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Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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The Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia

on the date(s) of 5/13/94

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Eugene P. Odum

Interviewee's signature

Address Inst. Ecology
Univ. Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
Phone 706 542-2968

Date May 13, 1994

Joseph S. Covert

Interviewer's signature

Address 4834 JSU
Jacksonville, AL 36265-9982
Phone (205) 435-8908

Date 5/13/94

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for this interview of

Eugene P. Odum, PhD.

interview held May 13, 1994

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- Background information (see Interviewee Background Information sheet)
- His is a Methodist, but considers his faith to be ecological rather than biblical.
- He discusses his accomplishments which include publication of the first general ecology book in the United States, Fundamentals of Ecology first edition published in 1953.
- Talks about the various committees that he has served on.
- Discusses the founding of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), the University of Georgia Marine Institute (UGAMI), and the Institute of Ecology.
- Received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, major professor: Robert E. Coker.
- Doctorate at the University of Illinois, major professors: Charles Kendeigh and Victor E. Shelford.
- Discusses what brought him to ecology and his college studies which were supplemented when his brother, Howard T. Odum, would send him notes from lectures given by G. E. Hutchinson at Yale University.
- Describes the changes that have occurred in environmental thought and what caused them. Also talks about the direction of modern ecology.
- He has studied many aspects of ecology; considered a "specialist in generalism."
- People are beginning to understand the importance of the environment for life support and aesthetics.
- There are several requirements for conservation and preservation issues to be successful.

- Education about the environment must occur at all levels, and universities need to integrate their curriculum to produce people better suited to real world problems.
- Methods of birth control should be carried out worldwide.
- Ecology is becoming the study of the household with ecosystem management becoming an important direction of thought.

Interview Questions

1. Where did you receive your education?
2. Who did you study under?
3. What got you interested in ecology?
4. How long have you been in the field of ecology?
5. What changes in environmental thought of the general public have occurred during your life? Why?
6. How has our understanding of nature and ecology changed during your life?
7. What major areas has your research focused on?
8. Please describe work that is/was particularly pertinent to the furthering of ecology?
9. How has your work added to or changed our modern views on the environment and ecology?
10. What are your personal thoughts and feelings about nature and the environment?
11. Have you ever taken part in a social or political movement for the environment (i.e. environmental legislation, demonstrations, rallies, etc.).
12. What do you think the future holds for environmental thought and the environment in general?
13. What does the future hold for ecology?

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

for
Eugene P. Odum

Callaway Professor Emeritus of Ecology, Alumni Foundation Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Zoology, and Director Emeritus of the Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens.

Author *Fundamentals of Ecology*, *Ecology*, and *Basic Ecology*, three widely used textbooks which have been translated into numerous foreign languages. Also over 200 papers published in scientific journals, plus numerous popular and semi-popular articles. His most recent book *Ecology, and Our Endangered Life-support Systems*, 1989 is written for the citizen as well as the student. Recipient of three international awards: La Institute de la Vie prize in 1975 awarded by the French government, the Tyler Ecology Award in 1977 awarded by the Tyler Foundation, and the Crafoord Prize, an equivalent of the Nobel Prize (which is not awarded in the field of ecology), awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science in 1987. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1970. Dr. Odum has received Distinguished Alumni Awards from both of his alma maters, the University of North Carolina (A.B. 1934, A.M. 1936) and the University of Illinois (Ph.D. 1939).

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1993

At the University of Georgia, Dr. Odum was responsible for the establishment of the Marine Institute at Sapelo Island, the Institute of Ecology, and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory operated by the University on contract with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Odum is known for his broad view of man and environment; he has pioneered ecosystem ecology as a new "integrative science." He stresses the point of view that ecosystem theory provides a common denominator for man and nature, and that "goods and services" of both man and nature are coupled and must be considered together. Without healthy life-support natural systems (such as atmosphere, forests, oceans, etc.) to support and buffer human industrial, urban and agricultural activities, there can be no healthy economy nor a high-level quality of life.

BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY - 1990

An early interest in natural history and biology and a father who was a well-known sociologist led to an interest in bridging the gap between C.P. Snow's two worlds of academia, the sciences, and the humanities. Early in my career, I perceived that ecology was the discipline that had the greatest potential for interfacing the natural and the social sciences. A doctorate under the Shelford-Kendeigh "school" of community ecology at Illinois was very influential in shaping my career. Also important was collaboration with my brother H.T. Odum (whose mentor was G.E. Hutchinson, a pioneer in functional ecology) on textbooks chapters, and a joint coral reef study. From then on, developing a holistic brand of ecology which we now call "ecosystem science" became the focus of my thinking and research.

