

Jean Featherly Byrne Interview (January 30, 2013)
Edited by John Weingart

John Weingart: My name is John Weingart. Today is January 30, 2013, and the Center on the American Governor at the Eagleton Institute is happy to be able to interview today Jean Byrne, the former first lady and former wife of Governor Brendan Byrne. Well, Jean Byrne, thank you so much for coming to Eagleton to talk with us.

Jean Featherly Byrne: You're welcome.

John Weingart: You grew up in West Orange, New Jersey?

Jean Featherly Byrne: I did.

John Weingart: And you were a schoolteacher?

Jean Featherly Byrne: I was.

John Weingart: At what age or subject?

Jean Featherly Byrne: I taught first and second graders, and I had, as part of my student teaching-- I was a graduate student at NYU at the time, so I did two months in Harlem and two months at the Walden School, which was a very progressive private school. I thought to myself, how is this going to prepare me to teach in the public school system? <laughs> But I managed.

John Weingart: And your graduate program was in education?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Mm-hmm.

John Weingart: You got married in 1953?

Jean Featherly Byrne: '53, yes.

John Weingart: Did you and Brendan meet in West Orange, or how did that happen?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes. I was friendly with his younger sister, and they were a fairly prominent family in West Orange and that his father was a commissioner, public safety commissioner. So, yes. I didn't really know him, but I knew who he was, and we started dating, I guess, in 1951 after he was out of law school a year or two.

John Weingart: Was there politics in your family, growing up or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Not a bit. Not a bit.

John Weingart: It wasn't something you were thinking about particularly...

Jean Featherly Byrne: I have to admit, and he said-- that is, Brendan said it could have ruined his career, but at one point I was vice chairman of the Young Republican Club of West Orange. <laughs> So anyway.

John Weingart: Pre-marriage?

Jean Featherly Byrne: But I went back to the Democratic fold later.

John Weingart: When Brendan ran for governor, it was 20 years after you'd been married, I think, right?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes.

John Weingart: It was the first office he ran for. Did you see that coming? Did you think when you got married that you were marrying a politician?

Jean Featherly Byrne: No, I did not. I was a teacher. He was a lawyer. So I thought that's the way it was going to go. I don't know what was inside his head, but he clerked at a law firm in Newark, and the name of the law firm was McGlynn, Weintraub and Stein. And of course the Weintraub was Joe Weintraub, who left the firm to go down to be chief counsel for Governor Robert B. Meyner.

So Joe Weintraub got Brendan to go down and work as, you know, in Counsel's office. Then he ultimately became Meyner's chief of staff, and it just went on from there. I suppose you know all this, but then he was Essex County Prosecutor after that. Then from there, he left one year short of his second term, so he was there for nine years and then became head of the Public Utility Commission, and then Governor Cahill appointed him to the bench. Shortly after he was appointed, he became the assignment judge and sat up in Morris County. So that all was leading up. Now, did I see something coming? Well, maybe I was pushing it out of my head because I didn't want to see it. But I would go to the local grocery store, and they'd say, "Mrs. Byrne, your husband's going to be governor some day." I'd go down to the Texaco gas station. "Mrs. Byrne, your"...

John Weingart: This was, like, 1972, or well before that?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, maybe '71, '72. Maybe even before. Maybe '70, '69. But I'm saying, "No, I don't want to hear that." <laughter> But I must say, even my mother was rather prescient that way and she said she could see it as a possibility. But unfortunately, she didn't live long enough to see that.

John Weingart: But she saw that when you got married, or later?

Jean Featherly Byrne: I don't know. But at one point, she said, you know...

John Weingart: What was that like for you? Did he just announce he was doing it or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: I was aware that, when he was still on the bench, people were calling him and writing him letters and contacting him, urging him to run for governor. He said no, and first of all, he was a judge and they cannot get involved in politics. So it died down for a while and then started up again, and this time he started taking it seriously. Of course, a long story short, he did resign from the bench and started--but had to get certain things in place and just get a feel for what kind of support is out there. So he just said-- one day, he said, "I'm going to do it." <laughs> Okay.

