

Kathleen K. Seefeldt

Kathleen K. Seefeldt was born on November 12th, 1934, in Minnesota. Kathleen spent most of her childhood in northern Minnesota with her father and mother, Vincent and Agnes Kenna. After finishing high school, she attended the College of St. Scholastic in Duluth, Minnesota for her undergraduate, and later attended Boston College for her graduate degree.

Kathleen taught English for many years, teaching both middle and high school. Ms. Seefeldt and her husband moved to Alexandria, Virginia for her husband's job in 1969. In 1975 Kathleen ran for a seat in the Occoquan District on the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. In 1991, Seefeldt was elected as the first chairman-at-large of the Board and served in that position until losing in the 1999 election to Sean Connaughton.

During Seefeldt's decades-long tenure, the Board made significant changes and improvements to county infrastructure. Perhaps most notably, construction of the Prince William Parkway (part of which is now named for Seefeldt) began in 1990 in an effort to connect the eastern and western ends of the county. Seefeldt also played a key role in two major land development controversies in the county: the proposed Hazel/Peterson William Center near Manassas Battlefield Park in 1988, and "Disney's America" in 1993 in Haymarket, Virginia. Neither project came to fruition.

In 1994, Seefeldt testified in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about Disney's America. Senator John Warner introduced Seefeldt, stating "She is, without regard, in the state of Virginia, held in the highest esteem for her management of local government. She's been on and off the position of the chairmanship, but on the Board for many years, and I just wish to say that while you're a Democrat, here's a Republican that has the highest respect for you and what you've been able to do through these years on many, many controversial issues in one of the fastest growing counties in America."



Image 1: Kathleen Seefeldt, October 23, 2023.

Transcript of Oral History Interview with Kathleen Seefeldt (October 23, 2023)

Interviewee: Kathleen Seefeldt (KS), Former Board of County Supervisors Chair

Interviewer: Lauren Maloy (LM), Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 1 pm

Interview location: Kathleen Seefeldt's home in Woodbridge, Virginia

Please keep in mind that this document is a verbatim transcription of the spoken word rather than a written document.

LM: Okay. So my name is Lauren Maloy, I work for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation, today I'm interviewing Ms. Kathleen Seefeldt, at her home in Woodbridge, on Wednesday – I'm sorry -

KS: Can I stop you?

LM: Absolutely.

KS: I prefer to use Kathleen.

LM: Okay. Kathleen? Did I not say Kathleen?

KS: I think you said Kathy.

LM: Oh, I'm sorry. I have Kathleen written here. So (laughs)...

KS: Okay.

LM: We'll write over again, so, um, we'll go ahead and start again. I'll just say my name is Lauren Maloy, I work for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation, today I'm interviewing Ms. Kathleen Seefeldt at her home in Woodbridge, and it is Monday, October 23, 2023. Ms. Seefeldt, can you please state your name and spell it for the recording?

KS: Kathleen with a K, Seefeldt – it's S as in Sam, double E, F-E-L-D-T.

LM: And when and where were you born?

KS: I was born in Minnesota in 1934, November 12th, so I'll be 89 in a couple weeks.

LM: Okay. Happy early birthday.

KS: Thank you.

LM: And what are the names of your parents?

KS: What?

LM: What are the names of your parents?

KS: Oh. Vincent and Agnes Kenna.

LM: And what did your parents do for a living?

KS: My dad was a civil engineer and my mom was a homemaker. She was a teacher originally but then she took care of her family.

LM: And can you talk a little bit about your childhood, and did you always live in the same place growing up in Minnesota?

KS: No, my dad being a civil engineer, we moved a little bit, umm, but most of my growing-up-years were in northern Minnesota for elementary school, and for middle and high school, and college, I was in northern Minnesota. Uh, in high school I was in a small town on the north shore of Lake Superior called Grand Marais, Minnesota, it's a very beautiful small harbor town on the big lake. Interesting place to grow up, very beautiful, lots of tourists in the summer.

LM: And what is, what is your educational background? Where did you go to school?

KS: Well I went to school at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, and I did graduate work at Boston College. I taught English, middle and high school English, for quite a number of years. And, got married while I was teaching, but then my husband took a job in Alexandria, Virginia, so that brought us from the Midwest to Virginia in 1969. And that's how we happened to land in Prince William County.

LM: Well that does skip ahead to one of my questions, and um, and one of those is how you met your husband, and talking a little bit about your family as well.

3:31

KS: Okay. Well my husband was a fellow teacher, we were in the same school. And uh, then he got a fellowship for graduate work at the University of Maryland. So, eventually we spent a year there, then went back to the original school in Minnesota, um, and then came back to Virginia (laughs), so we went back and forth a bit. We, uh, started our family while he was in graduate school, and by the time we came to, by the time I ran for office, that was in 1975, the Occoquan District seat on the Board of Supervisors was vacant, the incumbent wasn't running for reelection. So I was encouraged to do, to take a shot at it. It was not a planned career move, by any means. But my children, the youngest was about to enter kindergarten, so I was kind of ready to go back to doing something outside the house of interest, so, that's how all that happened.

LM: Okay. Well, that's int- well, that was another one of my questions, and in fact my next one is asking when you moved to Prince William County, which you've already answered, and where in Prince William County you moved to, so from Alexandria did you initially move to Woodbridge?

KS: We moved - yes.

LM: Okay. And what was the community like? What was Lake Ridge, or Woodbridge, like when you first moved? And do you still live in the same home that you initially moved to?

KS: No, this is the second, our second, the second home, we had this built in 1981. We lived in Lake Ridge when it was a small community, and uh, so small that Old Bridge Road ended where Colby Drive crosses it and from then on it was a gravel road, if you can imagine (laughs).

LM: (Laughs) No, that's a very different –

KS: And there was a small airport out there on Old Bridge Road. It's generally now in the area of the Springwoods Elementary School, if you know where that, some of your viewers may know, readers may know where that is. But that, that closed some years back.¹ It was a small, growing residential planned community and, we didn't know much about the county when we moved here, but didn't take us long to understand quite a bit about it. Uh (*long pause*) trying to be tactful here.

LM: You don't have to be. Actually, I'm just going to move that.

KS: Well, there are a lot of obvious needs for infrastructure improvements. For instance, the library when we moved here was a small room in the Garfield police substation down on Route 1. That's it

—

LM: Really.

