

Gathering Our Voice

Interview with Dave Sabold

Interviewer: Amy Stork

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Transcribed by

Amy Stork: Okay, this is Amy Stork and I'm here with Dave Sabold on July 2nd to record an interview for Gathering our Voice. How are you today?

Dave Sabold: Good. It's a beautiful day.

AS: It is. So, I'll just start with a few background questions.

DS: Sure

AS: I mean very background questions. Tell me when and where you were born.

DS: I was born in New Jersey in 1941. I was really glad to come to the West Coast when I was 12 years old. Much freer society over here.

AS: What's the ethnic background you come from? Your mom and your dad?

DS: Oh. I'm Northern European. It's nice to know we now have some Asian and Uranian blood in our family. American Indian. It's nice to have to have our family reunion and see different colors showing up.

AS: Do you know more specifically where your ancestors come from?

DS: Yeah from the...I can't say this in German it's P F A L Z ... Pfalz. I can't make my mouth do the right thing, but it's near the Rhine. It's on my dad's side and my mother's side is Irish, Scottish, English.

AS: All right. And are they first generation, second generation, how far back?

DS: Several generations back in the mid 1800's. That's when they came over.

AS: Both sides?

DS: Yeah

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AS: Um...So, you came to the West Coast when you were 12. Where did you move to?

DS: Lived in California, in the San Francisco Bay area. At that time it was called the Valley of Hearts Delight. It was all orchards and had blossom tours. I picked apricots and prunes. And it's got all paved over now. That kind of makes me want that not to happen here.

AS: Yeah, um and then how long have you lived in North Central Washington?

DS: We came. I was teaching college back east and we came over to the University of Washington in 1959. And, we were there for four years, three years and then came to the Methow. I wasn't going to be a professor and decided to be here because it felt so good.

AS: Did you just stumble behind it?

DS: I had a chance to work as a volunteer with some court-ordered kids. It was a boy's ranch out on Wolf Creek. We grew wheat and potatoes with the kids. And, uh really enjoyed the Methow Valley and the community here. The chance to...I always wanted to be kind of a farmer, so found a way to make a living here by doing every kind of odd job that we could think of.

AS: Actually that's one of the other background questions. How have you made a living here?

DS: Oh, all kind of ways. Changing sprinklers in the field out here, um janitor work for the postal service and forest service, but our real career was the nursery, plant nursery.

AS: Tell me more about that.

DS: We started that in 1975 and uh, it was the first kind of a wholesale business to Wenatchee. And, then gradually we didn't have the money to really capitalize a business like you're supposed to so we just kinda kept plowing the money into it over the years. So, we became a retail nursery, the only one in the Valley and sold everything from petunias to trees, all kinds of fruit trees and, uh made our living doing that.

AS: And, then how did the nursery...did the nursery go away, did you sell it?

DS: We sold it six years ago to the present owners. It used to be called Gardner Gardens nursery now it's the Royal ___ Hearts Nursery.

AS: Oh, it's one and the same. I didn't know.

DS: Same place.

AS: Interesting. Ahh, let's see where else have you lived besides the Methow?

DS: Oh, I taught college for a couple of years. A little bit in California at a junior college and then a couple years in South Carolina at a Black college. Um, then to a women's' college in upstate New York. I taught biology, anatomy and physiology, botany and then I needed to get a PhD, so I came back to the University of Washington to work on that. I never quite finished. I had a difficult problem, so I decided I didn't want to be a professor -couldn't finish my project. Let's go to the Methow.

AS: Let's get out of here.

DS: Yeah.

AS: What about travel, have you traveled much outside the area?

DS: Yeah...somewhat. We've liked to get away during the long winters. We've been to Mexico a numbers of times. Thailand. Bahamas. Puerto Rico.

AS: Are you still glad to come home?

DS: Oh yeah.

AS: Umm...let's see. What else? Well obviously you have a lot of academic training. Do you have other training that's been significant in your life?