John Weingart: My impression is-- I guess there are others, but Ken McPherson was a major presence at that time.

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, yes, yes, and he was a neat guy.

John Weingart: Yes, he is neat.

Jean Featherly Byrne: I liked him a lot. His wife is as well, Sheila. Yes, and then there was Don Lan, who was constantly on the phone with him, and there were some good people. Alan Sagner was another. But I mean, these were all people I didn't know. Got to know them, but they were total strangers to me. It was interesting too, because my two oldest sons were elected Boys State governors, Tom in 1972, I believe-- '71, junior year, the end of '71. Then my son, Timothy, when we lived down here, he was elected also. But I remember Tom saying, "Okay, now, Dad you got to go for the real thing." <laughter>

John Weingart: So at that point had you stopped teaching?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Oh, I had stopped a long time ago. First of all...

John Weingart: Raising seven kids or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: This was back in the dark ages when, when you were pregnant, when you reached four months of pregnancy, you were asked very politely to leave. That was the rule. You could not teach beyond that time. And of course, we had seven kids. I was certainly not going to go back to teaching.

John Weingart: Once Brendan was running in '73, did your life change immediately?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Pretty much immediately. Yes. I remember people calling, wanted to interview me, and I remember the very first one, I really blew it. A woman from the Philadelphia paper, *The Inquirer* maybe-- made an appointment with her, totally forgot about it, went off to my paddle game that morning, came home. There was a note on my door. I thought, oh, my God, what a way to start. <laughter> So I called the woman. She was very, very nice, and we rescheduled it and, from then on, things went quite smoothly. But I do remember. My son, Bill, was all of three years old at the time, and when people kept coming to the house, and of course the cute little blond boy, curly hair, wanted to take his picture and Barbara's also. Got to the point where he'd run behind a chair and hide. So, yes, your life is...

John Weingart: I don't know if first ladies were interviewed as much then as they are now, or potential first ladies. Were you sought out by the press?

Jean Featherly Byrne: It was quite busy, I would say, and once we got down to Morven, it was very busy. As a matter of fact a reporter who had been with the *Star Ledger*-- I got to like her a whole lot-- and she would come and interview. She would go shopping with me at the A&P. <laughs> Well, she actually came and rode to Princeton with us on our moving day.

John Weingart: Oh?

Jean Featherly Byrne: <laughs>

John Weingart: And then wrote about it?

Jean Featherly Byrne: I'm sorry?

John Weingart: And wrote about it?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, yes. But she was right with us on moving day. I'm thinking, this is really <laughs> a bit much. But I liked her. She was fun. She was pleasant and I trusted her. That was another thing Brendan had said. "Be very, very careful what you say in front of reporters, because they're not your best friend."

John Weingart: Yes. Did other people in the campaign try to script what you would say at all or give you advice? Or was it just Brendan?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, he didn't really give me advice, but he did give me that tip. Having been in the prosecutor's office for so many years, and you have to get along with the press but-- so he was an old pro at it. So that was just one little tip, and I'm sure he <laughs> wanted me to be very careful, because what I could say, what I said might reflect on him. You're always thinking about not just what you say but-- or how it affects you, but how it affects somebody else. So there's always that person next to you that you have to think about too.

John Weingart: Yes. So he won. Was there any question that you would move to Morven or just...

Jean Featherly Byrne: There was no question. I had nothing to do with it. I was just thinking about that the other day, because how things have changed. I mean, New Jersey didn't have a governor's home until the '50s. Bob Meyner was the first one to live at Morven, and that was 1957, I believe.

John Weingart: Then you lived in Morven and...

Jean Featherly Byrne: We lived there for eight years.

John Weingart: Governor Kean stayed...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Kean stayed put and Christie stayed put, and Corzine really, he stayed at...

John Weingart: He was at Drumthwacket.

Jean Featherly Byrne: He stayed at Drumthwacket sometimes, but he also had...

John Weingart: Also had an apartment else where.

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes. Of course, McGreevey's lived there and Florios.

John Weingart: There was some way in which Morven, I gather, was sort of inadequate to the function that caused the move to Drumthwacket. Was it not a good place to live?

