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Deed of Gift and Release: Next of Kin

In accordance with the willing participation of A. L. RIEMENSCHNEIDER [name of Interviewee], in the South Dakota Oral History Project [name of oral history project or program] on 11 JULY 1972 [date], at which time he/she provided an interview/s to The South Dakota Oral History Center [name of receiving group or individual] for which no legal release was executed. As next of kin, I Sandra Riemenschneider [name of next of kin] herein do permanently donate and convey to the South Dakota Oral History Center, on behalf of the Department of Native Studies at The University of South Dakota, and its agents or employees the interview/s with JOHN WATTERSON [name of interviewer]. In doing so I understand that my HUSBAND's [relationship to interviewee] interview/s will be made available for use in, including but not limited to, research, academia, and historical/cultural preservation, of both hard copy and electronic forms.

I further acknowledge in making this gift that I am conveying all right, title, and interest in copyright to ALR's [initials of interviewee] interview/s to the South Dakota Oral History Center, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota.

I, Sandra Riemenschneider Hammerquist, hereby release the State of South Dakota, the South Dakota Board of Regents, the University of South Dakota, the South Dakota Oral History Center, the Department of Native Studies, their employees, agents, successors, assignees, licensees, together and individually, from and against any and all claims, liabilities, demands, actions, causes of action, costs, expenses whatsoever, at law or in equity, known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, which I now have, or may hereafter have by reason of or a rising out of my agreement to allow for the use of oral history as herein provided. I further acknowledge that I understand that this release shall include a release of any liability that could be alleged or which could arise as a result of the disclosure of any information by the recipient of the information to be provided in my oral history or unto law enforcement if the same relate to or could be deemed to contain information of criminal activity, whether or not the same has previously been prosecuted or will be investigated for prosecution in the future.

I am 18 years of age or older and I am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below, and fully understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release. I understand that I am free to address any specific questions regarding this release prior to signing, and I agree that my failure to do so will be interpreted as a free and knowledgeable acceptance of the terms of this release.

I have read the release, understand it, and intend it to be a binding instrument.

Sandra Riemenschneider Hammerquist
widow of A.L. Riemenschneider
Signature of Kin

Ely M. Mann
Signature of Authorized Agent

12/10/12

11 DEC 2012

Date

Date

Summary of Restrictions: _____

SOUTH DAKOTA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Library Cataloguing Service Data

Name of informant A. L. Riemenschneider
Address 2428 Woodland Dr.
Date of Interview July 11, 1972
Name of Researcher J. Watterson
Others Present _____
Location of Interview School of Mines, McLaury Bldg
Added Notes _____

Subject Headings under which you feel this interview should be filed:

subject's house flooded; took refuge in boat
outside; damage in that area & reflections

Demographic Information on Informant

Age 32 Sex M County _____
Socio-economic status _____
Occupation _____
Education _____
Religion _____
Date of Arrival of Family in South Dakota _____
Where? _____
From where? _____
Number of Moves in South Dakota _____ Reasons for moves: _____

- Q. This is John Watterson, July 7, 1972, and I'm talking with Professor A.L. Riemenschneider at, in his office at the School of Mines. Mr. Riemenschneider lives at, what's the number...?
- A. 2428 Woodland Drive.
- Q. 2428 Woodland Drive, which is in the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 1 North, Range 7 East. I would like to start out by asking you what you were doing in the evening of June 9th?
- A. Well, we were, we were home watching TV when there were reports of the flooding conditions in Boulder Canyon and that, and then the, we had the radio on and the TV going for awhile, until it started raining quite a bit, the TV was turned off, and we were, I was outside watching the creek and talking to the neighbors, and I watched Rapid Creek come up quite a ways, and my wife was inside...
- Q. How far again are you from Rapid Creek?
- A. Only about 150 feet...and I also, during the evening, I'd talked to Mr. Jack Moravic who owned the house west of us during '62, when the '62 flood was in, and many of the conditions were about the same. Noe of the houses in the area at that time, in '62, were in any danger at all, and there was no water in the basements even. And so we really never did...about 10:30, Norma was on the telephone, talking to her sister, and the radio was staticky and this, and we never did hear any of the, the warnings to evacuate the area, that there was any danger of Canyon Lake or any of this. And I was outside in the garage, and the water, we'd been watching the water, and it was up in the driveway a little bit, in our culdesac? and it had stabilized,

it had stabilized, for somewhere between a half an hour to an hour it seemed like, that the water really did just stabilize, and so I was doing some work out there...