DS: Not really. I had so much schooling I really didn't want to do anymore schooling, so I just kinda ... sometimes I get an idea and read about it and talk to people about it. Like the bee keeping or the sheep raising. Just kind of figure it out on my own.

AS: Find people who know?

DS: Yeah, that's we did home schooling for our daughter for awhile. Asked people. Just learned by doing.

AS: Oh cool. Um, I think that's good for the background. There's a few more questions, but we pretty much covered everything. Let me just check and make sure.

DS: Sure.

AS: Okay, so I'm focusing on the Twisp Farmers' Market, but we'll also talk about a lot of other things. Let's start with that thought. Could you tell me a little bit about how the Farmers' Market got started?

DS: Yeah, a little bit. I was somewhat a part of that. Fran, you've talked with her and she's really the source. But there's a grassy strip between the parking lot and Highway 20. We would set up there in the shade of the trees. There were more trees back then. And, um it started very slowly. We promoted it and it built and built and built. It's quite large now.

AS: So, did you just show up there or was there a bit of organizing?

DS: I think we did put something in the paper, but that's been so long ago. The details are gone. I'm sure we advertised in the paper.

AS: What motivated you to get involved in that?

DS: It just seemed like such a great opportunity to have direct marketing and to socialize. I like people and it's a great to socialize over vegetables. It's just seemed like a natural. No thought about what we should do this or not. Let's just do it.

AS: And, I understand that it was one of the first in this area. Had you lived other places where there were active Farmers' markets?

DS: No, I don't think that I'd ever seen a Farmer's Market before. Of course, Fran Johnson, she was part of Pike Place Market, so she could have kind of. She was the standard bearer. She was the one who made sure we cleaned up those vegetables good and cleaned them properly, so we leaned on her pretty heavy on how to do it.

AS: And she just put the word out anyone who just wants to come? How did you end up being one of the first?

DS: Well, 31 years ago I don't remember. I'm sure probably some direct connection.

AS: What were you growing at the time?

DS: Let's see at that time, I think it was honey. It was our main thing that we sold down there. Yeah that's right, it was honey. Later on we brought in garlic and other vegetables, but at that time it was just honey.

AS: Prior to that how were you mainly selling your honey?

DS: Um, I think that was kind of the start of our honey - our selling of honey with the Farmers' market.

AS: You had already been keeping bees, but not?

DS: But not making enough honey to need to dispose of it. I think we just used it ourselves.

AS: So, um, you know obviously the market is still there and it is very popular. Can you tell me what you have observed over the years as far as how that developed?

DS: Yeah, at first there were very few rules. And it was really fun because anything went. And then, we realized that we gotta have a dog rule because the dogs were coming up and peeing on the produce. So, there's the first rule. Then after that, more and more rules. You know I stayed on as the President of the Farmers' Market for many years, but I was kind of - I don't have a lawyerly mind and I didn't want to be part of the rules and regulations, so other people stepped up and are doing a great job. I'm very grateful that they are willing to do that.

AS: Um, and then what do you think having a Farmer's market has achieved at more of a community level?

DS: Oh, it's just a place where stuff gets done and you have to walk sideways there on a busy Saturday. People are talking and catching up with each other. I'm sure there's lots of, probably as many deals done out at the center part as in the side aisles where the vendors sit. Just a good

community spirited thing where it used to be churches would do that for communities. Now it's more this kind of thing.

AS: Yeah and that seems appropriate for here. It does.

DS: Yeah.

AS: Umm, how do you feel about that in terms of, do you feel a sense of achievement yourself about being part of that?

DS: Yes, it's very gratifying to see that working so well. Yeah. People are prospering. They come from all over, all over the county, even from the North County. So, yeah I think people appreciate good food more so with the books that have come out lately. If you can know the farmer and know how the food's grown, makes a big difference.

AS: Um, and what about for the farmers? Do you think the market made a difference?

DS: Yeah, I think a lot of people grow for the market. I know we are still able to sell a lot of our garlic and honey down there.