Jean Featherly Byrne: First of all, it irritates me that people would refer to it as a mansion. It was not. But that's just how it goes. They want to call it a mansion, because I guess to a lot of people-- to me, it was just a big old, drafty, inconvenient house. We had built our house. It wasn't palatial, but it accommodated our family very nicely.

John Weingart: Your house in West Orange.

Jean Featherly Byrne: Mm-hmm. Had a nice recreation room we put in on the lower level, and Morven didn't offer that, and I had little kids, and there was no playroom. So we kind of hung out in the solarium, and even sometimes people would-- and I'd close the door-- if there were other people in the house; don't open it unless you knock. But some people would just come, open the door, walk through out to the back, if there was a meeting going on. And I think it's...

John Weingart: Yes, it's your home.

Jean Featherly Byrne: ...not a proper way to behave. Anyway, a lack of privacy.

John Weingart: Yes. Was that the way your life felt in general, sort of invaded?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Sure.

John Weingart: You moved in January, I guess, or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Brendan moved in January, and I moved down in March. I had to get the kids all settled in school and...

John Weingart: So they all switched schools in mid-year or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes.

John Weingart: March, yes.

Jean Featherly Byrne: They ranged-- Tom, at that time, was finishing his sophomore year at Princeton University, and I had them all the way down to Bill, who was pre-school. So, yes. So I had pre-school, elementary, middle school, high school, and college. So I had to get all those who were in the public school system settled.

John Weingart: They all went to public school at that point?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes.

John Weingart: Looking back, the Byrne Administration is seen as one that was very active and had a lot of major accomplishments and a lot of controversy. How did you experience it? Were you involved in discussions?

Jean Featherly Byrne: I was not really, no. Brendan didn't work that way. He had very good, accomplished staff people, and that was his family outside of the home. Only, I think two things that he asked me to do. One was there was a committee formed on studying the county college system, and he asked if I would be willing to serve with that group, which I did. I'm not sure; that may have lasted for maybe six months or so. The other thing that he asked me about <laughs>, and I think it was just-- he had made up his mind-- when he appointed John Degnan...

John Weingart: As attorney general.

Jean Featherly Byrne: ...as attorney general, he said, "What do you think?" I loved John, but he was only 32 years old. But Brendan was only 34 years old when he became prosecutor, so it didn't seem outlandish to me. Those are the only two things.

John Weingart: When Brendan decided to run for a second term, did you think that was inevitable, or was there really a decision being made there or a question?

Jean Featherly Byrne: We did talk about that, and-- but I think I felt at the time things were looking more encouraging as time went by. I wasn't crazy about hanging around there for another four years, but I also didn't think it was fair not to give it a shot, that he had had a very productive four years, and I thought he should remain there. I remember also when he was on a-- what do they call it-- a business mission, a trade mission to Japan, there happened to be on a Sunday a very, I thought quite unkind, rather nasty editorial in the *Trenton Times* urging the governor not to run again. It was written by one Herb Wolfe, who had been Brendan's press secretary, and then he went to work at the *Trenton Times* as editor. I thought, this is really nasty, and it just got me. So I wrote, got out my yellow legal pad, and I wrote a letter to the editor. And I wrote, "Some people don't like him because he rocks the boat. He tells the truth. Too many of these legislators are concerned about getting reelected, and they're not doing what they should do." Of course, this was when the income tax was the big subject. So I wrote a letter to the editor, and they published it. And there were some people said they thought that that kind of changed the tide. You know, first lady speaks out,

and I thought, nah. But I mean, I was irked, and I just didn't like the nastiness, the tone of it.

John Weingart: Did you do any other things like that? Or that was a one...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, I did all my own speechwriting. I did not let anybody write a speech for me, because I didn't feel comfortable with other people's words. I can remember I wanted to get the wording just right, and sometimes at two o'clock in the morning it would come to me, and I'd write it down on a piece of paper so I wouldn't forget it, or a phrase would come to me. Then another interesting thing I did toward the end was I was asked to take part in-- I don't know whether you'd call it a symposium-- I guess-- at Seton Hall at the School of Nursing. They asked me. They were doing Women in Politics, Women in the Workplace, Women in Healthcare, women in-- blah. They asked me if I could do that. I had a wonderful time. I wrote my own speech for that, and it went over very well, and I became very good friends with the then dean of the School of Nursing. She has since gone on to other things, but we make sure we still get together every year.