KS: For this whole end of the county. Um, there was a bond referendum, I think it was in 1970. We moved here into our house here in Lake Ridge in February of 1970. 1970. So the following November, there was a bond referendum and I thought this is really a progressive county because it had uh - several items of interest to me. One was Potomac Library. Two new high schools, which are now Garfield and Woodbridge High School and a whole clutch of elementary schools around the county, including one for Lake Ridge. But in the mid-70s, the Board of Supervisors had a majority that became rather, ah, notorious for their decisions. And looking back, I had a lot of empathy for them because, they just weren't prepared to deal with what was coming. The county had so many assets - two interstates, 25 miles from DC, Pentagon even closer. The job market was not that far away. And a lot of zoning had been done in the 50s and 60s, but no real planning for how to handle the coming growth. For example, the Lake Ridge residential planned community – RPC - that's what they were called back then, I think it was one of the larger residential planned communities in the area. Although Dale City was the largest, let's just for comparison sake, see it working roughly this way. Whole Dale City Land mass consisted of about 5,000 acres. Lake Ridge was about 3,000, Montclair about 1,500. And those zonings mostly had come before I got here. And, we had issues with water delivery and basic municipal services, water and sewer. Fortunately, the voters had approved our form of government, which is still called the County Executive form of government. And, uh, the Board of Supervisors had approved the transition to a professional police department as opposed to a Sheriff's department. And we still have a Sheriff's department, of course. But the key responsibility for that department is servicing, running the jail and servicing the court.² And they can do law, other law enforcement things but that's their primary responsibility. And, and so a core of, a lot of them were, um, Virginia State troopers took the chance come to Prince William and form a new police department in 1970, I think it was. And we've had the good fortune of having a very highly regarded police force ever since as a group. Lots of continuity in it, lots of stability, lots of good morale. And that's been a very valuable asset in terms of our law enforcement capacity here. And of course, it's still growing. When I first went on the Board of

¹ David Cuff, "Woodbridge Airport," Historic Prince William, December 2018.

<https://www.historicprincewilliam.org/county-history/structures/woodbridge-airport.html>

² "The Prince William County Sheriff's Office was established in 1731 to provide law enforcement and jailers for the County and towns. In 1970, the Board of County Supervisors established the Prince William County Police Department which assumed the primary responsibility for law enforcement." Sherriff's Office History:

<https://www.pwcva.gov/department/sheriffs-office/history>

Supervisors, I represented the Occoquan District. And I stayed in that spot for 16 years. Umm, yeah, that was right, I'm trying to do the math in my head, ---. Prior to that time at during those years, the Board selected its chairman on a yearly basis from among its members. We didn't have the ability under the Virginia Code to have a chairman at large. That legislation was adopted by the General Assembly finally to allow us that opportunity and so I chose to run for chair. And I took - my first term as chair began in 1992, for two terms. So that was the political history.

LM: That's great, yeah. You covered a wide breadth of my questions, so I'll probably go and ask you in a little more detail about -

KS: Yeah, go ahead.

LM: About some of those. Um, and you already answered, one of my questions, what was your occupation before you were on the Board and you were a teacher. But I, I would like to talk a little bit about the supervisors before your term, they were called the Four Horsemen, I believe. And as you stated too, and I read in an article, you said they were one of the main reasons that you decided to run for the Board. Um, can you talk a little bit about them, why and how that name came about? As well as who these men were? Umm...

KS: I don't know what, how the name, the moniker happened

LM: Okay (laughs).

KS: Um, it was a four-three board, um, and it was the early 1970s, and Watergate was unfolding north of us. And our county was becoming a statewide embarrassment based on the actions of the majority of that board.³ Um, and somebody you might want to interview is David Brinkley, has his name come up?⁴

LM: It has, um, and he is on the Historical Commission now, um, which we have a liaison for that.

KS: Right, you really need to talk to him. He called me one night and said, and suggested I run for the Board of Supervisors.

LM: Really? He was the one...

KS: At the time I think he had been the President of the Dale City Civic Association. And I had been very active in the Lake Ridge Civic Association that we had formed. And so a lot of our work uh, was, we worked together to make presentations to the Board, not necessarily Dave and myself, but as civic associations, we began making presentations to the Board of Supervisors on what we

³ Four supervisors on the Prince William County Board from 1972-1976 were known as "The Four Horsemen" for voting as a block and making massive changes to PWC government. Phillip Smith, "Riding Herd in Prince William County," *Washington Post*, January 29, 1984. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1984/01/29/riding-herd-in-prince-william-county/f8e03565-df30-41e1-9991-1df30c36e9bc/>

⁴ David Brickley served as a state delegate for PWC from 1976-1998. He was influential in the creation of Leesylvania State Park, the Virginia Railway Express, and a strong proponent of local trails and trail networks. The Office of Historic Preservation interviewed him on May 3, 2024.

saw as needs in the community. But he persuaded me. I thought about it, I talked to my family about it, and we said well, maybe I could be helpful. And it turns out I like to build things. (Laughs)

LM: (Laughs) Quite a bit.

KS: Yeah. So that's what happened,

LM: Okay. Well, he is on our interview list and now I'll put him closer to the top, because he --

KS: Well, I I also got many of my fellow board members, as well as myself, became active in the Virginia Association of Counties. And, uh, ultimately, I was president of the association at one point in the 90s. But I got to learn a lot about the, it was a huge learning experience for me, dealing with what we had to deal with locally as well as getting to understand how the General Assembly worked and how important it was for us because we're a --- state and we can only do things that are according to the Virginia code, um, so I traveled around the state quite a bit. And uh, learned a lot about other communities similar to ours who had similar problems, especially in the Northern Virginia area. And we began to make a lot of, did a lot of networking and figuring out how we could be most effective with our legislative agendas to take to the General Assembly. So a lot of things we needed help with, especially in transportation.

LM: Mm hmm. And so when you first, um, became a part of the Board, I guess the general public opinion about these, the Four Horsemen was very negative at the time? Is that correct?

KS: Yes.

LM: Okay.

KS: Well, when I joined the Board, my first term began in January 1976. And there was only one holdover from that board. The other six of us were new. It was a big turnover. And the holdover was not one of the Four Horsemen. (Laughs)

LM: (Laughs) They, they all were voted out. Okay.

KS: So yeah, yeah. So there was one person on the Board who had some historical knowledge.

LM: Oh my goodness (laughs). And do you remember any notable stories about them? And then we'll move, move past them.

KS: About what?

LM: But about the Four Horsemen, um...

(Overtalk)

KS: Not specific- , it was a long time ago -

LM: I know it's been a long time.

KS: Here's the way I, I often describe it. In those days, the local newspaper in this area was called the *Potomac News* and we get the Potomac - we get the *Washington Post* in the morning and we have, Watergate was unfolding, and *Potomac News* came in the afternoon, and you could read about the antics locally. So you seemed to be surrounded by politicians who seemed to be mired in controversy in one way or another.

