrump. The first one was just a delegation from Lander
2 County, you know, mostly from Battle Mountain. That's quite
3 a ways away. So, I think I got to see a little more the
4 second time. Like I say, they took us even up on the top of
5 the mountain to look around at the topography of the area.

6 MS. CLANCY: Great. Okay. Well, were there other
7 meetings or events related to Yucca Mountain that stand out
8 for you?

9 MR. WAITE: Well, yeah, after I left Northern
10 Nevada and I moved to Pahrump, I remembered when they had the
11 final EIS, and it was interesting because--and, they were
12 packed, it was a packed house here at the Bob Rudd Community
13 Center in Pahrump, which houses a couple hundred people.
14 And, I remembered a lot of the theater that was involved in
15 it, and there was a group of anti-Yucca Mountain people
16 called the Shundahai Network, and it was all kind of led by a
17 Western Shoshone leader called Corbin Harney, who passed away
18 a couple years ago, and he led a lot of these. He was kind
19 of a spiritual leader of this group, and they were all sort
20 of, I guess you'd call them like old hippie types, I guess.

21 MS. CLANCY: This meeting, we're in front of it,
22 aren't we?

23 MR. WAITE: No, the Bob Rudd Community Center is
24 elsewhere in Pahrump, it's in the middle of Pahrump here.
25 So, they had a lot of theater there. They had a lot of

1 displays outside the community center, and there was a few
2 hours of people that were opposed to it. But, a lot of them
3 were from outside of Pahrump. There weren't really a lot of
4 people that were from Pahrump that were really in opposition.

5 There was one woman who was an elderly woman who
6 was actually fairly intelligent, named Sally Devlin, and she
7 hasn't been very active anymore in politics, but at the time,
8 she was the main opponent of the Yucca Mountain project. You
9 know, she talked about what a government boondoggle it was,
10 and, you know, the scientists--attacked the science of it.
11 She, of course, would get up and complain about it. And,
12 then, this Shundahai Network--and, actually Shundahai had an
13 office here in town for a while at the time.

14 MS. CLANCY: How do you spell Shundahai?

15 MR. WAITE: Shundahai was S-h-u-n-d-a-h-a-i. And,
16 I'm not sure what it stood for. It might have been an Indian
17 name. And, like I said, there were a lot of these sort of
18 hippie type people, I guess you could call them, from outside
19 of the area, mostly Las Vegas, and then were a few activists,
20 too, that were there. People, groups like Wide-open--not
21 Wide-open Nevada--there was an environmental leader from an
22 environmental group in Las Vegas, and I can't remember her
23 name right now.

24 Okay, Citizen Alert was one of them. Then, there
25 was another group, and I think it was something like

1 Wilderness Nevada, or some kind of name like that, and they
2 were involved as well. But, the main one I think of is the
3 Shundahai Network. And, it was interesting because the guy
4 who worked for the DOE at the Yucca Mountain information
5 office at the time was dating the woman who was one of the
6 leaders of the Shundahai Network. So, while he was working
7 for the DOE and getting his paycheck, he was dating and
8 eventually married a woman named Merlin, who was one of the
9 heads of the Shundahai Network. So, that was sort of
10 interesting.

11 MS. CLANCY: Okay. And, so, here in Pahrump, what
12 was the general feeling of people, not necessarily at a
13 meeting, you know, but what sense did you have? Did people
14 see economic opportunity?

15 MR. WAITE: There were a lot of people who did.
16 There were some people who thought this was going to create a
17 lot of jobs, and particularly a lot of county officials.
18 And, there were some opponents who thought this was just--you
19 know, and a few of them right near the end of the public
20 hearing, who said well, we're all going to go up in one big
21 cloud of--mushroom cloud, or something or other, if this
22 thing goes up.

23 But, a lot of the sentiment was yeah, there were
24 some people in favor, but I thought for the most part, most
25 of the people at the public hearing here in Pahrump were from

1 outside of town, and I thought for the most part, most people
2 here were fairly apathetic. They didn't seem to really seem
3 to care really one way or another, at least not a lot of them
4 showed up for the public hearings from Pahrump, a lot of the
5 average citizens.

6 MS. CLANCY: Okay. Were there any sort of
7 surprises or fluky events that took place that you recall,
8 things you were surprised by?

9 MR. WAITE: I think mainly just some of the theater
10 that they had outside, just some of the booths, the displays,
11 like they might have, you know, somebody dressed up like a
12 giant lizard, desert lizard, or something, who was going to
13 perish in this project. And, when you listened to Corbin
14 Harney, the leader of the Western Shoshones here, he was from
15 Tecopa California, right across the state line, a lot of
16 times, you know, his speeches would be like well, they're
17 killing the animals, they're killing the plants, they're
18 killing everything, and it was almost I thought yeah, I guess
19 we're all just going to hell in a handbasket, you know, it
20 was just a very fatalistic view of everything, that we're
21 just poisoning everything. So, that was kind of interesting
22 to hear.