My most important contribution, certainly the one for which I am best known, is the book, "Fundamentals of Ecology" first published in 1953. This book and two others ("Ecology" and "Basic Ecology") have gone through several editions and have been translated into numerous foreign languages. My approach to the field was radically different from the traditional "reductionist" mode that has characterized academic disciplines during the latter half of this century. Instead of starting with the details of components, I start with the large-scale whole or "ecosystem" and then proceed with consideration of the components, not as isolated units but as interacting parts that function together to produce the unique features of the whole. This approach has led me to organize an interdisciplinary center, The Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia, to promote large scale and long range research on major environments such as coastal marshes and other wetlands, the major man-in-environment problems such as impact of atomic and other energy developments and valuation of the life-support goods and services of nature (the economics-ecology interface).

Since officially retiring in 1984, I have devoted my time to writing and lecturing - essentially shifting my teaching from the college classroom to promoting public awareness of environmental problems and long-term solutions. While continuing to be involved with students and ecological research, a major goal has been to write two books that relate the "big picture" ecological principles to current "predicaments" of humankind. The first book, published in 1989 entitled "Ecology and Our Endangered Life-Support Systems," is both a small textbook for beginning students and a citizen's guide to ecology. The second book in preparation is to be a completely non-technical laymans guide with the tentative title of "Our Big House: Understanding Ecology."

In recent years I have wanted to undertake a study roughly entitled "Southern Regions Revisited: Assessment of a Region as an Ecosystem in the 1980's in comparison to Howard W. Odum's regional analysis of the 1930's." My father's "Southern Regions" (UNC Press) published in 1936 was a monumental work that was not only a major contribution to the field of regionalism but a very great influence behind the scenes in the political and economic reconstruction of North Carolina and the "South." While many of the social and economic shortcomings documented in that study have now been rectified, a different set of regional challenges that are demographic and environmental have emerged. An opportunity to begin such a study was provided by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation in 1985 to the University of Georgia for a study of critical problems facing the state of Georgia, with the goal of developing the educational, economic, and political infrastructure needed to sustain and manage growth and maintain quality of life and environment. Seven task forces of faculty, post-docs, and advanced students was set up, and I served as chairman of the natural resources task force. Our report was completed in 1987 and published as a chapter in a book on "Landscape Ecology" and also in an article in the journal "Science."

Eugene P. Odum

IN THE SPACE OF SIX SHORT MONTHS EDITORIALS, CARTOONS, SUNDAY SUPPLEMENTS, NATIONAL MAGAZINE PUBLICITY, A FLOOD OF LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS, CONSTRUCTIVE STUDENT ACTIVISM, INPUT FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, UNIFIED SUPPORT FROM CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS, "FACT" SHEETS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS AND CITIZENS, BUMPER STICKERS AND BUTTONS ALL PLAYED A PART IN CHANGING THE ATTITUDE OF A WHOLE STATE AND CONVINCING ITS LEGISLATORS THAT NATURAL RESOURCES NEED PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION THAT INCLUDES BROADLY BASED STATEWIDE CONTROL AGENCIES. RESULT: NEAR UNANIMOUS PASSAGE IN 1970 OF A STRONG MARSHLANDS PROTECTION BILL THAT HAD BEEN DOOMED IN 1969, DESPITE CONTINUED VOCAL OPPOSITION BY SOME LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.

THE SAMPLE OF CLIPPINGS ATTACHED TELL PART OF THE STORY.

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Eugene P. Odum, PhD. M/F Male
Address: Institute of Ecology UGA Athens, GA 30602
Phone number(s): (706) 542-2968
Approximate age or date of birth: September 1913
Mother's Name: Anna Louise Karanc
Father's Name: Howard Washington Odum
Places lived and when: Athens, GA; Atlanta, GA; Chapel Hill, N.C.;
Illinois, near Albany, NY; Athens, GA since 1940.
Education: ~~Methodist~~ B.S.+M.S. at UNC-CH, Ph.D. at University of
Religion: Methodist Illinois
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) none

Present occupation: Emeritus Professor at UGA since 1984

Former occupations: All in Academic

Special Skills: Writing text books, ornithology, tennis, gardening

Major Accomplishments: Text books, development of ecosystem ecology
teaching, writing technical papers, lecturing to general public

National Events in which interviewee has participated: many advisory
committees and national scientific meetings.