LM: And you said – (overtalk) I'm sorry...

KS: So it's interesting, you know, it was an unusual time. Then, early in our first term on the Board, all of us were quite astonished to learn that on the finance side of things, the previous Board was in the habit of keeping taxes as low as possible, and often they couldn't meet payroll, so they would sell tax anticipation notes. Used to collect the real estate tax, which is the greatest source of local revenue, in June. And so they were selling these bonds called tax anticipation notes to cover that gap in funding. And at the same time, this is the mid 70s, we were kind of heading toward a recession nationally, so times were very tight for a lot of different reasons financially, but we had to raise taxes. We were astonished at what we had to do. But we did try to get finances....that's why, to this day, your real estate taxes are not due until the middle of July, because we collect the real estate tax in July, now and December. So it's all in the same fiscal year.

LM: Okay.

KS: So that's straddling....

LM: And that happened because of, during your terms on the - okay -

KS: Yes, yes, we had to. We had to fix that.

LM: Okay. Well this, this goes to my next question. I guess when you were elected, and that was 1976? If I'm correct, that -

KS: The election was 75, we took office in January of 76. Okay, when I say "we" I'm thinking of the new board who took office.

LM: Okay. And so my question was about the Board from that time on their main priority in the years immediately following, um, those terms.

KS: Stabilize the finances.

LM: Okay.

KS: And then tackle infrastructure needs of the county.

LM: Okay.

KS: And before long, we started placing bond referendums for the voters to consider. And, uh, we made several attempts at that. And finally, I believe it was in 1988, not until 1988, we got a successful bond referendum. And it was a package that included schools, parks, transportation, and I think, um, public safety. There were four elements to it. So that was the beginning of the Prince

William Parkway. We just stuck 10,000 in there to get it started because once you get some federal, get some local money going on projects like that, then you can leverage state and federal money to your plan. Then we had to deal with the issue of water and sewer service. Much of the county depends on the Occoquan Reservoir for its water source. Um, when I took office, there were – the Service Authority didn't exist. We had a collection of small, it was called sanitary districts, had their own little sewer treatment plants and systems, and the state Water Control Board had slapped a moratorium on growth because of the quality of our sewer systems. So it took several years but we finally worked it through with a lot of work sessions and public hearings, to shut down all those little sanitary districts and have a unified one authority. It's that building next to the McCoart building.

LM: Mmm hmm.

KS: That's where they're basically housed. So that, that was a big issue to work through. Dale City is served by a separate water service called - I don't know what they call their service anymore, but they're, um, they were not a part of that consolidation. Let me put it that way. But the rest of the county, uh, is in one system now. And there's a huge sewage treatment plant down on the eastern end of the county near Neabsco Creek, close to the Potomac River. It collects all this stormwater, stormwater and sewage treatments. And it's state-of-the-art. Um, what's the term? Can't think of it off the top of my head. But technically, it's supposed to be actually drinkable once it comes out of the pipe.

LM: Okay, wow, yeah. (Laughs)

KS: So that that was a big piece of infr- basic, basic infrastructure, municipal infrastructure that had to be dealt with early in my terms of office.

LM: Okay.

KS: And then finally we got that - well the libraries were included in that '88 bond referendum I think.

LM: Okay.

KS: I think that was the fourth piece. Schools. A little bit of transportation money. Yeah.

LM: That's well and, um, I think you've covered it, but I - before you became chairman at large, what are the projects and initiatives that you were proudest of during those terms and was it creating this infrastructure?

KS: Well, it was stabilizing the finances, getting the sewer and water system built and funded. Um, then there was the issue of the courthouse and the jail. Um, we finally ended up being sued over the conditions of the original jail that existed, that served not just - the other big issue early in my terms of office – um, Manassas and Manassas Park had been chartered as towns for many years, they took city status so that took them out of our service area. And that had to be negotiated. And it took us almost a year to negotiate that transition. There were a lot of long-standing issues. I don't know how I could have forgotten that? (Laughs)

LM: (Laughs) It's a lot to cover, yeah.

KS: It's a lot, yeah, it's a lot. Um. So at this jail and the courthouse, then, the courthouse was in a metal building. The main Circuit Court was in a metal building, I don't know if it's even still standing there, probably not, in the, in the courthouse area. And, and the jail was just a small concrete structure with iron bars. One level, I think it was one level. It was awful, just awful, and ultimately we had a jail bond, we put it all in a referendum, the voters said no. So we had to fund it out of general revenue. And uh, but in the meantime, we were sued by the ACLU for the conditions in our jail.⁵ And that was not a happy experience. I had to testify. And the irony of it was, we had already agreed to fund the new jail out of general revenue because the voters had turned down bond funding. There's always something going on.

LM: Right.

KS: And we thought maybe we if we have to build a new courthouse, maybe now that the town had become a city, we should move it out of this city. That was very controversial, another failed referendum. Ah. So then we, we put the courthouse itself within the city, that project back on referendum, to be located in the city. And the voters approved that referendum, I think by 50 votes. That's what my rusty memory tells me, and if we hadn't done that, we probably would have had to be sued again. It had to happen. We just, the population was growing. When I came into office, I believe the population of the county was 140,000. When I left office in 2000, I think it was... I don't want to say, because I can't be sure. Do you know what it is now?

LM: I don't and I should. (Laughs) But we can look and annotate it.

KS: I think it's getting close to 400,000 now.⁶

LM: I think you're right.

KS: I think it was close to 300,000 when I left office,

LM: Okay.

KS: So the most tremendous growth. Then we turned to the comprehensive plan. We had to have that updated badly and, and that took a long time as well. Lots of, lots of work sessions and public hearings.

LM: Okay.

KS: So I'm yeah, then in late 80s uh, there's a large piece of ground near the Manassas Battlefield Park that was owned by Marriott Corporation. I think it was 150 acres. And there had been a time, sometime maybe in the 60s, maybe in the 50s, Marriott had some idea of a theme park out there, but

⁵ "A federal jury in Alexandria decided last night that Prince William County wrongfully held about 7,000 prisoners in unconstitutionally overcrowded, unsafe jail conditions between August 1980 and January of this year." Philip Smith, "Pr. William Loses Suit Over Jail Conditions," *Washington Post*, April 3, 1982. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1982/04/03/pr-william-loses-suit-over-jail-conditions/129d00fc-c761-4b99-b199-f36ca553b061/>

⁶ In 2024, Prince William County's population is 495,000. <https://demographics-pwccgov.hub.arcgis.com/>

they had given up on that.⁷ And uh, a developer came up with a plan, a mixed-use development plan similar to Fair Lakes in Fairfax County. Well, it became a huge, huge federal controversy. Congress got involved.