23 And, they did read a statement I believe in the
24 Pahrump hearing from an Indian tribe I think up in Minnesota,
25 for some reason, and I think they had a nuclear plant near

1 them and they wanted to get rid of their nuclear waste by
2 sending it here. So, they spoke in favor of the project, and
3 it was like, I don't know, Prairie Island, or something like
4 that. So, that was kind of interesting.

5 MS. CLANCY: Did the focus of the paper, in any of
6 the papers, shift over time that you could discern?

7 MR. WAITE: I'm not sure if the Elko paper had
8 printed many editorials on Yucca Mountain. And, the Pahrump
9 Valley View didn't really have editorials. When I came to
10 work at the Pahrump Valley Times, they printed columns, but
11 not editorials. So, I don't know if the newspapers really
12 took a stance.

13 Of course, the Pahrump Valley Times was owned by
14 the Las Vegas Review Journal when I worked for it, so the
15 Review Journal had a lot of editorials on there, and I
16 believe they were in opposition to it.

17 MS. CLANCY: Good. Okay. Well, we'll take a pause
18 here for a moment.

19 MR. WAITE: And, I'll get up.

20 MS. CLANCY: Okay.

21 MR. WAITE: And, it's sort of a coincidence because
22 we're talking here at the Calvada Eye, and right behind us is
23 the Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project Office. It's
24 in this what looks like a trailer here right next to the Nye
25 County Government Center, where the county manager, county

1 commissioners, and Nye County has its government offices.

2 MS. CLANCY: So, since it's so convenient, Mark, I
3 think what we'll do is we'll just walk over and finish the
4 interview over there.

5 MR. WAITE: Okay.

6 MS. CLANCY: Why don't we start by just saying
7 where we are right now.

8 MR. WAITE: Okay.

9 MS. CLANCY: Go ahead.

10 MR. WAITE: Now, we're here right in front of the
11 Nye County Nuclear Waste Project Office here in Pahrump.
12 This is where the Nye County has the Director of its Nuclear
13 Waste Project Office. It has some of the scientists that are
14 still working on the project. They all work out of this
15 manufactured building here, and it right next to where there
16 is the Nye County Government Center, which is where all the
17 Nye County Government officials work out of, the County
18 Manager, Assistant County Manager, it's where they have their
19 County Commission meetings. And, it's in a place called the
20 Calvada Eye, which is a large circular roundabout here on
21 Calvada Boulevard in Pahrump.

22 MS. CLANCY: Okay. And, is there anything you want
23 to say about working at this paper with this, sort of
24 thoughts about it, you know, the public sentiment about it,
25 before we go forward.

1 MR. WAITE: Well, obviously, of course, Nye County
2 is, Yucca Mountain is very much front and center. This is
3 the host county for the Yucca Mountain project, and so there
4 were some people here, activists, that were very much against
5 it.

6 Again, like I say, I think most people here are
7 pretty apathetic about the project. A lot of the County
8 Officials are very much for it. They've had numerous trips
9 to Washington with some pro-industry groups, the Energy
10 Communities Alliance. We've had County Officials going on
11 trips overseas to tour their nuclear storage facilities in
12 Japan, in Scandinavia, Sweden and Finland. That was probably
13 four or five years ago. It was sort of a pro-Yucca Mountain
14 group.

15 And, of course, Yucca Mountain, they got a lot of--
16 Nye County got a lot of money from Yucca Mountain. They
17 approved what was called "payment equal to taxes," which were
18 five year agreements with the DOE. When the last one ran
19 out, which I believe was in 2009 before President Obama cut
20 the funds for the project, at the height, Nye County got
21 eleven and a quarter million dollars, maybe eleven and a half
22 million dollars in one year from these "payment equal to
23 taxes," and they were supposed to be for the land value of
24 Yucca Mountain, and that was under the Nuclear Waste Policy
25 Act.

1 In addition, they received at one point, I think as
2 much as \$2.8 million in oversight money. And it was kind of
3 interesting because every year, they would have a workshop in
4 Furnace Creek in Death Valley National Park called the
5 Devil's Hole Workshop, and it was usually in early May, and a
6 lot of the scientists who worked on the project would gather
7 down there, and they would deliver papers. It was a very
8 scientific sort of workshop over a period of two days.