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: Coastal Marsh Protection Act,
founded Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Institute of Ecology - and
University of Georgia Marine Institute

National born U.S. citizen? Yes No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee:

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral
history interview: Frank Colley

Additional information: _____

fact sheet widely distributed by students to schools and to the public; it helped to swing public opinion in support for passage of a marsh protection bill.

WHY SAVE OUR MARSHES

Georgia has 400,000 acres of coastal wetlands on which grow vast prairies of very productive salt marsh grass called Spartina. In a continuous year-round cycle the grass grows and decays to form a rich, nutritious soup that is fed into the tidal creeks, sounds and offshore waters. Practically all the sport and commercial fish, shrimp and shellfish, as well as other marine creatures associated with the estuary are dependent in one way or another upon this soup for a source of food. It is for this reason that the marshes are called nursery grounds. Without them the young fish and shrimp would be without food and home during their early growth stages.

One secret of the great productivity of the Georgia salt marshes lies in the power of the tides which harvest and transport the decaying marsh grass, and concentrate nutrients such as phosphorus. Tremendous quantities of salt marsh grass, as much as ten tons per acre every year, can thus be made available as a food source for marine organisms. The most productive agricultural crops in the world can produce no more total organic matter than the Georgia marshes where the tide does the work of fertilization and cultivation - free!

As the result of the great productivity of the salt marshes, the bays and rivers of the Georgia coast teem with an abundance of fish and shellfish whose very existence depends upon the abundance of food provided for them by the marshes. It is at this point that man should reap his reward for protecting the salt marshes in their natural state. Under proper management a never-ending source of fish, oysters and shrimp should be available for his supper table. Thousands of hours may be spent in the recreational pursuit of gamefish, waterfowl or just leisure boating, not to mention the economic impact of the dollars brought to Georgia by these recreational interests. The story is a simple one but of inestimable value to Georgians. The marshes are truly the goose who lays the golden eggs; destroy her out of greed and ignorance and you destroy everything, but protect her and the benefits will be reaped for all generations to come. To fill up and destroy the "Marshes of Glynn" is an unthinkable as filling up San Francisco Bay - yet it could happen unless protective legislation is enacted now!

GEORGIA'S SALT MARSHES PROVIDE THESE THINGS FOR YOU

1. Food: Seafoods such as shrimp, oysters, crabs and commercial fish for your table are dependent upon the marsh. Marshes even play a part in the production of poultry, eggs, and pork since fish meal is used as a protein supplement in commercial feeds for chickens and swine.
2. Recreation: Marshes provide a chance to get away from it all for about 300,000 salt water sport fisherman and 15,000 coastal hunters in Georgia, with more wanting to come each year.
3. Erosion Control: Marshes provide freedom from worry about extensive storm damage since they repair themselves and help protect high ground. Even more important, the marshes provide a natural self-adjusting sediment trap that protects the quality of the sea islands (the golden isles). If marshes were to be filled in, the mud would have no where to go but into the beaches.
4. Open Space: Natural marsh areas protect wildlife, provide clean water and produce necessary oxygen. They also provide a buffer protecting recreation quality from industrial pollution.
5. Income: It is estimated that Georgia's marshes produce a yearly income of \$100 per acre, which comes to \$40 million per year for our whole coast, and we can safely harvest even more. It would take almost one billion dollars in the bank to produce an income equal to the yearly income from your marshes. On this basis, our marshes should be valued at a minimum of \$2,000 per acre. The natural beauty of unspoiled marshes and sea islands will be an increasing attraction to tourists as time goes on and people seek the unusual and the different. In the long run this could be their biggest economic value.

WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

SAVE OUR MARSHES COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 5561, Athens, Georgia 30604



Saving the Marshes

Georgia's coastal marshlands are—at present—mostly unspoiled. They should be preserved for their sheer beauty and potential recreational value.

It doesn't sound like a controversial aim, does it?

But it is. And it will be, in our view, one of the major issues facing the January session of the Georgia General Assembly. That's only two months away, and it's time now to become concerned.