LM: Oh really.

KS: Yeah. We had to, I had to testify at Congress in support of our plan. Uh, in the end, Congress bought the land and expanded the amount of the battlefield park, incorporated into the battlefield park.⁸ Pageland Lane was the demarcation line. It's often a controversial area in the county, as you probably know. (laughs)

LM: Continues to be. (Laughs)

KS: But that you know, that took a lot of time, you know, Planning staff has do a lot of work on a project like that. Then we have public hearings and locally and many. So that was a big issue, another big, uh, issue we spent a lot of time on was the Center for Innovative Technology. We, we competed for that site that - this is before the - uh, I'm not, I'm not in sequence here. This was prior to the proposed development of that land by a private developer. The state was going to build the Center for Innovative Technology. Chuck Robb was the governor at that time. And we competed with Loudoun County for it. If you drive to Dulles Airport, you'll see this strange looking building. That's it.

LM: Okay.

KS: It's right across the line in Loudoun County.

LM: (laughs) Oh wow, of course.

KS: That was a, a big step up for us in terms of competing, uh, for that kind of facility.

LM: Okay.

KS: We learned a lot from the experience.

LM: With the---

⁷ "When Marriott Corp. announced in the mid-1970s it would build a huge amusement park off I-66 near Manassas, Prince William appeared set for a tourist attraction to rival any in the Washington area. The proposal was defeated in court, and the enormous tract remains undeveloped." Charles Fishman, "Prince William County: Development's Bridesmaid," *Washington Post*, June 15, 1985.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1985/06/16/prince-william-county-developments-bridesmaid/3447f773-a77e-411a-ac6a-20c5370a4ef8/?>

⁸ In 1988, the development company Hazel/Peterson proposed the William Center, a "1.2 million-square-foot mall" adjacent to Manassas Battlefield Park. The resulting controversy prompted Congressional involvement, resulting in the incorporation of the William Center tract into Manassas National Battlefield Park. Summarized from Zenzen, Joan, "Stonewalling the Mall," in *Battling for Manassas* (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998), 132-161.

KS: And, and then when, then, so then the next big issue out there was the private developer wanting to use the land for his proposed project. And at the time, Senator John Warner said to me, “why can't you just move that development 5 miles west of 66, of the 66 area? And guess what? A few years later, Disney made a proposal about 5 miles west of Manassas Battlefield Park, and that was in the 90s, when I was Chairman-at-Large. Very controversial. (some overtalk)

LM: Well, it will come as no surprise that those are a few of my questions and I, uh -

KS: And so those, those are the biggest highlights that I could think of.

LM: Okay.

KS: I think another big issue of interest to the general public is, um, when I first came into office, I realized, I had done some research and I realized that Virginia was the only state in the entire country that did not allow local, local localities to have elected school boards. So I called up my friend David Brickley, was now in the House of Delegates and I said this is a bill you should carry in the General Assembly. We should have an elected school board. We're a growing community. We need to have elected school boards and a lot of community input and that kind of thing. And he carried that bill for quite a few sessions and finally got it approved.

LM: Huh.

KS: And the first election for elected school boards in this county was in 1991.

LM: Really.

KS: Yeah, that was a good change.

LM: I didn't realize it was that recent, okay.

KS: Yeah. Then as --- (overtalk)

LM: Well –

KS: ...the '90s were coming to an end, I became aware of several localities out west who were doing, trying to look into the future in a unique way, they were creating groups called the Commission on the Future. So I brought that proposal to the Board. We should have a Commission on the Future. We should appoint citizens from every district area of the county and put them to work and let them tell us what they think the future should look like by the year 2020 or 2010, I think was the goal. And we did that.⁹ And, uh, there were two follow-ups to that I think. Future, you know. One of the items that came to reality in a very concrete way out of that Commission on the Future was the creation of the, uh, Hylton Performing Arts Center on campus of George Mason in Prince William. Which brings me to another big effort that we, we decided we needed a university presence in the county as a generator for innovation and to attract technology. And so that became a campaign in itself. And we were successful in doing it. It started off very modestly. The uni - George

⁹ Commission on the Future: Final Report (2010): <https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/documents/management-budget/Commission%20on%20the%20Future%20-%20Final%20Report%20-%201990.pdf>

Mason started teaching classes in rented space in the Sudley Road area, out on that corridor. And I think they called it, uh, George Mason Institute. And, let's see. I think it was in the mid '90s. President of George Mason, who had been the original president of the university, retired. His name was George Johnson, who'd done a magnificent job shepherding the university into these growth areas and, a new president came on board called Alan Merten. And the County Executive and I went over to meet with him to welcome him to the area. And in our conversation, he asked me, ah, what I would think of, his renaming their effort in Prince William County and changing it. Because in his vision, he wanted a campus here. And I, and I told him, well, I'm finding it very difficult when I speak to Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups, explaining to them what the Institute is, because it's a harder concept for people to absorb. I said, so I'd certainly be welcoming, if you want to say University of George Mason, that's fine with me.¹⁰



Image 2: Seefeldt (with former GMU President George Johnson, State Senator Charles J. "Chuck" Colgan, Delegate Harry Parrish, and GMU President Alan Merten) breaking ground on Prince William campus in 1994. Photo courtesy of University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Photograph Collection, 1950s-1999.

LM: Right.

KS: But what we should also do is on campus plan for a performing arts center. And he agreed. So that's what we did.

LM: No, I didn't know any of that. So okay.

KS: And raising the money for this...so that project, we already started, once we had the go ahead, we were going to have our university presence now and the first thing that we were going to put on

¹⁰ "In 1994 George Mason University broke ground on 120 acres in Prince William County that was donated by IBM, local real-estate developers, and private families." From "Retro Mason: Science and Technology Campus dedicated 1997," September 16, 2022. <https://www.gmu.edu/news/2022-09/retro-mason-science-and-technology-campus-dedicated-1997>

there was the, uh, recreation center there on campus. The template we used was a tripartite agreement between the University, the County, and the City of Manassas, we formed a partnership to fund it. We didn't have to have a bond referendum. We had to create a partnership. Which worked out very beautifully because with the University then they could leverage money from the General Assembly, frankly, I don't want to tell these secrets. How you do these things?

