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400 3rd Street Oneonta, Al

on the date(s) of April 2, 1995

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

A C Clanton
Interviewee's signature

Address 400 3Rd St N
ONEONTA AL 35121
Phone 205-625-4305

Date 4/2/95

Angie D. Little
Interviewer's signature

Date 4-2-95

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INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: AL Clanton M/F M
Address: 400 3Rd St, ONEONTA, AL 35121
Phone number(s): 625- 4305 (Area code 205)
Approximate age or date of birth: 57
Mother's Name: Loesther Clanton
Father's Name: Boyce Clanton
Places lived and when: _____

Education: B.S Education
Religion: _____
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) _____

Present occupation: Mgr Lube
Former occupations: Oil Business 31 yr
Special Skills: Business Knowledge, Marketing and People
Major Accomplishments: Help Develop Marketing Company with over $80 mm in Sale, From Start

National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

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: _____
Additional information: _____

Al Clanton
by Angie Little
April 2, 1995
400 3rd Street
Oneonta, AL 35121
Oil Industry

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Angie Little

Environmental History of the U.S.

April 18, 1995

"Finding A Balance Between the Oil Industry and The EPA"

Finding A Balance Between the Oil Industry and the EPA

A Native American saying states that "We did not inherit the earth from our parents. We are borrowing it from our children" (McGrath 1990, 1). Environmental concerns were never realized until the 1960's, when hippies' and flower children recognized the problem. "The last two hundred years have, however, been characterised by a massive and continuing increase in energy consumption from non-renewable resources" (Ponting 1992, 267). Unfortunately, people and companies continue to pollute our environment with hazardous wastes. People do not realize that they are slowly destroying the population by polluting the water we drink, the air we breath, and simply the earth itself. The goal for all Americans, and human beings around the world, is to find a balance between our environment and the businesses we control.

Oil has been obtained and used for centuries for such things as caulking ships and even for medicinal purposes. Not until the mid-nineteenth century were efforts made to extract oil on a commercial scale. "In the late nineteenth century 85 percent of crude oil was refined into kerosene...This situation was only transformed in the early twentieth century with the development of oil-burning furnaces-by 1909, fuel oil made up about half the output of what was becoming an increasingly important industry" (287). Since the 1860's, the United States has been one of the major world producers of oil. Russia has led the way in production since 1900, and still does. The Near East

also began oil development around this time. Since 1938, the production there has risen forty-three fold, from just 16 million tons per year to over 700 million tons per year today. This is not much, considering that in 1970, over twenty years ago, humans consumed over 2,500 million tons per year. Most of the consumption problem lies in the United States. Although the United States makes up only five percent of the world's population, we consume over thirty percent of the world's energy. These figures show the vast amounts of non-renewable resources that are being consumed everyday all over the world. At this rate, we will not have to worry about polluting our environment with such things as waste oil, because in just a couple of decades it will all be gone. Source of info?

Until that day arrives, we must protect our environment. In 1976, Congress passed the Resource Conservation Recovery Act, normally referred to as RCRA. This law along with the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, contains the strictest environmental laws ever created. The EPA works on a state as well as a federal level. Congress passes laws EPA regulates The EPA passes the laws and then leaves it up to the states to decide if they want or need more severe environmental protection laws. In many cases the federal government must step in and regulate the environmental laws of a state, when the state can not enforce the laws by themselves. These laws are helpful and usually help in protecting the environment. In many cases the EPA almost over steps its boundaries by creating laws which are considered to be trivial and costly. Many federal agents and inspectors in this area are

considered to have less experience and many times fine companies for problems in their business so that they will get paid. This is where companies and government have problems finding a balance so that the environment is protected and so that companies can afford to stay in business.

Today there are fewer oil companies in America than there have been in decades. The main contribution to their decrease in number is the absorbent costs of running the company from collecting and refining the oil, to disposing of certain hazardous wastes created by the refining process. Many companies that turn to illegal dumping to get rid of their hazardous wastes are caught. They have to either close up and clean up, or clean up and fix them up. Due to the high costs of fixing up many companies rather go out of business. Also, today cars and trucks are modified with smaller engines that do not require as much oil, and much of the oil today is being made to last longer. This means that less oil is being sold, so the demand and market is smaller, so there is less money to go around between the oil companies.