9 And, at one of the workshops, I tried to get a
10 straight answer from them with all their oversight and all
11 the years that they've been studying on it, what major
12 breakthrough, or anything, have you ever discovered, and I
13 couldn't really get a straight answer out of any of them. Of
14 course, a lot of them were scientists, I guess, geologists,
15 hydrogeologists, and so forth, and so maybe they were talking
16 like up here, but I just got the impression that--my
17 impression was that a lot of the money just kind of went down
18 a hole. A lot of people made a lot of money. A lot of
19 consultants paid \$200,000 a year. One consultant I think
20 even got a half a million a year. You know, what did they
21 ever--what breakthroughs they ever found, I still couldn't
22 really find out. I just didn't really get a straight answer
23 out of them.

24 So, like I said, they have this conference every
25 year. This year, it will be here in Pahrump.

1 MS. CLANCY: They continue with those conferences?

2 MR. WAITE: Yeah, because the Furnace Creek Visitor
3 Center is closed in Death Valley for now for renovation. So,
4 they get a lot of money out of the project, and I think
5 they're really--now there is a new County Commissioner who is
6 really pushing for trying to get support going for the Yucca
7 Mountain project. They had a meeting here not long ago at
8 the museum, and he was urging people to write the new
9 Congressmen to get them to--they want to get the licensing
10 hearings going. They want to finish the licensing hearings,
11 so at least we can finish those in front of the Nuclear
12 Regulatory Commission, and get those going.

13 And, our County Commission Chairman, Gary Hollis,
14 who is very pro-nuclear, I believe he used to work at the
15 test site and he has made numerous trips to Washington, D.C.
16 He has made different remarks, in fact many even quoted in
17 the press there at a function saying that, someone asked him
18 if people in Pahrump, or Nye County, are very concerned about
19 Yucca Mountain. He said most of the complaints I get are
20 about dogs and cats rather than Yucca Mountain. So, they had
21 a nice graphic they put in the Las Vegas Review Journal where
22 they had cartoons of--made cartoon characters of a cat and a
23 dog, and they had, you know, put on there that Fifi and Fido
24 are of more concern than Yucca Mountain, according to this
25 Commissioner.

1 MR. WAITE: What I would think of?

2 MS. CLANCY: Yes, sure, please.

3 MR. WAITE: Okay. Are we rolling?

4 Okay, I would think, you know, I've listened to the
5 talk about this project for years and years, and I mean to me
6 it does seem like a real shame that we're going to spend,
7 what, \$13 billion on a project and then just walk away from
8 it. But, I always tell people, I say well, at the same time,
9 I always remind them of the super-collider project in Texas,
10 that was in Waxahachie, Texas just south of Dallas. They
11 were going to build this--in fact, I think they went ahead
12 and built this huge ring in the ground, the super-collider
13 project, spent all these billions on it, and then they just
14 walked away from it.

15 So, obviously, with the Federal Government, the
16 precedence is there. And, I'm sure you can see a lot of
17 those examples in the military as well, where they just spend
18 money on something, and then just decide to scrap it. So, it
19 seems like really a shame that they would build this--spend
20 all this money on these studies. They really haven't really
21 built too much of the actual physical structure, other than
22 boring the tunnel in there, and that's about it. So, we've
23 got a hole in the ground, a tunnel with it. It's a shame
24 they can't do something with it.

25 I think, my opinion is I think the facility would

1 be safe, but I really question two things. I question why
2 they just have to ship all the nuclear waste just to one
3 facility here in Southern Nevada. It would be my opinion, if
4 they want to store it in a geologic repository, I should
5 think there would be plenty of places around the country,
6 regional facilities, where they could ship the waste. I
7 think it's a waste of money to ship it across country. And,
8 I believe a lot of it is probably safe on site. I think the
9 dry cask storage, from what I am reading, there aren't too
10 many places that are in real earthquake zones, possibly the
11 two nuclear plants in California, but, yeah, obviously, it
12 could be better stored in a geological repository, but why it
13 all has to come clear across country to Nevada, I really
14 don't know why they couldn't store it in some regional
15 facilities. And, maybe it doesn't have to be buried in a
16 mountain. Maybe it can be buried, you know, underground or
17 somewhere like that.

18 And, I also--I'm kind of concerned because I'm not
19 a real state's rights advocate, but in my opinion, if the
20 Governor of Nevada, who at the time was Kenny Guinn, said
21 that he didn't want this project in his state, and then the
22 Federal Government just disregarded him and Congress just
23 overruled him and said you're going to take it anyway, I
24 think that's a pretty unfair federal imposition.