John Weingart: Oh, who's that?

Jean Featherly Byrne: She is just a wonderful, wonderful woman, and she just retired. She left Seton Hall to go up and work at the University of Massachusetts. They made her a chancellor or something, and then she came back. She was there for a few years and came back and worked in several hospitals, and she also has been teaching at Columbia University and NYU, postdoctoral students. I mean, she's a real wiz, but that was another part...

John Weingart: When you would write these speeches or writing the letter to the "Trenton Times," you wrote it yourself. Did anybody see it before you did it?

Jean Featherly Byrne: No.

John Weingart: You didn't clear it with Brendan or someone on the campaign or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: No.

John Weingart: Yes.

Jean Featherly Byrne: I guess I didn't care. <laughter> But I mean, it was-- the second time around, of course the children were four years older, so it was a little easier for me to take off. I mean, I did anything from small house parties to, I remember speaking to a bunch of women up in Chatham Township. They want to know what the governor likes to have for dinner. What do you do for fun or-- they just want to know how you live. I said, "We live like everybody else, pretty much, except for the fact"...

John Weingart: How did Brendan and relating to the children work? Was he out of the house a lot? Did you carve out weekends or some times or just...

Jean Featherly Byrne: It got to the point where he was out pretty much every night of the week. Sometimes he'd come home for dinner, and then out again to make the rounds. I would say, just to enlarge on that a bit, there was not a lot of help at Morven. We had two women come in part of the day. One would come in a little bit later and stay later. The other one came in at six o'clock, and they'd alternate those hours. But on Sunday just one came in. She'd make Brendan's tea and get him his cereal and all this kind of stuff. I said, "Go home. I want to cook. I'm doing the cooking on Sunday. I don't want anybody waiting on us."

John Weingart: In those days, were there State Police assigned to the house all the time?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, yes. There were two. As a matter of fact, when we moved down, the State Police were using the kitchen and I'm thinking, how is this going to work? <laughter> So finally I spoke up and tried to be diplomatic. I said, "Can I have the kitchen to myself and not have to be sharing pots and pans?" I felt as though I had to sign in. <laughs> This is my time. So we got that straightened out, and the state police had a room off the kitchen where they could sit and watch TV, and then they had a hot plate and stuff like that.

John Weingart: Had the Cahills been living in Morven right before you? Governor Cahill?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes.

John Weingart: Did they give you any advice or welcome you?

Jean Featherly Byrne: We had dinner with the Cahills one evening and with another couple from-- Jack McCarthy, who had been a friend of many governors, and he and his wife, Cathy, with whom we became very friendly. But Jack was one of the early supporters, trying to get Brendan to run. So we had just the three couples, Cahills, McCarthys and the Byrnes, all good Irish names. <laughter> So they kind of gave us an introduction to-- but I did not sit down and talk with Betty Cahill a lot. I knew Helen...

John Weingart: Meyner?

Jean Featherly Byrne: ...Meyner pretty well. In fact, I used to campaign with her. <laughs>

John Weingart: When she was running?

Jean Featherly Byrne: She was running for Congress, yes. Yes, and she was fun. Yes, I got more from-- and even Betty Hughes. I got to know Betty Hughes quite well, and she gave me-- she helped me out, pointers and stuff.

John Weingart: We were talking just before we started filming. I was showing you the picture of Eleanor Roosevelt, and you were talking about having met her. Were there other moments like that that stand out from those years of people you got to meet or host or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, we went to the White House quite a few times, and that was mainly because the Governor's Winter Conference was in Washington in the winter, and typically I think it was in February. So the White House, the president then would have all the governors and their wives for dinner at the White House at the end of the Governor's conference. So we got to meet quite a few.

John Weingart: So that was Nixon, Ford and Carter, I guess. Right?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, Nixon, Ford, Carter. Bill Clinton, we got to know, because he had been governor, so we used to see them.