AS: Do you still go and have a booth?

DS: Yeah, I do in late summer.

AS: Umm. Next section of questions is about adapting over time. What resources do you think were most important to the initial success of the Farmers' Market?

DS: Boy, just word of mouth. People see that gathering of people there and drive by and say "What's going on?" Check it out. You know certainly the advertisements in the paper, but not a whole lot of promotion. We never joined any statewide associations. Um, just newspaper and word of mouth I'd say.

AS: Tell me about the relationship with the Community Center. How did that develop?

DS: At first it was the Senior Center and we would set aside. We always took in more money than we needed for the operation and would give a big chunk, a nice check at the end of the season to the seniors and I think later to the Community Center. It was always very cordial.

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AS: And that continues to exist that way?

DS: It does, yeah.

AS: Um. Did the needs of the market? You already touched on this, but what it took to run that market in terms of resources. Did that change over time and did the institution adapt to those changes?

DS: Well, we conceded we needed to have some enforcement, so we were able to hire a couple of market masters. Wilson was the market master for year number two. Don Wilson. And then Willy Goetz, who has done it ever since, who has a long-term relationship with the market, has been very congenial.

AS: And, does the market continue, over the years seems very affordable to the farmers? When you were on the board how were those decision made about what to charge? All of those financial and logistical things?

DS: Um, discussions. We had a diversity of people on the board. They were people who wanted a more rigid and solid stated way on paper and there were people who were more freewheeling. You know, we had some long discussions. But I think what carried us through was respect. Respect for each other. So, um yeah it all worked out pretty well.

AS: Were people coming from pretty diverse backgrounds on that board?

DS: Yeah, there were. There were some military, there's one military family and then you know kind of heavy on back to the land side. And the grand dame who you just interviewed.

AS: And, to get off on a more general tangent, one of the big things this project focuses on is the concept of stewardship and I'm sure you're no stranger to that given all of your work. But, how do you define good stewardship?

DS: Good stewardship of the whole valley?

AS: The local economy, the valley, the community.

DS: Gosh, define. Well, um by definition, just taking care, caring, feeling a part of the whole community. Something, a lesson that we learned as newcomers to the valley, um, just to kind of keep our mouths shut and kind of have to learn the local culture. Learn from the old timers how they cared for their land. The Kuykendalls, the McLean family, others that we encountered along the way. Just learning how to grow food and how to treat each other. I learned not to say thank you because giving and taking is so much a natural part of the human experience that you don't need to overlay it with the words. In fact, some of the old timers would say if they gave you a plant start that you weren't supposed to thank them for it because then it wouldn't grow. I like that.

AS: Do you remember specific moments of "ah hah"? That's one with the thank you. Any specific "Ah hah" moments of oh, that's how it's done around here?

DS: Yeah, it's just like what goes around comes around. I 'm part of this community and I don't have to exactly worry about if I've been given a nice gift, how I'm going to get them back because it'll come around and they understand that and now I'm getting this. That was a need feeling and also, those of us who have been to college and have a lot of higher education tend to think that we're maybe a little bit different from other people, but I've learned that we're not. We've got to learn from each other. That was good to realize that.

AS: What do you think that we need to be doing now to ensure the long term health of the community, the economy and the environment? That's a big question.

DS: Well, I'm co-chair for the capital campaign for the Methow Conservancy so we need to write big checks. And, you know the farm land, it could. Some of the farmers are getting old and we need to keep them in farms. There's farmers that you would never expect would enter doors of a conservation organization that have come in and have so cared about the stewardship of their land that they've broken through that barrier and they've put permanent conservation easements on their farms, so they'll always be farmed. So, to me that's real key is the land. Saving that land. It's been very successful so far, but seventy percent of our ambitious goal of twenty million.

AS: What do the farmers say when they come through the door?