The main reason for such concern was outlined in detail in a recent series in *The Constitution* by staffer Jeff Nesmith. Basically, the people who care simply about conserving a beautiful coastal area are unorganized. They have no special interest, other than wanting such areas preserved for the future, for our children.

On the other hand, the major opposition to any control of possible exploitation and destruction of these salt marshes comes from strong special interest groups who have a vested interest in making money from the marshlands.

The Georgia House, to its credit, passed a bill introduced by Rep. Reid Harris of Brunswick last year to require at least that users of the marsh establish a clear title to it. Even this was opposed by the private interests who insist that, somehow, any regulation would limit free enterprise.

This kind of argument is hogwash. Harris' original bill—later weakened so it could pass in any form—called for a state board with authority to review the plans of big business regarding marshlands. To consider, say, the plans of a developer to fill large areas of the marsh with dirt and call it, "waterfront" lots. Or, conceivably of a mining company which strips away marsh areas in search of phosphate or other minerals.

Why shouldn't the state declare these coastal marshlands valuable natural resources? And try to preserve them? Or, at least regulate their development in a conservation-oriented fashion?

There's no good reason why not.

Unfortunately, special interest groups have more incentive to lobby with members of the General Assembly. The average Georgia citizen may not be aware of the danger to one of the most beautiful areas in our state until it's too late.

Yet, now is the time for any concerned citizen to take an interest and contact his legislators. Rep. Harris' bill is now in the State Senate. It should, if anything, be strengthened and passed by the General Assembly. Make no mistake. The lobbyists will be out in force to kill the bill. It remains to be seen if enough ordinary citizens will express their views.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 101 Years the South's Standard Newspaper

JACK TARVER, President



REG MURPHY, Editor

PAGE 4-A

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1970

Filling in the Bay

Georgia's coastal salt marshes form one of the great resources of this state—and they must be protected before it's too late.

There was a "conservation teach-in" at the University of Georgia one evening last week revolving in part around this question. One professor noted that the marshlands mean millions of dollars each year for commercial fisheries. They also provide recreation and erosion control. And they help filter drainage from state waterways to give Georgia some of the finest beaches in the world.

Dr. Eugene Odum, internationally known ecologist and environmental expert, offered one chilling comment. Filling in the Georgia marshes or "allowing them to be whittled away," he said, "is as senseless as filling in San Francisco Bay."

Yet, he continued, some 20 per cent of the north end of San Francisco Bay was actually filled in "before the people realized what had happened."

There should be legislation to prevent such destruction, Dr. Odum declared.

We agree entirely, and the Georgia Senate is this week in a position to do something about it. A Senate interim committee has passed out a bill to create a seven-man Coastal Marshlands Protection Agency. It should include, among others, the Georgia attorney general, the director of the Game and Fish Commission and the executive director of the State Water Quality Control Board.

The proposed board would have veto power over any move to "fill, dredge or drain or otherwise alter marshlands in this state."

That should cover the matter. We would urge legislators to examine the measure carefully, making sure that the bill has no loopholes. This is one area in which the Georgia General Assembly can, without any hesitation, take positive action at this session for the general good of the state.

Remember what happened to part of San Francisco Bay.

Students in Drive To Save Marshes

Constitution State News Service

ATHENS, Ga.—A student conservation group at the University of Georgia has ordered thousands of bumper stickers, buttons and pamphlets urging increased conservation of the Georgia marshlands.

The group, "Georgians to Save Our Marshes," was organized Jan. 15.

Committee Co-Chairman Bill Dopson of Athens, said that over 6,000 "Save Our Marshes" bumper stickers and buttons have been ordered along with

10,000 leaflets explaining why a strong marshlands-planning bill should be passed the Georgia General Assembly this year.

Dick Murlless, of Bishop, the group's other co-chairman, said the conservation activists hope to expand their membership to a state-wide basis and said he considers it of "the greatest importance."

A weekend meeting of the students at the university heard scientists discuss "the importance of conservation."

Dr. Eugene P. Odum, an ecologist, and Dr. Dirk Frankenberg, head of the university's zoology department, explained that man's survival is completely dependent on his treatment of natural resources and that coastal marshes, with their unmatched fertility, are important links in the "aim of life."

Both speakers agreed that wise use of natural resources is not "a luxury but a necessity."