John Weingart: Did you host gatherings here? Did you travel much for events out of the state?

Jean Featherly Byrne: No, no. Not a lot, because then, well, it was a matter of money. The only thing where my expenses were covered was to the governor's conferences. Other than that, if I were to accompany him, we'd have to pay our own way. Of course, there was not a lot of money there, never had been, and had kids in college. Paying three tuitions at a time-- I don't think so.

John Weingart: I guess you're getting a free house in those years but a lower salary. Is that...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, but we still had our house up in West Orange. Brendan offered it to one of his former law partners, and we did not-- he said, "We're not going to charge rent, but we'll let them pay our mortgage payments." So that's the way we handled that. I wanted to keep the house just in case, but we did sell it after he was reelected.

John Weingart: Were there events hosted in New Jersey, either at Morven or other places, that you-- from people visiting from other countries or other states?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Oh, a lot of groups. For instance, the Historical Society would always have their annual event at Morven. We had a lot going on, and of course it was at their expense. We would make the arrangements. We'd get the caterer, get the tents put up, because Morven couldn't hold that many people. There were a lot of groups. But they were major-- and then of course we always hosted the Supreme Court. But there...

John Weingart: That was a dinner or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: And then we had senior art shows, senior citizens during the day. Six weeks after I arrived, I think we had an Easter Seals event coming. This was a daytime thing. I remember my daughter, Barbara, in first grade, and she comes in the house, and there are all these people in the center hall. "Mommy, where's Mommy?" <laughter>

John Weingart: When you say you hosted the Supreme Court, was that a dinner or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, it was a dinner.

John Weingart: An annual thing?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, that was an annual thing. Yes. But there were all kinds of events I think Brendan started this kind of arts thing that was on a Sunday afternoon, and we'd have people from different sectors of the art world honored, one of whom was Madame Maria Jeritza, who sang at the Met. We got to know Maria quite well. I think she felt it was a little beneath her status to <laughs>-- she was kind of above all that. But she was then in her nineties. Amazing. Yes, I think she died when she was just short of her 105th birthday. We used to go to the opera with her usually every other Saturday.

John Weingart: In New York?

Jean Featherly Byrne: At the Met. People would recognize her. She wore a big hat, and we'd usually sit up in the third row.

John Weingart: When you went to New York, did people recognize Brendan?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, he wasn't that recognizable yet, because this was before he was elected governor. Just before. But that was something. Sometimes when he was governor we'd be in New York and we'd go to Brooks Brothers, and of course he'd walk in. "Oh, Governor, Governor, Governor." You know. <laughs> I remember one time we were walking along the street, and these two gentlemen passed us going the other way, and you could hear them say, "That's Brendan Byrne." And he goes-- nudges me in the ribs and smiles. <laughter> "They know who I am." Oh, gosh.

John Weingart: So when you look now, several decades later, at the roles of first ladies and governors or presidents or the role of John Whitman as a first husband, do you have thoughts about that of what that must be like for them or could have been different for you?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, then, as with the wives of presidents, it was always, what is your thing going to be, your focus, your whatever you want to call it? I'd think to myself, I've got seven kids. <laughs> What do you think? But I said, "Well, my background is education." One of our children was severely-- profoundly,

I should say-- retarded. I know that's a word we're not supposed to use anymore, but I don't have a problem with it. To me, it's a perfectly good word. That certainly was an interest of mine.

John Weingart: Policies for people with disabilities?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes, yes. Our daughter had Downs Syndrome, so that was a concern and an interest, of course-- and education in general. I remember a group of teachers came down. I don't know what they were protesting, but it was a Saturday morning, and they came down and they were outside the fence of Morven, standing on the sidewalk. Brendan said, "You were teacher. Why don't you go out and talk to them?" <laughs> So out I went. I was rather shocked, because they kind of looked grungy to me. I think it was when the dress code was starting to change, and a lot of these people were in kind of dungarees. But anyway, I spoke to them, and I don't know what I said. Don't, ask me, but...

John Weingart: Was that a rare occurrence that people would come, demonstrate at Morven?