DS: Oh, one of them. I won't say any names. He'll get with the guy who does the deals for the conservancy and they'll yell at each other. It just echoes through the whole office, but after ten minutes they both calm down and they get down to business and get things done. I love it.

AS: They really have the same goals in the long run.

DS: They do, yeah.

AS: That's pretty funny. Um, when you think about your life personally, where do you think those values around stewardship and conservation, where do you think they come from?

DS: I think parents, a lot of it. They valued community. Um, I think I was brought up in a church and those values are in churches. I don't attend church now, but I sure respect people that do and take care of each other in that community. I guess for myself it would be mostly family.

AS: Do you think your sense of responsibility to the environment and the community, has that changed over time?

DS: Well, as I get older I find that I can do more. I just have an understanding of how things work. I don't talk too much in public meetings, but I do listen and can get on the phone later on and if I see something happening I now know how to deal with that. You know the airport thing came up and you know, just by, I'm not claiming credit for this, but just like the network of people that cared, were able to make the phone calls, make the connections and now that's in the rear view mirror. It just feels so good to have that kind of community going.

AS: Yeah and it's years and years of those relationships it sounds like.

DS: Yeah.

AS: Um, in the broader community have you seen the idea of stewardship change over the time you have been here?

DS: Yeah I do. I really think there's a lot of people who have come here because they love the land and the people and they want to take care of it. People have seen what's happened in other parts of the country as I did in the Valley of Hearts Delight that's now Silicon Valley. That's happening all across the west and the whole country and the world. And, we want something a little better. We are well on our way. I've travelled around the west and I just don't know of any other valleys or communities that are where we are. There may be some, but I think we got a good thing going here.

AS: What do you think is unique about this place?

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DS: I think the accident of, I mean just the, the way that the threat of the big ski hill years ago scared us into things that we wouldn't have done otherwise. Zoning. People realized that we got to really get together and define the kind of place we want to live in. So that really galvanized people to get organized and ask for what we need. Make it happen.

AS: Um, what about the Farmers' Market? Do you think that's a good example of one of the ways the Methow is unique?

DS: Oh yeah, because just looking around at all the organizations that set up there. Lot of connections get made with organizations. They're doing really good stewardship. Well, plus the market itself, getting to know farmers and craftspeople. Just the social interaction when you meet the same person a few times you get to know their names, who they are. And you don't bump into them unless you go to Farmers' Market. I know that's true for me.

AS: What's the feeling there?

DS: Oh, um at the market among visitors? I think it's a happy time. You know people are pretty relaxed and pretty willing to hang out and visit.

AS: And, does that feel the same over the years or is that something that's changed too?

DS: I think that's always been there.

AS: Um, let's see it sounds like things started pretty simply at the Farmers' Market, but um, were there any particular groups or types of people who had to come together to make that, to get that institution going?

DS: I think it helped that it wasn't just a bunch of hippies, a bunch of back-to-the-landers you know. It was more inclusive. It's truly a community. It's always been a community project and there's been you know some pretty good tolerance there from people that normally wouldn't wish to do with each other, but have been brought together by the market.

AS: Why do you think they overcame their differences?

DS: Just that age old marketplace that's gone on for thousands of years. People get together and do their trades. You need to get along with your neighbor whether you might fight over other

things, but when it comes down to it you got to get along with your neighbor. He'll put out the fire if it starts on your property. You need each other.

AS: What would you say happened because of say the Farmers' Market in terms of relationships between the people involved, the vendors, the people attending? What did you see evolving out of that one day a week?

DS: Boy, I'm trying to think of specific examples, but nothings coming up right now other than the general community building. It was definitely a community building event.

AS: You mentioned that. Some people kind of making their deals and doing their things out in the forum there. More generally, what do you appreciate most about the Methow?

DS: Hmm...I think just the way that, just the community and the openness of the land. I always appreciated nature as a kid. I grew up in the suburbs and always kind of hungered for something like this. I didn't know what it was. To me, the nature and the community relationships. People have come here deliberately. That appeals to me a lot. It's a special place. I always forget that until I go away then come back again after a trip.