LM: That's fine. (Laughs)

KS: So that was successful and that was coming out of the ground. So we just used that template, a tripartite agreement to build a performing arts center on the campus as well. And, uh, also about that same time, the Board thought, "Well, we've got the university, we've got things going here, we and we also had recruited the Center of --- oh. Here it is. ATCC. I got it right here. ATTC.

LM: Oh wow.

KS: I can't remember it. This was a firm in Rockville, MD, that was the gold standard for, uh, specimens. International gold standard. They were it. Somebody needed a serum of some kind, that's where they went to get it.

LM: Ok, and you had found it on that coaster there (Overtalks)

KS: With all these, it's a building that so ok, we told them. And we're bringing the university here and they like the idea of being close to having a relationship with the university, for research office space and other opportunities for collaboration. So, we got the university, we got the recreation center, we got the performing arts center, we got ATCC. And we, and at the same time, we accumulated this, about 800 acres of land, in that area. Purchased them. Very controversial at the time, but it was all small parcels and we needed to control what was going to happen at the university and around it. And we learned that all these small parcels were owned in a real estate investment trust at Wells Fargo. So, we bought it and we sold it off according to the plan we had devised for that's it's called Innovation Technology Park, I think -

LM: Ok.

KS: And the FBI is there now and several other new buildings, lot, there's a lot going on out there, and, and the county has long since recouped its investment. Like selling off to the development that we wanted to have, that meant we thought were the economic development needs of county.

LM: Ok.

KS: Well there's a lot going on.

LM: There's a lot going on and I uh and forgive me if I go back and ask some questions -

KS: Go ahead (Overtalk)

LM: That ask you to speak in a little more detail about some of these things, um, so I hope none of it is repetitive, because quite honestly, you've gone through and talked about quite a few things I wanted to talk about the George Mason campus and some transportation challenges as well. But I

guess going back to initially, could you talk a little bit about your election, um, in 1991 to the new chairman at large position? And what really went into the decision to create an eighth seat on the Board?

KS: Well, the General Assembly said we could, we could have one more person.

LM: Ok, and that that was simple as that.

KS: Pretty simple.

LM: Ok, um and you decided to run for that.

KS: Mm-hmm. (Overtalk) Well, I have, I had acted as chairman, quite a few times while I was the Occoquan Supervisor, at the same time, so we had to wear two hats. Uh, I'll also tell you, let me do the math. It was seven times. So I had a feel for the county as a whole that other Board members maybe hadn't had the opportunity to have really. And, uh, I had to think in terms of the county as a whole more often than the rest of them did. They could stay more focused. Although we take an oath, you know, we all we all take the same oath. But I, I just had, I think developed more of an interest in representing the County as a whole when the opportunity became available. And that's when we first had an elected school boards, during that election year. And a school board chairman at large as well -

LM: Ok.

KS: Went with it.

LM: Ok um so going back, we've touched on each of these projects talking about the Williams Center and these projects, projects close to Manassas, Battlefield. So the Williams Center and Disney. Um, with both of these projects, what were your reasons for supporting them and were you ever surprised about the backlash to these projects or the controversy? Or was that expected?

KS: Well, I was pretty naive. With the, uh, Williams Center. I said to a staff member, because some congressman from Texas has stepped in. And wanted to put a bill in to, you know, got involved for a congressional hearing, because he was a history buff. I said, "can Congress step into a local zoning decision?" And a staff member said "oh yeah." (Laughs) So, yes, I was caught off guard.

LM: Ok.

KS: And in fact, it was during, it was on my birthday, in 1988, when I got the phone call from a staff person saying that Reagan had signed the bill for the federal government to buy that land.

LM: On your birthday.

KS: Mhm.

LM: Ok.

KS: But to me, it was an economic development investment in the county, it was primarily, from the office buildings some resident mixed-use but, first class office buildings for the first time, I think, almost anywhere in the county. And, uh, it was not a local controversy, generally speaking, I would say generally speaking, and Disney, even more so, was very popular with the local community, with some exceptions, but mostly it was looked on very favorably as a concept. As an economic development generator, job generator, uh, tourism, big boost in tourism, big boost for the local economy. It's all about jobs. But uh, in the end, Disney pulled out.¹¹ They were having more financial difficulties, I think than they had wanted to admit for quite some time and they were getting a lot of bad press.



Image 3: Kathleen Seefeldt testifying in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting on 6/21/94 about Disney proposal. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?58037-1/civil-war-battle-sites-disney-theme-park>

LM: Oh really.

KS: From national organizations.

LM: So you felt that the opposition came from elsewhere in Virginia or -

KS: Outside of Virginia.

LM: Okay. All over really. No, but not Prince William County -

KS: Disney does not like bad publicity actually (Laughs)

¹¹ Zenzen, "More Battles," 166-183.

LM: I can imagine that. (Laughs)

KS: And they were getting a face full of it. From the Audubon Society, the Civil War Battlefield people. Um, the historians. I testified in Congress and David, the historian David McCullough, came right behind me to testify. I mean, it was a national issue. It was, it was nationalized very quickly by outside interests.¹²

LM: So looking back at each of these projects would you still have supported them?

KS: Yes.

LM: Ok, um, is there anything else you can talk about with those projects or do you feel you answered most of those questions.

KS: Every once in a while somebody, some college student is doing research, on Disney (laughs) and I, quite some years ago, I was cleaning out some of my files downstairs and I took what I thought should be saved over to, uh, Dick Murphy, who was a uh, head of the library system at the time to deal with. And I don't know what, he wanted the materials. I don't know where they are now. I got rid of them.

LM: And this is, about all these you donated them to the to the public libraries about these projects or?

KS: What? Disney thing

LM: Ok, about Disney specifically.

KS: Specifically about Disney. The Planning Office too must have a lot of it too somewhere in their archives, I'm sure, I'm sure. And maybe some of my stuff was over there. I don't know.