'OH, LIKE TO THE GREATNESS (CHUG!) OF GOD IS
GREATNESS (CLANK!) WITHIN . . . RANGE OF T
(CHUG!) MARSHES, THE LIBERAL MARSHES (CLAN
OF GLYNN.' (CHUG!)

Jones Switches Sides, Backs Marshlands Bill

By JEFF NESMITH

House Majority Whip Charlie Jones of Hinesville, who last year fought a controversial marshland protection bill says this year he hopes to co-sponsor a similar bill with the author of last year's legislation.

Jones and Rep. Reid Harris were to consult with experts in tidelands law Thursday. Harris, of Brunswick, last year introduced a salt marsh protection bill which passed the House by one vote after it was weakened by floor amendments.

Meanwhile, Sen. Al Holloway announced that an interim committee which has been studying the original Harris bill, will hold its final public hearing on the legislation Monday afternoon.

Sen. Holloway is chairman of the special study committee. He said hearing will be at 2 p.m. Monday.

Rep. Jones said it is apparent that the state has no machinery for enforcing measures designed to protect the biologically-fertile coast from destruction by pollution or misguided development.

"We need a good law," he said, adding that he did not believe last year's bill, still pending in Sen. Holloway's interim committee, "does the job."

Originally Harris' bill would have created a state board and given it authority to regulate uses of the salt marshes, which scientists have recently come to recognize as a vital link between the land and the sea.

However, the bill was amended to remove the board and require simply that anyone who wished to alter the ecology of a section of salt marsh have title insurance on the land in question.

That, said Rep. Jones this week, is not sufficient to protect marsh areas from damage consequential to development on an adjacent area.

In addition to Jones, whose



A. W. Holloway



Rep. Jones

House district is made up of coastal Liberty and McIntosh Counties, Rep. Bob Harrison of St. Marys and Rep. Richard Scarlett of Brunswick opposed Harris' bill last year.

The measure also aroused heavy opposition from commercial and industrial groups on the coast, along with local government officials.

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Bill to Guard Marshes Sent To Governor

By JEFF NESMITH

The bill to protect the salt marshes received overwhelming approval in the House of Representatives Monday, ending a tumultuous year-long ride through the Georgia General Assembly.

With the House and Senate finally agreeing on the measure, which will establish a special state agency responsible for protecting the biologically-wealthy marshes, it now needs only the approval of Gov. Lester Maddox to become law.

"I'm grateful," said Rep. Reid Harris after the House voted 103-21 to agree to the Senate version of the bill.

Rep. Harris, a Brunswick lawyer, made enemies in his hometown and uncoiled a statewide controversy when he introduced the bill in the House last year.

In the 12 months since then, the bill has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles, five separate public hearings, hours of speeches and hundreds of letters to legislators.

STUDENTS HELP

College students throughout the state waged a "Save the Marshes" campaign, sending out bumper stickers and slogan buttons and launching letter-writing efforts in behalf of the bill.

On the other hand, industrial and commercial interests on the coast and local government officials from coastal counties were vocally opposed to the measure.

Dr. Eugene Odom, an internationally recognized ecologist, director of the University of Georgia Institute of Ecology and a former state "Scientist of the Year," was a key supporter and a familiar figure at the repeated public hearings.

"I think this is a very excellent start toward sensible development of our coastal areas," Dr. Odom said Monday afternoon. "I think it is good that the bill contains a statewide agency that will be able to resist local pressures and at the same time help local planning boards preserve their natural resources."

GREAT VICTORY

"It's a great victory for those who realize that we must do some planning before we use up resources like this."

Dr. Odom praised Rep. Harris as well as Sen. Al Holloway, who last year bottled up the House-passed version of the bill

in his Senate Industry and Labor Committee, then after heading an interim committee that studied the marshes took charge of passing the bill in the Senate this year.

"I think we all should thank Sen. Holloway for the statesmanlike job he did in upgrading the bill and bringing it out this year," said Dr. Odom. "He resisted all kinds of pressure and really did the job."

The bill barely passed the House last year, and then only after Rep. Harris' original proposal for a state agency to police marshlands development had been deleted. In its place, Harris had inserted a requirement that anyone altering the character of marsh areas first prove to the secretary of state that he had clear title to the property in question.