AS: What strikes you when you come back?

DS: Oh, I just breathe deeper. It's just great.

AS: Um, it seems like there are obviously lots of assets here. What do you think is the greatest community asset here in the Methow?

DS: Oh, just, I think the way the land has not been chopped up into pieces, the way it's been kept pretty much rural. I guess the rural aspect of the valley is what I treasure the most. I think we share that right across the board. There's not too many people that want a Wal-Mart and more houses. I mean we could have more houses, but it could be done in an intelligent way. It can be done within the city limits where we want to concentrate the people.

AS: So, um, when you think about this place it's hard to say this because you're just right here, but when you think about it what are the images that come to mind, that most embody your love of this place?

DS: Oh, I got to look out the window now. Looking at Mt. Gardner and the green. We did this. When the conservancy had community focus groups surprisingly what people, most said they appreciated the most about the Methow was their own home, which kind of surprised me. Kind of surprising. And, I guess I would say that too. We have a pond down here. The ducks come. We have trees out back. Just my own home and family here. Our family has reassembled itself here. My kids, both kids have come back to live here. And, I like that.

AS: And, what helps you feel connected to the community? The human community here?

DS: I like people and I always take time to visit with people. That's a nice thing about the Farmers' Market because I think everyone has that mindset. Very few people will park their car and leave the engine running and dash in and get some carrots and run off. They've come to visit. When we had our nursery, I always considered that we hadn't really done a transaction until we'd had a little personal connection with the people that came down. So, I like that.

AS: Can you give me an example or a story about the sense of connection you have with this community in the Methow?

DS: Boy, just thinking of all the political things I guess. There've been so many. I think the years of fighting the downhill ski resort; I was very involved in that. And it was a stretch for me because I don't like the adversarial aspect of that. But, you do have to say "no" sometimes and we did. The community, it was divided for sure. I think even the people that were wanting the economic stimulus of the ski resort have now come around to see that maybe it's best that we do a cross country system. So, instead of urbanizing the valley, so you know people, who were on opposites side of the fence said "no" and come together. I think that's a good example of the way community can evolve from what was divisive to what's more cohesive.

AS: Were you able to maintain positive relationships with people who were on the other side?

DS: Oh yeah. It was funny one of the main proponents of the ski resort, Doug Devin and I were both at the same big meeting at the Barn and there were some hot tempers that night. And, um after people left there were just a couple of us left. It was me and Doug. We were both folding up chairs and putting them up against the wall. We gave each other a big smile.

AS: What about at the Farmers' Market? Do you have any specific memories of stories or things that happened at the Farmers' Market where you were like; "yeah this is what it's all about"?

DS: Uhh, can I um, would I be able to talk with Marilyn and come up with some stories and give them to you at another time?

AS: Yeah, think about it and we could do a little more at some point. That's fine, yeah.

DS: I'll jot the idea down. Get you a good story about Farmers' Market.

AS: I do have a few more questions. The Farmers' Market is piece is a little bit obscure, but um.

DS: Okay, I'll get back to you with some Farmers' Market stories when I think of them.

AS: Cool. Now, you've kind of touched on this but, these questions are about sort of enhancing the area. What, what do you think you've brought to this community?

DS: Oh, I knew to keep my mouth shut for awhile when I first got here and not to impose anything onto this culture, just to learn the culture. I think I'm a good listener. You know, I, my leadership comes after the public meetings. I think I have been able to bring a listening spirit to a lot of stuff going on here.

AS: And, um, what about, what about in your business? Did you feel that that was a good addition to the region?

DS: Yeah and we always tried to keep our prices low. I was never a really good business person or I would have had higher prices. Otherwise, but yeah we made fruit trees and all kinds of vegetable starts available at a low price to a lot of people. It's really gratifying to drive around and see stuff that was just pencil sized and now it's a full grown tree. So, yeah I think we contributed to the horticulture of the valley.