LM: Ok, maybe we'll look. Yeah. (Laughs) Okay well moving forward from that I you know you are still known for being a strong advocate for improving transportation county wide. And can you tell me you've talked a little bit about it already, but about this decision to build the Prince William Parkway, part of which is now named for you.¹³

KS: Well, yeah. We decided it would be a good idea to connect the two interstates with a parkway. I can look around and see Fairfax County had their parkway going from Rt. 1 over to 66. Uh, I said, we should do the same thing, that makes a lot of sense. We can go right down here to the

¹² Along with other experts, representatives from Disney, and historians, in 1994 Seefeldt testified in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about Disney America. View the full hearing here (Seefeldt testifies around the three hour mark in a 5 hour hearing): "Civil War Battle Sites and Disney Theme Park," <https://www.c-span.org/video/?58037-1/civil-war-battle-sites-disney-theme-park>

¹³ Lisa Rein, "Board Honors A Driving Force Behind Parkway," *Washington Post*, December 21, 1999. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1999/12/22/board-honors-a-driving-force-behind-parkway/08a4e513-be51-429b-812a-858107599eb7/>

interchange and start building. Well. The bond referendum in 1988 had had that \$10,000 for transportation, specifically for that first leg of the parkway. As, uh, local component of funding for it and at the time Mark Warner, Senator, now Mark Warner, was on the Commonwealth Transportation Board. And he and another member of the Transportation Board met with me and some of our staff. And I remember Mark Warner saying, “how are you, how are you going to tie this new intersection to economic development?” And I told him well, Potomac Mills had already begun. Was was there, I said it's right there. We can create a special taxing district to help retire the bonds for the first leg of this road, but we have to get the intersection improvements, then, and the first leg went as far as, I think Minnieville Road. That area from Minnieville down to the access to the I-95, all the commercial, it's all the commercial properties in there had to retire the bond by an extra tax on their real estate tax. That's how we jump started the parkway. And from then on it was local and state federal money in increments as we went west. It was really interesting project.

LM: How long did it take in total to do that?

KS: It took. Good question. I think we finally completely completed the last segment, I think it opened in 2001?

LM: Ok.

KS: So that would have been at least ten years or more?

LM: For a major transportation – (overtalk)

KS: Succession of road bond referendums then we can, were routinely approved, approved by the citizens as we went along, because they could see that it worked. We leverage money and I had to go to a lot of meetings in the communities to sell these things. But I would simply say, “how many of you in this room paid cash for your house?” No, nobody would raise their hand. Well, this is how municipalities fund their infrastructure. If they have a good bond rating and stable finances, then you can get good interest rates and growth as it comes helps to pay off the debt. And, and once they saw the new, the roads being put in, then each succession, each succeeding bond referendum was pretty easily passed. So once you get the thing going it kind of works, works out pretty easily. But you have to have the vision first.

LM: Right.

KS: I mean, you have to, have your end goal in sight.

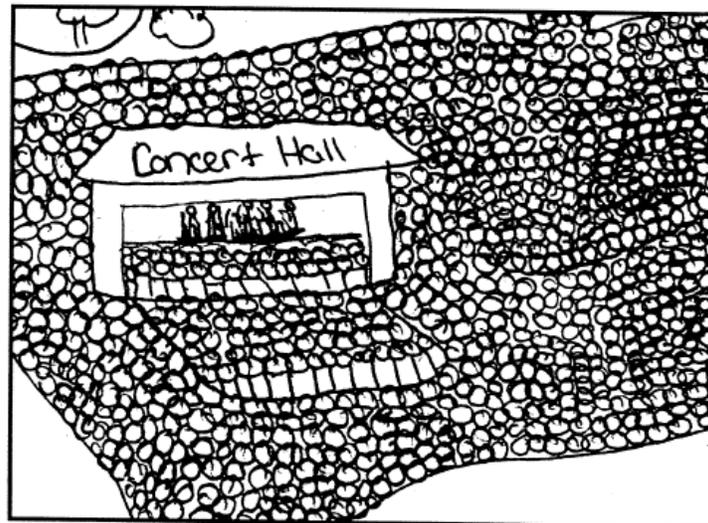
LM: And you were really the one who had the idea for it, is that right?

KS: Basically.

LM: Yeah.

KS: Now the community, Hylton Performing Arts, I told you, I mentioned the Commission on the Future, part of the Citizens Committee on that, part of their effort to get public input, aside from public hearings, they go to community groups and they go to schools and talk to kids. What do you think we should do? And one little girl in elementary school, I have a copy of it on my desk in there,

the Commission on, the Commission on the Future. She had drawn a picture of her vision of a performing arts center, in that in that report.



*"2010-Prince William Concert Hall"
- Ashlee Mills
John F. Pattie Elementary*

Image 4: Student drawing from Commission on the Future, 2010 Report

LM: Really.

KS: Yeah. So – (overtalk)

LM: Wow, I'll have to look at that.

KS: So when I met with the incoming new President Merton of GMU, I said, you know, this is part of our plan, to have this performing arts center.

LM: Just having the vision for it.

KS: I learned a lot along the way and I had a lot of fun. Enjoyed it, and I think the performing arts center was the project I enjoyed the most because, um, I continued working on the funding after I left office and finally we got it all put together. And it was, I think something's you know, really needed, and I do believe that arts help build community.

LM: Mm-hmm.

KS: We had a lot of, the only large spaces do have - we had a symphony orchestra but no place for it to perform rather than high school auditorium. It's not the best place acoustically. We had several ballet companies in the county. A school gym for performing, and a lot of smaller choral groups. A lot of, lot of art and visual and performing going on in the county, but no space. So it was a really gaping hole, I thought, and the assets that we needed as a part of a package to sell the county, to bring tourism and good jobs to the county.

LM: And so if I move to speaking a bit more broadly, I have as one of my questions to ask if you experienced any challenges as a woman in local politics. I asked this specifically because I was reading a Washington Post article about you and there was and I will have to go back and look at who said this, but someone who said I don't believe women should be in politics, but I liked working with Kathleen Seefeldt.¹⁴

KS: Who said that?

LM: I know I will have to look and I can pull it up after we finish, who it was.

KS: I'll be curious to see who it was.

LM: It was an old Washington Post article and it was specifically talking about the Four Horsemen and then your tenure directly after.

KS: Oh really?

LM: It was called "Riding Herd in Prince William County." And I just thought that that quote was so striking (Laugh) and you'd never see that today really. So did you experience any challenges, I guess?

KS: Experience any what?

LM: Any challenges as being a woman in local politics?

KS: No.

LM: No?

KS: No, I really... another woman came on the Board the same year I first. Alice Humphries, she was representing the Woodbridge District.

LM: Ok.

KS: And she had one term.

LM: Mm-hmm.

KS: And several other women followed as years went by. As well as women getting on the elected school board finally too.

¹⁴ "I served on a committee with her and I liked her and I don't even believe in women in public office," says John D. Marsh, a Gainesville multimillionaire horse breeder and GOP contributor. "That ought to tell you something." Phillip Smith, "Riding Herd in Prince William County," *Washington Post*, January 29, 1984. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1984/01/29/riding-herd-in-prince-william-county/f8e03565-df30-41e1-9991-1df30c36e9bc/>

LM: Yeah.

KS: Some had been appointed, but very few. Ah, no it wasn't.