7-MAN AGENCY

As reported out by the Holloway committee — and unanimously passed by the Senate — the bill would establish a seven-man "Coastal Marshlands Protection Agency" with power to prohibit any activity that would "remove, fill, dredge or drain or otherwise alter any marshlands in this state."

The agency includes the state attorney general, along with three industry-oriented members and three conservation-oriented members, Sen. Holloway said.

Actually, the House approved the Senate version of the bill without many members even seeing it.

When Rep. Harris moved Monday that the House agree to the Senate changes in the original bill, Rep. Robert Harrison of St. Marys, an opponent of the measure last year, asked if copies of the Senate version had been printed.

COPY ISSUE

Told they were, Rep. Harrison asked that the matter be deferred until the copies could be distributed to members of the House. Rep. Harris then asked if this would delay action on the bill for "another two or three days," and Speaker George L. Smith II said it likely would.

Reg Murphy

The System Works On Marshland Bill



Does the legislative system still work? Or is it so encrusted with special interests and bound by old ties that it can't work?

The best news (perhaps) from the current session of the Georgia Legislature is that it has worked on one of the most delicate issues in the state.

First, some background is in order. Al Holloway is a state Senator from Albany and a well-to-do businessman. He is president of the Georgia State Chamber of Commerce. There is a fine example of the special interests.

Holloway is chairman of the Senate Industry and Labor Committee. In that position, he can block many reforms that others think are necessary. He did throw a body block on efforts to save the Georgia marshlands in the 1969 General Assembly. He held up a marshlands protection bill because he feared "it would hurt industrial development."

There is proof of the duplicity of the Legislature, is it not?

Fortunately, no. Holloway may have intended to pigeonhole the bill forever. Instead, Georgia citizens sent him an absolute blizzard of mail.

"This senator received more mail on this one issue than on any other issue in his 10 years in the Legislature," Holloway said. He worked with an interim committee, which most observers expected would forget about the bill.

Instead, Holloway confessed he had changed his mind. He said quite frankly that it was public response which caused him to decide that new protection was necessary for the marsh grasses that sway in the wind and the sulphur-laden banks where the Atlantic laps at the North American continent.

He brought back to the General Assembly a bill which provides for a seven-member conservation trust to watch over the marshes. Anybody who wants to build a port or mine sulphur or dredge a commercial marina is going to have to deal with this group.

The Georgia Conservancy and the Georgia Sportsmen's Federation were instrumental in changing Holloway's mind. So were those private individuals who dream of lazy days walking the beaches and wondering at the tranquility of the salt flats.

Still to come is the argument over how much development will be allowed. Representatives of agencies involved in clean water, game and fish, conservation, Georgia law, industry and trade, coastal area developments and ports will decide the cases.

There still is the possibility that the sun will come up out of the Atlantic Ocean some morning and light a scene of violated marshlands. (And some development may very well be justified; nobody should decide ahead of time that every industrial possibility is evil.)

But the people who believe in government, and more specifically in the power of ordinary citizens to change the course of events, should marvel at the marshlands bill.

A senator wearing a big business tag had to stand up and say "I was wrong." Then he became an advocate of the very thing he had fought. He wrote and sponsored a better law than the one he bottled up originally. That is the remarkable strength of the system.

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Eugene P. Odum, PhD. M/F Male
Address: Institute of Ecology UGA Athens, GA 30602
Phone number(s): (706) 542-2968
Approximate age or date of birth: September 1913
Mother's Name: Anna Louise Karanc
Father's Name: Howard Washington Odum
Places lived and when: Athens, GA; Atlanta, GA; Chapel Hill, N.C.;
Illinois, near Albany, NY; Athens, GA since 1940.
Education: ~~AA~~ Methodist B.S.+M.S. at UNC-CH, Ph.D. at University of
Religion: Methodist Illinois
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) none

Present occupation: Emeritus Professor at UGA since 1984

Former occupations: All in Academia

Special Skills: Writing text books, ornithology, tennis, gardening

Major Accomplishments: Text books, development of ecosystem ecology
teaching, writing technical papers, lecturing to general public

National Events in which interviewee has participated: many advisory
committees and national scientific meetings.

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: Coastal Marsh Protection Act,
founded Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Institute of Ecology - and
University of Georgia Marine Institute

National born U.S. citizen? Yes No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee:

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: Frank Colley

Additional information: _____