Q. About what time was that?

A. This was oh, I suppose starting about 11:00, I was, I was out there in the garage, putting some things in the garage, and then all of sudden, it was just a matter of five minutes and the water was coming through our garage waist-deep, but, Norma was out there, my wife was out there for awhile, and, and when the water hit, in fact, and she said what's that noise, and about that time, the back door of the garage slammed open and water started coming in. So we ran over and slammed the door closed and she went downstairs, and into the boy's room and grabbed a drawer out of their dresser, and by the time she got out of the room, she was in water, and I was still outside, and I'd unloaded about \$300 worth of redwood, and I was pushing that inside when the back door slammed open again, and here I was holding the wood, and and all the water, and my lawn mower come floating by out on the north side of the garage, so I put it on the wood, and, and still holding onto it, thinking what I was going to do, and then pretty soon, here come the boat and trailer by, so I grabbed it, took the boat off the trailer and pulled it over to the front door. And, when I was tying it up, the garage went, the car went sailing out of the garage, and just as I turned around, the water from inside slammed the front doors closed, and couldn't, you couldn't get 'em open...

Q. The front doors to the garage...?

- A. Yeah, mm-hm...well the front doors to the house.
- Q. To the house, I see.
- A. The kids were upstairs, that was the last exit out of the house, so I told Norma break out a front window and get out. And we got out in the boat, and we were there, oh, probably about an hour and a half, and I would say that within five, ten minutes after that water hit, it, it'd reached its peak, it never got any higher. We watched the, the water level against the houses across the street, and it was about an hour and a half later then, the water was down below our front step.
- Q. Mm-hm. You, all this time you were in the boat?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And you were saying that the water was not coming directly from Rapid Creek, but rather _____...
- Q. No, the water, the water, the heavy water was from the south, and the heavy flow was coming down Woodland Drive, and south of Woodland Drive, and was actually running towards the creek area...
- Q. Mm-hm, was it, do you have any way to explain why the water was running across like this, it's sort of fighting against...
- A. Well, for one reason, if you look at some old aerial photographs of the area, you find that the actual old creek beds are actually south, south of us, south of where the creek is now, and...
- Q. So the water was finding its old creek bed?
- A. Sure it was, (old bed).
- Q. And then what happened when the water had receded...?

- A. Well, we went back in the house, and this was...the water, when it hit us, it was about, according to my closest estimate on time, when the clock stopped and power went out, was about 11:20, 11:25, and we were back in the house by 1:30, and we simply stayed in the house until it was about 4:00--3:30, 4:00--the National Guard came in with their big trucks and picked all of us up in the neighborhood.
- Q. What about the damage to your house?
- A. Well, the damage to the house is estimated at about \$5000 to refinish the basement, put in new dry-wall, paneling, and tile, and...
- Q. Structurally you said the house...
- A. Structurally.
- Q. ...was not damaged.
- A. No damage other than a little brick facing was taken off one corner...
- Q. Water on the first floor?
- A. No...
- Q. No water on the first floor.
- A. I have a split-foyer home.
- Q. Oh, okay.
- A. And it was, it came up in the basement, the water level in the basement was, well varied in rooms but the highest was I'd say about four inches from the ceilings in the basement.
- Q. Mm-hm. What about your neighbors?
- A. Well, they had about the same levels of water and the same basic conditions that we did...those that had split-level homes, that had the lower level,

they had water in their, on their lower level, also, as well as in the basement sections, so...but the water levels were about the same.

Q. What about casualties?

A. Well, the only casualties in our neighborhood was the Dieter's and they were out on the street when that wall of water hit, and actually we, the neighbors across the street pulled two of their children out.

Q. Were you, have you ever been apprehensive about living so close to the creek? How long have you lived there incidentally?

A. Well, we've lived there for five years, and we've never really give any, much thought at all to the, the creek. When we first bought, I asked about flood insurance, and at that time, they didn't offer it, and I can't remember ever having an offer for me to buy flood insurance after that. But we'd never really given much thought to it, you know, because well, we'd been here in '62, but we lived up in North Rapid at the time, and we'd asked about that, and none of those houses had had any water, and so we hadn't thought a whole lot about it.