LM: That's an honest, good answer. Yeah. Ok.

KS: Mm hm.

LM: I, I'll find that quote for you when we finish and then because it struck me when I doing my research.

KS: ----- Rodney Herd, I think I'm vaguely can remember the article, that phrase.

LM: Yeah.

KS: Um, one thing I'm sort of concerned about now is our lack of community newspapers. We used to have two: *Manassas Journal* and the *Potomac News*. And sometime in the 80s when Don Graham was still running the Washington Post, he wanted more outreach into the suburbs and exurbs, so he wanted to create the special edition, uh, and it came out in the Washington Post on Thursdays. It was the Prince William edition. And in Loudon County, he created the Loudon County edition. It was an insert. We had *Washington Post* reporters covering us all the time. They had branch offices here and in Manassas. We had good coverage locally and with, throughout the Washington Post about what the school board and the Board of Supervisors were doing every week. So people could have had a much better understanding of the issues, what we were doing.

LM: Right.

KS: That's gone. That's gone. There's still that Prince William edition in the *Washington Post* on Thursdays. But it's not, it's a shell of what it used to be. Their reporters are rarely in a Board meeting. Uh. We were kind of training ground for a lot of *Washington Post* reporters who went on to do great things. I can name quite a few: Lee Hawkstader, John Harris, Spencer Shoe is still with the paper. There was Pierre Thomas. Uh, those are all that come to mind right now. But they covered us.

LM: Ok.

KS: And, uh, there's a, just a information gap. Although the Board meetings, both school board and Board of Supervisor meetings are televised now. That's good, uh, that's something I always encouraged the Board to do, but I couldn't, that's one thing I failed to persuade them to do.

LM: Really. Ok.

KS: Yeah. They were afraid it would become a, just a show, grandstanding opportunity for too many politicians, I guess.

LM: I understand that. (Laughs) Huh.

KS: But I think it's basically good. More sunshine, more transparency, elected bodies have is better for a democracy.

LM: Do you have any regrets about decisions or missed opportunities during your tenure on the Board?

KS: Do I have any regrets or missed opportunities? No. No, I appreciate the opportunity I had, it was an honor. I got an education in local politics and how local government works and state and federal. Uh, I learned a lot. I enjoyed it very much. It was good. And I enjoyed working with my colleagues on the Board. The environment was quite different, now, or then, I guess I keep forgetting how old I am. (Laughs).

LM: No it's ok. (Laughs)

KS: We didn't take potshots at each other, ever. It's a different atmosphere. We had our disagreements, don't get me wrong. There were a lot of split votes. On almost every major thing we did, we didn't always have unanimous votes, but we just kept going. You know, vote was over, we were friends, the Board went out to dinner every week during the dinner break. I don't know if they do that anymore.

LM: I'm not sure.

KS: But we really got to know each other. Just informally.

LM: Well, that-

KS: And we did retreats every, almost every year.

LM: Really?

KS: Yeah. To talk about the coming year and, facilitated retreats opened to the public or the press or whoever wanted to come. Sometimes we did a locally sometimes we did it in other venues in northern Virginia.

LM: Ok.

KS: Overnight retreats.

LM: Really?

KS: Yeah.

LM: Ok.

KS: We would take at least a day and a half.

LM: To talk about your vision for the- ok.

KS: Well, so get set for the year ahead. We'd usually do it early, in the wintertime usually.

LM: Ok, I think in, it's inevitable to bring up the current Board and do you have any thoughts on the challenges that the current Board faces and how they compare to some of the challenges during your time on the Board or if they're comparable?

KS: Well, no, no. Some issues are eternal.

LM: Yes (Laughs). That's a good answer, okay. So I have a few lighter note questions and, uh, and I noticed in an article about you that you're an avid reader. And do you still read quite a bit and if so, do you have any favorite authors and what are you reading now?

KS: I just finished reading *Lessons in Chemistry*.

LM: Oh, ok, that's on my to read list.

KS: Very enjoyable.

LM: Ok.

KS: Very enjoyable. Uh, I read fiction and nonfiction. And I think the most interesting book I've read is by Doris Kearns Goodwin in recent years was about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. It's called *No Ordinary Time*. Oh, that a book, I don't even have it. I loaned it out and I didn't get it, I think it's gone permanently from my collection. I'm, um, I loaned that one out quite a few times to friends they liked it.

LM: I always like to ask that regardless to people who I know who are readers.

KS: Yeah, I like poetry.

LM: Ok.

KS: And music. I was a music major for a while in college. Piano was my instrument. Used to have a piano right there.

LM: Oh, really?

KS: I gave it to one of my granddaughters.

LM: Oh, well, that's kind of you.

KS: After I had my stroke. I was never able to play it again. So it's in New York City now in their apartment.

LM: Being well used, I'm sure.

KS: Yeah, she was taking serious lessons, and both the granddaughters up there have used it. They took lessons for quite a few years.

LM: I have, and we talked a little bit about this, um, especially before the interview started because I have a question about when you first moved here, your favorite local businesses, restaurants or stores, are any of them still around? And what are your favorite places that make your community unique today? Um, so we like to recreate a little bit of what it was like here. You know, when you first moved here. Because that's part of our history too.

KS: Yes, well, there wasn't much. There was no grocery store in Lake Ridge (laughs) and there wasn't a school in Lake Ridge or library. When we couldn't get a library bond passed, we came up with a plan to have mini libraries in each district. So eventually we had a mini library in Lakeridge and in every district, magisterial district, there's a mini library still today. But we've also built, through bond referendums, we've built the Montclair Library, the Bull Run Library. Uh. Yeah, but I was new, Central Library was always in Manassas Park, part of the system. But there was no pizza place in Lake Ridge or the Route One corridor when we moved here. I'm trying to think, first one to come in I think was Shakey's down on Route One?

LM: Ok.

KS: Then there was a pizza place that came in what's now Old Bridge Road near what used to be Hechinger, near Hechinger's, which is now commuter parking lot. (Laughs)

LM: Something that's changed.

KS: A lot of things here that weren't there years ago. Lots of change. The county has grown, just not in population but in terms of other, lots of parks. There was only Veteran's Park, which is a nice park, but it's a long way from a lot of their citizenry. But we, and then within Dale City and Montclair and, uh, Lake Ridge residential planned communities that land had been set aside in the planning process for parks, uh, so all that, those things all began to develop. And as schools developed and all these residential planned communities, there were ball fields and, you know. And then, Prince William Forest Park was, uh, is a federal park, but that's a huge asset. And then, Leesylvania Park came on board. Uh. Manassas Battlefield Park was always there. Robinson State Park on the western end, we have a lot of parks and we created the Park Authority and started getting golf courses going. (Sigh)

LM: Yeah.