With the strick EPA laws in many industries, the burden of who is responsible for the disposing of hazardous waste is very important. This is commonly referred to as the generator. Mr. Clanton gave several examples of how out of balance many of these rules can be. In Jacksonville, Florida, an oil collector set up a company in a lowland to collect used oil from businesses and individuals. The tanks that he used to store the oil in were old gas tanks that had been dug up and set above ground to comply

with EPA regulations. The businessman did not realize that the tanks had minute pinholes that were leaking used oil into the lowlands. When this was discovered, all kinds of tests and surveys had to be ~~ran~~ run by the EPA to assess the damage and try to find those that they considered to be the generators. These were the people and businesses that had contributed oil to the collection. This should have been considered to be out of balance. The generator should be the collector and owner of the tanks, and he should be made to clean up the mess. Instead the EPA spends millions of dollars on tests to decide that this area needs cleaning up. When all they would have to do was look at the area and see the pollution that had been created. new 91 Another prime example was located in California at a government owned dock. The dock had been used for many years by the government but was then given back to the people of the town when they no longer needed it. The town in turn sold it to an investor. The investor quickly began leveling the land without thinking about testing the soil. After all, it had been owned by our federal government. It was brought to the EPA's attention that parts of this land should be considered polluted. The EPA began testing and soon found out that parts of the land had indeed been polluted by toxins probably used to clean the ships ~~with~~. Although most would consider this to be the governments' fault, the generator was named as the contractor who had polluted the rest of the soil by moving around the part that was contaminated. This should also be considered out of balance. Today, many lending institutes will not lend money on property unless they do

an environmental impact study. This is commonly referred to as an audit. In this type of audit they consider two things. First of all, they consider what has been on the property before, and secondly did it cause hazardous pollutants. Yes, these are prime examples of our government policies being out of balance, but also companies must use common sense when running a business.

A few years ago two environmental groups that were owned by other companies, wanted to make used oil a hazardous material. Although this would help the environment, the reason they were doing this was because they owned the only used oil refinery in America. This would mean tremendous amounts of money for them considering that all used oil would have to go through them. This idea can be argued from many different points. Yes, it would be good for the environment to keep individuals, who are the biggest polluters, from tossing used oil anywhere. But also, many individuals would go to even more trouble to dispose of their oil, so that they did not have to go through all the paper work. For those who throw their used oil in their backyard, they do not know that one gallon of used oil can destroy up to 250,000 gallons of drinking water. On the other hand, this would be very costly for companies. They would become the generators of whatever pollutants came out of that refined oil. Many people do not realize the benefits of refined waste and used oil. Although it takes one gallon of refined used oil to make three quarters gallon of new oil, it takes 42 gallons of refining crude oil to make just one pint of the oil that you put in your car. Most people do not know that refined used oil is better and stronger

than new oil. Refined used oil no longer has the weak links that can be found in new oil.

To refine oil there are many restrictions and rules that must be followed. In accordance with EPA regulations, refineries can only allow five parts per million of arsenic, two parts per million of cadium, ten parts per million of chromium, and 100 parts per million of lead. The flashpoint can not be less than 100 degrees Farenheit, and it can not contain no more than 1,000 parts per million of halogen parts. Many people today are trying to get waste and used oil to be considered as a hazardous wastes. First, one must ask themselves what can be considered as hazardous material. Most importantly, waste is considered hazardous if it causes injury or death, or damage to the land, air, or water. The EPA does have a list of over 400 substances that are considered to be hazardous wastes. Even if the waste does not appear on the lists it can be considered hazardous if it is easily combustible with a flashpoint less than 140 degrees Farenheit, if it is corrosive and can dissolve metals or other materials, if it is unstable or under goes rapid chemical reactions, or if the samples contain high concentrations of heavy metals. "Some wastes are considered to be acutely hazardous. These are wastes that EPA has determined to be so dangerous in small amounts that they are regulated the same way as are large amounts of other hazardous wastes" (General counsel, 1987 3).