Q. Any feelings about the way in which the flood was handled, the whole experience of the, the area experience of the...

A. Well...

Q. ...community experience in the flood?

A. I have, after, after the flood, I have nothing but admiration for the way that things have been really handled and the assistance and this. The only thing that I felt is the way any warnings were put out. And I can't say that it's any one person's fault and I can't say that's not partially my

fault also. But the fact that no Civil Defense warnings were given out, and if nothing else draws attention to the fact, and I really think, looking back at it, that if I had heard the warnings to leave, I would have been in worse shape than I was where I was at, because I could very well have been in the situation like the Dieters and been out on the street to get out of there.

Q. What about future measures to control flooding, are you, do you have any thoughts on this?

A. I don't have too many, since I don't feel I'm professionally qualified to actually make recommendations. My personal feeling is that, of course, the building in the creek area, I, I really don't think should be there, looking back on it, good hindsight. But, it's a beautiful area to live in, and, but inconvenient. But, as far as my wife and I are concerned we, just as soon as financially that we can get out of there and get into another home in some other area, that's what we want to do. Because it simply isn't worth the chance. Flood control in the canyons above might help minimize the risk, but you still have the problem that what kind of system do you build to assure that that won't happen again. I know in the neighborhood, itself, the...a lot of the people at first had made the statement that boy, they weren't going to move out of there, they weren't going to go anywhere, they were going to rebuild. But I think the attitude has changed considerably since then when they've had more time to really think about it and, in fact, every time a thunderstorm develops over the Hills, you suddenly look toward the west, you know.

Q. Mm-hm. (Pause in taping)

A. But...what has happened, I think, should be very well recorded, and the city, and the state and the county should take steps that when these developers come in to develop, they had better take a very good close look at the water shed, and other things that they're doing. Because if you look in retrospect at the area, and the fact that the area, that we're in, is the whole area is old creek bed, that the way the houses were in there, and were allowed to be built in there, do nothing but really cut off natural drainage, in the area, and even in the county outside of Rapid City, there's, there's areas that they're beginning to develop, going to affect the water shed in Rapid City and outside of Rapid City, and...I think they're just going to have to tighten up and be a lot more tougher on the developers to make sure that the overall safety and everything of all the people around, not just the people that are developing or those that are going to live in that development. Because now, they're, the one outside, south of town on Sheridan Lake Road, the developments that are going in there now, could very well affect the drainage system down through the Arrowhead, and County Club Heights, and places like that. And I think measures have to be taken to make sure that when they're doing it that it's well thought out and well planned and that everything in the safety factors are built into it to take care of this, because we're not going to change Mother Nature and she's going to come in and dump cloudbursts and heavy rains on the hills--she always has, she always will. We were, have been fortunate I guess before...but I think much more planning has to go into the development of large areas for residential use...

- Q. Would this include better coordination between city and county...?
- A. City, county and state, right...I think they all have to be involved, and...
- Q. So much of this building is that's taking place outside of the _____...
- A. Yeah, and the city has no control over it, but it's going to affect the city. It can't do anything but. 'Cause if you take a natural drainage which is earth and you start moving it around and putting pavement in and changing the flow of water, you can't do anything but affect the water-shed lower... and particularly you'll give it an easier way for the water to drain. So... (Pause in taping).
- Q. You were saying that you didn't see a great deal of houses or other debris coming through the neighborhood there...
- A. No, we were...the heavy flow of water down Woodland Drive is what had us evidently isolated, but no time during the night, did, only, all right, only once, did we we think that we heard a small child, it sounded like a small child cry, but outside of that, we heard nothing. We'd see a car by once in a while, and a propane tank went screaming by, but the houses and the debris that was going south of us, on the other side, south of Woodland Drive there, we didn't see any or hear any of this; we were sort of cut off, you know. The roar of the water was quite high, of course, and but we could see across east the other house and we, we saw the back wall of the garage was missing, but, but all the debris and the houses and stuff that was moving south of us we had no realization of until we went out that next morning; and come back into the area the next morning.

(END OF INTERVIEW)