Jean Featherly Byrne: It didn't happen all that often, but they were very nice. Then on a few occasions, I did go down and talk to the Congress of the NJEA when they'd have their meetings in Trenton. That, I enjoyed, because I related. But I remember also when we were having the oil shortage, and so we asked everybody to keep their thermostats no higher than 68...

John Weingart: Temperature, yes.

Jean Featherly Byrne: And at night, it goes down to 62. Well, I had a couple of people come to the front door, and they wanted to check the Morven thermostat. And I thought, well, that's rather bold.

John Weingart: Yes. <laughter>

Jean Featherly Byrne: But they came in, and they looked at the thermostat. I mean, first of all, the heating system in that house was so unstable. You couldn't tell whether it was 62 or 68 or what. But anyway, but yes, people are funny.

John Weingart: Were policies for your daughter with Downs Syndrome-- was the government helpful to you at all at that point? I mean, it was before there was much of a movement or...

Jean Featherly Byrne: No, no. The truth is that I was paying more for Maryann's tuition than I was paying for my son at Princeton University.

John Weingart: Where was she going?

Jean Featherly Byrne: The first two years of her life she was at a private hospital in Amityville, Long Island. Then she moved to Totowa, and then after a certain age, then she moved down to Hunterdon State School, which I was very impressed with. We went down on a regular basis, piled all the kids in the station wagon and went down to visit her. They were very good. She is presently living in South Plainfield in what they call the Keystone School or Keystone Homes. Their original school or home was in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Then the director opened the school or home in Plainfield, and that's where she resides presently.

John Weingart: You all fit in a station wagon, eight of you?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, whatever. Yes. Maybe not the whole family on every trip. Some were away at school. But we'd go down on a regular basis.

John Weingart: Well, I really appreciate you're talking to us. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Jean Featherly Byrne: No. I think Fariborz [Fatemi] might have a few things he wants to add to his.

John Weingart: Fariborz, in the written text he's provided for this archive, he's talked about how effective you were with talking to groups and...

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, I liked the small groups, because-- and as I say, I didn't mind the large groups, but I do remember the first campaign there was something going on on a Saturday afternoon in Middlesex County at the County College. My hands were shaking, my knees were knocking. I'm sitting there and I'm listening to a couple of women who were sort of leaders in the Democratic Party

locally in their county. I'm thinking to myself, Jean, you're a grown woman. You're as smart as they are. You can do it. If they can do it, you can do it. And I had taken a speaking course when I was an undergraduate at Bucknell. <laughs> When you had to get up in front of a class and-- I remember a friend of mine just went cold. She went blank and had to sit down. I got through my speech, so I mean that helped. I knew I could, but you kind of have to learn all over again. But it was amazing how quickly I became comfortable with it, and especially since I was doing my own writing. That helped. I had 3 by 5 cards. <laughs>

John Weingart: Did you have them in front of you when you gave speeches?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Most of the time.

John Weingart: Are there particular accomplishments of the eight years that you think-- feel particularly proud of or think were the major accomplishments of Brendan?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Well, he will say himself that it was the Pinelands, and I would agree with that, and it saddens me because they keep eating away at that area, and you wonder how long it's going to last. Then I see-- how can they do this when this preservation was put in order? I don't know in what context, a law or...

John Weingart: State law and federal law.

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes. How can they keep nibbling away and building? It's a treasure.

John Weingart: The folklore, and I think what Brendan says, his interest in the Pinelands came from, partly or largely from John McPhee and his book.

Jean Featherly Byrne: Yes.

John Weingart: Were you friends? Were you and the McPhees friends?

Jean Featherly Byrne: We got to know the McPhees fairly well. Yes, Brendan had read McPhee's book, and that's what sparked it, set this thing off.

John Weingart: They were tennis partners, I gather?

Jean Featherly Byrne: Oh, they played tennis. Brendan had a lot of tennis partners, <laughs> Peter Benchley, for one, because they lived across the street sort of from the Morven tennis court. Yes, but that sparked it. You can understand the anger and the fight back from the people that had bought acres and acres and acres and acres for the cranberries and blueberries, whatever. But you have to look at the greater good.

John Weingart: Thank you for taking the time to talk with me.