25 The views of some people here are that, well, at

1 least with the Yucca Mountain project, we are getting
2 compensated here in Nye County, like I mentioned to you, the
3 "payment equal to taxes." You know, \$11 million a year is a
4 lot of money for this county. I think the feeling among some
5 people is that at least we are getting compensated for this
6 project, whereas all the years that they had nuclear testing
7 out at the Nevada Test Site, we weren't compensated. So,
8 that's an advantage.

9 Actually, when President Obama was campaigning here
10 for the Nevada Caucus, as you know, when we moved up the date
11 of the Nevada Caucus, that was the third primary, or caucus,
12 that was being held around the country, so there was a lot of
13 attention on Nevada.

14 I was allowed to ask Barrack Obama, who was
15 campaigning here, two questions. And, the first question was
16 that I said, well, you know, Nye County gets a lot of money
17 in this "payment equal to taxes," and I mentioned the \$11
18 million a year, I said if Yucca Mountain goes away, what are
19 we going to do to make up for that, the loss of that revenue?
20 And, he kind of--didn't sound like he was even aware of the
21 "payment equal to taxes," or the program that we were getting
22 the money, but he did make some sort of a statement like
23 there's perhaps other sort of federal funds that we can give
24 Nye County to compensate for the loss of this "payment equal
25 to taxes" for the Yucca Mountain project. And, then, he

1 promoted clean energy, the green energy revolution. Of
2 course, you know, there's a lot of solar power projects being
3 planned here.

4 Now, did Barrack Obama ever remember that question
5 and that answer that he gave after he became President? I
6 seriously doubt it. So, you know, of course he pretty much
7 zeroed out the funds for Yucca Mountain, and of course our
8 Senator here, Harry Reed, is very much against the project.
9 And, I have actually forwarded that--the CD with that video
10 of my interview with Barrack Obama to our Nuclear Waste
11 Office here, and I don't know if they ever gave that to any
12 of our Congressional delegation or anyone to remind them what
13 the President said. But, that's my opinion.

14 MS. CLANCY: Sure, thank you. What sense do you
15 have now, I know you said the other day that you were going
16 to interview the I think current leaders, political leaders
17 maybe, about--or, getting an update on Yucca. What's your
18 sense of what's happening now?

19 MR. WAITE: Well, they're trying to get the project
20 resurrected. You know, there's a new County Commissioner
21 here who is very pro-Yucca Mountain. He wants to get the
22 citizens here to write letters to new members of Congress to
23 try to get the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to finish the
24 hearings, and they're hoping that maybe it could be re-
25 started again. And, there is some hope that maybe the

1 recycling of the waste will create a lot of jobs.

2 At one time, I think there was a--I can't remember
3 the exact name of the process that they call it, where they
4 recycle the nuclear waste, but there was some talk about
5 having like a DOE facility here in Pahrump that was going to
6 I guess be like a model of how they were going to be
7 depositing the waste in Yucca Mountain. There was going to
8 be some sort of a demonstration site where people could go to
9 see how they were storing the waste, and everything, here in
10 Pahrump.

11 So, you know, the nice thing about the "payment
12 equal to taxes" was they could use it, it was unrestricted.
13 They could use it for buying anything from school buses to
14 constructing a county building, for road repairs, for just
15 about anything.

16 Now, the oversight money, that was restricted.
17 And, actually, they got in trouble once in about 2001 for
18 mingling that with projects that should have been funded out
19 of their general fund.

20 But, as far as the consultants, I really don't know
21 what they've accomplished. You know, Yucca Mountain--Nye
22 County wanted to do their own investigation, to parallel the
23 DOE, and, so, I think one thing that they're thinking they
24 could use some of the oversight money for now is for
25 continuing some studies on water. As you know, here, water

1 is a real problem. It's very limited here in the desert.
2 And, especially in Pahrump, we have no surface water source,
3 like Lake Mead supplies Las Vegas, we have only groundwater.

4 A lot of the studies for Yucca Mountain, though,
5 they were studying the effect on the water table and the
6 flows from Yucca Mountain through Amargosa Valley, which is
7 the next Valley, but they're hoping that they can perhaps use
8 some of that oversight money to do more studies here in the
9 Pahrump Valley of how much our water table is depleting, and
10 that sort of thing.

11 MS. CLANCY: I just have two final questions.

12 MR. WAITE: So, they're actually kind of segwaying
13 from, the County is, from studying Yucca Mountain
14 specifically to using some of those scientists to do more
15 environmental type studies of groundwater, and that sort of
16 thing.

17 And, you know, I've been a reporter for, well,
18 since 1980. So, it's been 30 years, and almost all those
19 years, of course, the Yucca Mountain program has been in
20 existence. Of course, I didn't know about it until I came to
21 Nevada about 15, 16 years ago.