AS: You must eat a lot of fruit from trees that were once?

DS: Oh, yeah. Yeah that's right. People tell me how their fruit trees are doing and I'll invite myself over for harvest.

AS: I'll take some of that pie.

DS: Yeah. That's another thing I learned in the country is that people, I didn't know how to receive until I came here. And, now I'm more able to receive. One time I was hiking with the old

guy that built this place, Ken White, and we'd been on the trail for five or six days. We were tired and hungry hiking down the Lost River. When we came to a camp there was a hunter and he was from Seattle and um, Ken says "hey, have you got a coffee?" And the guy says, "Yeah, yeah". "We'd like to have some, would you get us some coffee?" "Oh yeah." Hadn't occurred to him you know. Then there were kids with us. "Have you got any hot chocolate?" So he got the kids some hot chocolate. "Have you got anything to eat?" So, he went in and got us some _____. He was happy to do it, but he didn't know what you're supposed to do when people show up hungry. I think I learned to receive and even to ask, to ask for things.

AS: What do you see here, you know in our area, in our community that gives you hope for the broader world?

DS: Oh I don't know about that. Um, I do have some hope for the broader world, but I think for me I really can't do a whole lot for Afghanistan, hunger in the world, but I can sure do something here. I can see that other people can do for themselves in their own place. So, I think there's, there's some hope for the bigger world.

AS: What about for the Methow?

DS: Yeah, a lot of hope there.

AS: What do you see, like if you, surely you have this as one of your talking points? What's your vision, you know for the, what would the Methow be like in ten years?

DS: Oh, I think much as it is now. Very rural. Even more enhanceness of community. Farms still operating. Um, maybe different owners, different ways. Farmers' Market going on. Just more local self reliance. Yeah, I don't see the valley as being a whole lot different in ten years from now.

AS: What positive, if any, positive aspects do you see to serve the current economic situation?

DS: Across the country?

AS: Uh huh?

DS: I know that back in the 30's and 40's they had a local currency. The cream check. Have you heard of that?

AS: Uh uhh, but I've heard of other programs.

DS: Yeah, they had farmers. Would bring their, every farm up every valley had a cow or two or more and they'd separate the cream and every Monday they'd come down to Winthrop or to Twisp and they'd bring their cream. And, they'd socialize and they would get a check, but it wasn't a check like we think of a check. It was kind of a scrip. It was the local currency. Could be spent anywhere in the Methow Valley and they did fine. Even in the Depression things were pretty good here. Ken White lived through the Depression and he says that life improved. They had unemployed young men come and help on the farm. They had all they could eat, a place to stay and they got a lot of work done. I think the Methow can move towards a more self sufficient economy if we needed to. You know, I love getting coffee and chocolate from other places in the world. I don't think we need to cut ourselves off from that, but we can do better. Something more local.

AS: I think what you're saying about the community, about that sense of giving and receiving, that's really interesting. Do you think that's a particularly rural thing?

DS: Yeah, I do. I think we'd find it in other parts of the country that are still rural.

AS: Why do think that happens here, but not in the city?

DS: More interdependence here. You really have to get along with your neighbor. You might be really different, see things differently, but when it comes to emergencies you know in the back of your mind that you can't go too far in alienating your neighbor. So, I think there's some good, good relationships there. And you know just genuine altruism.

AS: Do you think it's a self fulfilling prophecy? Like, do people come here because they feel that way already or do they become more that way if they come here?

DS: Oh, I don't know. Some of each. Yeah, I think a lot of people that come here for, for greed don't last too long. There's kind of a community consensus that isolates them and they decide to leave after awhile.

AS: So, your kids, they both left and came back?

DS: They did. Yeah.

AS: What was that process for them?