KS: Oh. A lot of things are added to the community in terms of family activities. Soccer fields. Oh my gosh, soccer fields.

LM: Lots of soccer fields.

KS: Yeah. And now there's talk of a indoor sports complex somewhere in this area, which is kind of an interesting idea.

LM: It is, yeah. Well, you, you went into my next and really one of my last questions which is other than the obvious growth, the biggest changes you've seen in Prince William County as a whole, not necessarily just to your community and, and you think are there any other things that we haven't talked about already that you would consider some of those changes?

KS: Well, I think. I don't know. It's just been enormous changes everywhere you look in terms of public access to parks. Schools. Infrastructure, transportation, libraries, I mean we, we had we had to build a lot of stuff, right? And there are a lot of natural assets. Uh. Crew teams began to spring up. First one was started at Woodbridge High School. But the proximity to that mile of water along that reservoir before below the dam and before you get to Occoquan is one of the best locations in the whole East Coast for rowing. Yeah, well, it's quiet water. And yeah, so, I think most of the high schools, a lot of the high schools now have crew teams. But we have so many wonderful assets in this county. We have a lot of marinas. Along the Potomac River and the Occoquan River as one. We go from the river to the Bull Run mountains. It's a beautiful county. In terms of its topography, it's rivers. It's mountains. It's just lovely.

LM: I agree yeah. Well, I'll. I'll work on finding that article while you think about this next question, which is really, um, and I'm sure we've missed quite a bit, but is there anything else that we've missed?

KS: Probably is, yeah, you probably question the line with your questions though.

LM: Yeah, exactly. I know that's a broad question. So (overtalk)

KS: ---

LM: Yeah, I will find this article while you think about that. Because I, I know it's a somewhat ridiculous question to ask when you've done so much and, uh...

KS: Well, I had, you know, the staff was wonderful. We had good people who were committed to public service? It's not, I think the times were right for things to start happening for this county. And I just happened to be here. And other, you know, a lot of like-minded folks with their shoulder to the wheel. I think this secret for success in local government is citizen involvement. I've always felt very strongly about that. And that's why I feel I'm bemoaning the loss of local papers.

LM: Right.

KS: Because it's harder for people who have busy lives to keep track of what their government is doing. And so much of what's really important in their lives is what's happening in their local government decisions. Both school board and Board of Supervisors.

LM: Forgive me, I'm going through these, I should of um, What do you see as, I guess the solution to that, to our lack of local newspapers and coverage is there.

KS: I can't quite hear you.

LM: What do you see as the solution to that to our lack of coverage, our local coverage?

KS: I don't think there's. I don't know. That's what's bothering me.

LM: Yes.

KS: Maybe through AI there's some way that we're going to have better connections to, between, in the information accessibility for citizens.

LM: I will have to give up in a moment. If I can't find this article, but if I I can't -

KS: That's ok.

LM: I will absolutely send it to you.

KS: Well, when I talk about citizens, I'd like to, maybe I'll close with this. When I was the Occoquan supervisor, when land use decisions came before the Board, in my district anyway, in the Occoquan district, we: there's a citizen organization called the Lake Ridge Civic Association, and they've created a separate subcommittee of citizens to keep track of land use decisions coming before the Board of Supervisors. And it's acronym now is LOCCA/PELT.¹⁵ Lakeridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association, PELT committee - public public education land use and transportation. LOCCA/PELT. If it was a land use, whether it was a rezoning or a special use permit, I didn't want to hear from the developers. I wanted the developers going to the committee, the local citizens committee. They figured that out pretty fast. And that group is still active. And they have counterparts in different parts of the county. Some supervisors use them more than others, but I, I want. Don't talk to me. Talk to the community first. Take your, present your plan to the staff if you want, and then you take it to the citizens.

LM: That makes a great deal of sense.

KS: And I was at a function last week and, sitting next to a member of the current group. And I think he told me that the group is 53 years old now. And still functioning. They've got a heavy schedule. In fact, he just sent it to me. Let's see then. What is it? They're taking up some, there's an apartment complex proposed nearby here, and there's one on Old Bridge Road, a storage facility wants to have solar panels because they look at the whole picture, the aesthetics of it, the screening, the architecture. All aspects of impact on the surrounding community. There were three things I can't remember the third thing right now. Might have been a stormwater management issue on a piece of property I'm not sure. But anyway, I'm proud of the fact that there's still strong and going.

LM: You should be.

KS: But yeah, yeah. And I like these, getting the citizens involved and there's a lot of boards and commissions in the county that citizens get appointed to and that's all good. That's a good way for information to get out into the community through their networks. But that general, the big information gap is still there and I don't know the answer to that.

LM: Well.

¹⁵ "The Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association (LOCCA) and its principle committee, the Planning, Environment, Land-Use, and Transportation Committee (PELT) were formed over four decades ago with the recognition that communities are fragile and that efforts are needed to establish and maintain a sense of community." <https://www.loccapeltva.org/about-us.html>

KS: I understand the economics of it mean local newspaper have been collapsing all over the country, digital in the digital world.

LM: Mm-hmm.

KS: But it's, it's a problem.

LM: Well, speaking of articles, I apologize I couldn't find that one.

KS: That's alright.

LM: But I will, I will send it to you after, just so you can know.

KS: People, people like to joke, sometimes politics is like herding cats. Maybe that's where it came from.

LM: Yeah, it painted a very flattering picture of you. And it was from the 80s, um, if I'm recollecting correctly, but it's specifically talked about the Four Horsemen and your tenure directly afterwards and reinstalling confidence in the public, in Prince William County.

KS: Yeah.

LM: But I some of the quotes were, I will find them and I will cite them in this oral history too, because they were enlightening. But I think unless you have anything to add, I'll I'll go ahead and stop the recorder. Unless you can think of anything.

KS: I really can't. I think I, I just enjoyed working with so many folks, my colleagues on the Board and the staff was really key as well to helping the Board in general. We had good people who were devoted to good local government, good governance. And we tried to build for the future. It's, it's very honorable service, I think. As I said before, I learned a lot. I learned on the job really. I had a lot of help and support.

LM: You accomplished a great deal. Thank you for your time.

KS: Yeah.

LM: I'll go ahead and stop these.

KS: Ok. You're taking me down memory lane today.

LM: I uh you, um, I'm not sure I could remember all the dates that you did. I'm very impressed that – did that.

END OF RECORDING