22 And, I know one of the public hearings when I was
23 in Amargosa Valley at a place called the Longstreet Casino,
24 which is kind of a rural casino, a real nice setting where
25 they have had a lot of the DOE hearings, and an Esmeralda

1 County Commissioner from Silverpeak named Nancy Bolin came up
2 to me and we were talking, and she said, "You know, it's just
3 so hard to follow this project. I mean, it just takes so
4 long, it's just, you know, 13 years or more, and it's just
5 years and years and years to go through all the studies and
6 follow this project." And, she was explaining how difficult
7 it was just to try to keep monitoring a project that took so
8 many years. And, you know, apparently they were supposed to
9 build this I think 1998 was where the ratepayers sued the
10 government because it was supposed to be open in 1998. And,
11 then, we started hearing, you know, 2004, of course the
12 Secretary of Interior gave it to President Bush in 2002, and
13 he signed the Act the same day. It didn't look like he even
14 studied it. It was like he just signed it the same day he
15 got the proposal for the Yucca Mountain repository, which I
16 thought was a little odd. I kind of didn't really like that.

17 So, it's interesting to think of a project that's
18 been around about as long as I've been a professional
19 journalist. So, I think it's--I don't know if it ever will
20 happen. I think there's a lot of sentiment that here, that
21 perhaps someday maybe when Senator Reed isn't here anymore,
22 the primary opponent of the project, maybe that there will be
23 a new sentiment in Congress and maybe they're hoping with
24 people thinking about green energy, maybe nuclear energy is
25 seen as more of a green energy, that that might get

1 resurrected again. And, then again, the monies might start
2 flowing back into Nye County.

3 MS. CLANCY: Let's talk about--just for a minute.

4 MR. WAITE: And, now, looking on this--of course,
5 now the latest concern is about Japan and the nuclear
6 reactors there. It's interesting now, I would be curious to
7 see what our County Commissioner who took the tour in Japan,
8 if she had visited that particular reactor. But, I just did
9 a story this week where they had started to detect very very
10 miniscule amounts of radiation from the Japanese nuclear
11 reactor, because we have a number of stations that the Desert
12 Research Institute has stationed all around the Nevada Test
13 Site to look for any possible radiation that might be leaking
14 from the Test Site, particularly gamma rays.

15 It also monitors the weather. It gives us our real
16 time temperature, humidity, rainfall. I've been using it
17 more for weather data, if we have an unusual weather event.
18 But lately, they've had very very minute ratings, I'm told.
19 Well, I got the readings, and it's things like cesium 134,
20 cesium 137, you know, elements, radioactive elements like
21 that that they say only could have come from Japan. The
22 readings were like .0000 and then the number, you know, so
23 it's like the minus 5, ten to the minus 5, you know, power.
24 And I'm told it's just so minute that they compare it with
25 traveling in a plane from New York to Los Angeles where you

1 would receive more radiation on that flight, or the guy said
2 even eating a banana I guess, or having a sun tan.

3 So, they think it's just very very minute amounts.
4 But, they said it had to come from Japan because the half
5 life of these elements is normally only a few days. One of
6 them I think is as long as a couple of years. But, they said
7 there is no way that they could have been left over from the
8 Nevada Test Site.

9 MS. CLANCY: Okay. So, it might change public
10 opinion, but might not?

11 MR. WAITE: Yeah.

12 MS. CLANCY: I mean, the Japan--

13 MR. WAITE: Well, and there's arguments both ways.
14 There's some people who think that the Japanese incident
15 actually would be a good thing for getting public sentiment
16 towards the Yucca Mountain project because I guess then it
17 would be all this instead of storing these at nuclear
18 reactors, like right by Lake Michigan, or something, outside
19 or in cooling pools, it would be stored out here in a
20 mountain. So, there's some people who think this may help
21 the Yucca Mountain project, but other people think well, we
22 might have to have another look at the earthquake potential
23 here in Nevada.

24 You know, Nevada is the number three state as far
25 as the number of earthquakes that can occur, after I think

1 Alaska and California. So, you know, we've had a few major
2 earthquakes. We had a major one even in Wells, Nevada,
3 northeastern Nevada where no one would ever suspect it. So,
4 you know, is this actually the best site for the long-term?
5 You've got to think it's going to be 10,000 years for the
6 half life of this highly radioactive material.

7 MS. CLANCY: Good. Is there anything else you
8 would like to add?

9 MR. WAITE: Nothing.

10 MS. CLANCY: Thank you so much for your time.

11 MR. WAITE: Okay.

12 MS. CLANCY: Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
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