DS: Well, I think commuter traffic for my son in law. Um, over an hour of driving from this place that he could afford up north of Seattle down to the office day in and day out. And then, um, frustration with the job and finding a way to telecommute here in the Methow. So they're able to come over and to buy their six acres down by Carlton and um, and in the case of my son, he was going through an electrical apprenticeship over in Olympia. And, uh, he decided to take the plunge and come over here and he was able to find work. And, just had a baby about a month ago. So, I have three grandkids here in the Methow. And there Marilyn's sister, Norma is here and her son and his family are here.

AS: Wow, that's great.

DS: Yeah.

AS: It seems like a very nice community. Trying to think if there's any other stories. That's all the questions, but you know when you first had this place, um, is anything come to mind when you think about coming from being in this academic kind of guy to being this farmer guy, like were there any moments where you just finally figured something out?

DS: Yeah, it felt really good. I was a little bit too old to be a real honest to gosh hippy. But, I saw they were having such fun and there was all this stuff that I wanted to do. To be more of a farmer, to be closer to nature and to read all those books I hadn't had time to read and just to come over here and to be able to do that was really liberating. Just kind of pick up on the rural way of life.

AS: And, who helped you learn how to get by here?

DS: Oh, there are a number of people. There was the Kuykendall family; they are pioneers in the Methow. They were next to us at the Boys' Ranch where we first came to the Methow. They showed us about how to grow things and how to behave in the country. And McLean's - Ron McLean's a grade school teacher down here. Lois is still living up there at the family place. And they have a large family here; they go way back in Methow history. Gosh, there were a number of other folks that were very helpful to us. Took us in.

AS: People were welcoming?

DS: Very welcoming, yeah.

AS: And, do you have similar relationships with people who've moved here since?

DS: Yeah, I'd say we do. The bee keeping class has been fun. Helping people get started on that. The bees and the Conservancy, that's been a good social venue for me. Um, we see a lot of _____ people in the course a year.

AS: Cool. Well I really appreciate you doing this interview. It's neat to hear your stories and if you do think of any Farmers Market stories that'd be great for this.

DS: Okay. _____ but I'll think of something.

AS: Yeah. Something will come to mind. Okay, well that's about it. Anything else you think the world should know about stewardship in the Methow?

DS: I just love this place. I think we all have some love for this Valley. There's something we can do about that love. That's to write a real big check to the, sorry about that. Even a dollar will get a leaf on that tree. Have you seen that tree that is a copper tree that Barry Stromberger?

AS: We haven't actually seen it yet, but I've heard about it.

DS: There's 200 leaves, we're trying for 1000.

AS: Yes, I actually have my envelope in my stack of bills.

DS: Okay, good.

AS: Yeah, it's a very exciting campaign.

DS: Yeah it is, very gratifying that we could even, no other organization in the county could raise twenty million. It's just been so neat to see the Board. We meet here in this room in a circle. The Conservancy board and um, people are just pretty focused on the Valley. There's not the personality stuff that you see on other boards. And the director, Jason Paulsen comes from a background of working with agency people and he's able to do a lot of, he's like me, he's kind of a quiet guy, but he's really good with knowing how governments work and how people work

within government. So, that's been wonderful to have him on the board. He was able to negotiate with the Plum Creek Timber Company, which is a tough bunch over in his hometown of Black Diamond. He was a city manager and he was able to negotiate to preserve all the watershed above the town and have their development down where it belonged in the valley bottom. Took them nine years.

AS: Where is Black Diamond?

DS: Near Mt. Rainier.

AS: Oh, okay.

DS: It took them nine years of tough negotiation and he, he pulled off. He's doing the same thing here for us in a quiet way.

AS: How does it feel to be involved in that?

DS: Oh, I like it a lot. It's very effective. You know, I was part of that adversarial, part of the fighting the ski resort and this is where everybody wins. The crusty old farmers win and the conservation wins stewardship of the farm, so that appeals to everyone. Good stuff.

AS: And, does it make you feel proud to be part of it?

DS: Very much so, yeah. Feel like I can do something in this little pond whereas in the bigger pond, I don't know what I can do.

AS: Well great. Thank you.