Although many people do not realize how someone could consider oil to be a hazardous material, ask those who have seen

the effects of oil in the environment, such as oil spills. In August of 1974, the tanker Metula ran aground in the Strait of Magellan near the tip of South America. The Metula was carrying 196,000 tons of light Arabian crude oil. Within just a few days over 53,000 tons had flowed out into the water. Due to lack of knowledge no immediate action was taken to begin clean up, and fifty miles of shoreline was covered in oil. Over 200 sea birds were found dead and much marine life was destroyed. Even after years the remains of the spill can still be seen on the now black shorelines. "According to the EPA, more than ten thousand spills occur in United States' wastes alone" (Brown 1978, 19). Not only do the spills endanger the environment, they waste our precious natural resources and they cost tremendous amounts to clean up. Sometimes when spills occur it can costs over one thousand dollars per barrell to clean up. In many cases smaller spills may not kill the fish but they may lose their ability to feed, or protect themselves. Due to the large oil spills prople have become concerned about the problem, but what most people do not realize is that 95 percent of the oil pollution occurs during routine operations, such as flushing out tanks. Many people believe that the Santa Barbara Channel blowout in 1969, should be credited with creating the EPA. These two spills mentioned are small in size compared to some of the spills we have had within the past few years. The Amoco Cadiz released 200 million litres of crude oil onto Brittany coastline, and the Exxon Valdez released over eleven million gallons of crude oil onto Prince William Sound in Alaska in 1989. This was one of the most

damaging spills of all time. Over 250,000 seabirds and over 1,000 rare sea otters were killed due to the spill. pour

Looking at spills like this, most people do not consider the three or four quarts that they pour out in their backyard to be pollution. Unfortunately this is the bulk of the problem. If people would realize that if they would dispose of this properly it would cut out over 50 percent of the oil pollution. Yes, the oil spills do spill a large amount but this happens only once every few years. People are polluting every minute of everyday. also rain run-off This is why a balance has to be created to eliminate as much of this problem as possbile. We are a trivial society that is only concerned with the small things in life. Just as Mr. Clanton said, we are more concerned with which door to put the exit sign over, than what door would be easiest to run out of in case of a fire. Congress along with the ordinary people should be using everyday common sense to settle our problems. If the EPA would quit spending millions trying to get facts and figures on how much damage was caused by a leak or a spill and instead use those millions of dollars and clean up the mess that we have made before it gets worse. Without this balance we will not have to worry about which companies can stay in business and which companies will survive because none of them will be aroundin a couple of decades. That is unless we find a cheap source of renewable energy within the next decade or so. This is very possible with today's technologies but getting people to quit relying on fossil fuels will be tough. Of course when they run out no one will be able to use it so that should cut it out

pretty quickly. Our main concern now has to be the controlling of our companies that pollute our land and water everyday. This must be accomplished through laws that are realistic and do not over burden companies that do follow the laws. The balance between the laws, the businesses and the environment must be found. As the American Indians believed that our environment has to be in balance with man to create a balanced world. The government has created two federal regulations that also deal with individuals instead of just the businesses. In section 260 and section 279, the government is asking people to account for their waste oil. They state that certain products can use waste oil and that all people who are involved in transporting any type of waste oil should have an EPA number. This certifies them to handle the oil. Companies should be aware of this and should always ask for this number and verify it when waste oil is being transferred. This is important because if they are not registered with the EPA they could be illegally dumping that companies waste oil and if caught then the company would become the generator. It would not matter if they knew about it or not.

One can not express how important it is that a balance is reached soon. With this balance would come peace in many aspects. Hopefully we could eliminate the problem of illegal dumping by companies. More recycling efforts could be made in all cities, and money spent by the EPA would go for cleaning up sites that have been messed up rather than for assessing the damage and spending millions to make ut official that the place really needs cleaning up. These are not problems of the future

but they are problems of the past. Problems that have never been solved. A solution must be reached by all before we completely use up all of our natural non-renewable resources.

Good info & interview

needs paragraphs

90 on paper

(class participation - 78

absence

+ quiz

B income

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Mr. Al Clanton, interview by Angie Little, Tape recording, Oneonta, Alabama, 2 April 1995.

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