

An SfAA Oral History Interview with the High Plains SfAA

The Early History of the HPSfAA

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This transcript is based on a group interview of High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology (HPSfAA) leadership conducted by Pam Puntteney and John van Willigen, for the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Oral History Project on April 4 and 5, 2003 in Estes Park, Colorado. The composition of the group changes over the two sessions but includes Carla Littlefield, Art Campa, Peter Van Arsdale and Deward Walker as well as Puntteney and van Willigen. The text was edited by van Willigen. The introduction was prepared by Littlefield. The photos were provided by Emilia Gonzalez Clements.

Carla N. Littlefield [cnlittlefield@q.com] High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology HPSfAA began as a Regional Subsection of SfAA. An ad hoc committee chaired by Deward Walker met locally to lay the groundwork for this new regional organization. Other committee members included Gottfried Lang, Omer Stewart, Jack Schultz, Julie Uhlmann, Peter Van Arsdale, and Michael Higgins. At the Annual Meeting of the SfAA in Denver on March 22, 1980, the ad hoc planning committee convened an organizational meeting. The turnout was enthusiastic, drawing many of the practicing anthropologists in the region. The decision was made to hold the first annual meeting in Boulder the following year. In February, 1981, the annual meeting participants approved the efforts of the ad hoc committee, approved bylaws, and elected officers: Gottfried Lang, Chairperson; Shirley Kurz-Jones, Vice Chairperson; Carla Littlefield, Secretary-Treasurer.

Within five years, the Regional Subsection of SfAA became the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology. Peter Van Arsdale launched a Newsletter that morphed quickly into a Bulletin with refereed articles. This publication soon evolved into a referred journal, the *High Plains Applied Anthropologist*, now called *The Applied Anthropologist*. The success of HPSfAA may be attributed to myriad factors, many touched upon by those participating in the group interview that follows. A sense of community prevails with a healthy mix of academics and practitioners coming together from the broad geographical area east of the Rocky Mountains: Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. Regional anthropology departments continue to provide support so that faculty and students can attend meetings, both the annual meeting in the spring and the fall retreat held at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico. At these meetings, members get renewed,

share ideas, and confirm their commitment to community. HPSfAA welcomes students as full-fledged members; a student representative is a voting member of the Board of Directors. HPSfAA maintains mutually supportive relationships with both SfAA and NAPA. Finally, the community includes a core of committed members who have consistently taken on responsibilities and roles of leadership when called upon. The discussion that follows reflects the ongoing dedication of these leaders to maintaining the vision of HPSfAA's founders. More can be learned at their website, <http://www.hpsfaa.org/>.

LITTLEFIELD: The first annual meeting was held at the Hilton Harvest House in 1981 in Boulder, and that's where we elected all of our officers. Friedl [Gottfried] Lang was elected chairperson and I was secretary treasurer, member at large was Peter Morley, member at large Robert Hill, another member at large Ruth Kornfield. I was the original or the initiating secretary treasurer of the High Plains and I assumed that role after the election that was held in 1981. It was a very successful meeting.

CAMPA: I remember that there were some very exciting times going on there as the graduate students were doing a lot of the background organizational meeting and getting all the procedures done for the annual meeting, rental of rooms and getting the material set and getting people in—I got pulled in there; I was made to go in there on a promise that yes, I'll be there, I'll be one of the bodies that will show up. And I recall that it was an exciting time because a lot of people really wanted to get together and to talk about their various subjects, but I think it was just the inspiration in getting a lot of applied anthropologists and other people in the social science fields together, so I remember, it was exciting. We had a great time at the cocktail party that was going on then. It was very animated, I must say. And I had just, let's see I had graduated a year before that, so I remember that. I was going in not as a graduate student but as a participant without a job at the time. So at any rate, it was exciting, people were looking forward to doing things in the future. The fact that we were all assembling in this meeting, I think was really an exciting thing. I do remember there was a lot of positive energy going on at the time. There must have been at least thirty-five, forty people or more there.

PUNTENNEY: John [van Willigen] he sees us as a regional practitioner organization, which makes sense because that's the way SfAA had originally set that up. How far away did people come from?

CAMPA: It was mostly local from the University of Colorado, Boulder, the University of Denver, perhaps as far as the University in Northern Colorado in Greeley, perhaps

Colorado State University at Fort Collins. It was a Colorado thing initially. So, there were enough people to stir up that kind of interest and participation. [It was] rather ironic to have an applied organization; we came out of the school, the University of Colorado, that was not very supportive of applied activities, as I recall. It was Deward [Walker] and Friedl [Lang] and, Hack, [Robert] Hackenberg was there, or was he not?

LITTLEFIELD: I think he was there but I'm not sure [Hackenberg] was that involved with applied.

CAMPA: No, he wasn't. So it was Deward Walker, it was Friedl Lang, Michael Higgins from the University of Northern Colorado, and those were the main participants at that time. [Sylvester] Bus Lahren was one. He and I were buddies at the time. He had been in Montana at that time so he wasn't directly involved in that initial meeting. Peter Van Arsdale, of course, was there; he's been connected with the University of Denver for eons, I think, and let's see, who else? Ken Keller was there too. Ken and I went to school together .

LITTLEFIELD: Deward [Walker] could talk about all the advance that led up to this very first meeting that we had in 1981, because Deward was the chair of this SfAA group that was deliberating whether or not regional sections should be formed, or whether we should focus on accreditation or whatever issue we wanted to, so Deward could obviously address that. But it was an excellent meeting, and following that meeting then, what I remember is that we had board meetings at Friedl's house for that entire year after that, and it was so exciting because I was getting ready to graduate and then I did graduate. But to go back and have meetings then with—with Shirley Jones the president elect and Peter Morley and Robert Hill and Ruth Kornfield and whoever else wanted to come to the board meetings. The Langs were so hospitable and we met in their living room.

CAMPA: We had good times there, I remember, it was a very warm family to be with.

LITTLEFIELD: And then the following year we went back to the Hilton Harvest House and had our, our second annual meeting. In the meantime, Peter Van Arsdale became the editor of our first newsletter. He got that going in 1981, after the Harvest House annual meeting. He planned our second annual meeting at the Hilton Harvest House, we published highlights—oh we were so sophisticated! Our highlights! And we had people submit summaries of their papers. I think I still have a copy of that in the archives, the highlights of our second annual meeting.

PUNTENNEY: Were those the seeds then for which eventually the newsletter grew into the journal?

CAMPA: And then a separate newsletter began again, then.

PUNTENNEY: It sounds like you all were kind of thinking in a journal type format. It struck me when I first got to know you all in 1990, when NAPA held the board meeting in conjunction with the High Plains Society annual meeting, that in the early days you all started with fairly high standards for this particular organization.

LITTLEFIELD: We did.

CAMPA: I think what contributed to that is that Deward was the editor of the *Human Organization* for SfAA and I recall—I worked with him because I used to do the translations into Spanish for the abstracts—so I remember Deward was working with another journal, and I think from those skills and experience acquired in, he then transferred them to our section at that time, that regional section of SfAA as we were known in those early days of the eighties. So I think that was a natural transition for Deward.

LITTLEFIELD: I think Peter deserves a lot of credit for the quality of that first *Society for Applied Anthropology* newsletter because he had some articles in it. I think it was also peer reviewed—the articles were peer reviewed for the newsletter...

PUNTENNEY: Really!

LITTLEFIELD: ...if you can imagine, oh yes! Peter had extremely high standards, and when you interview him for this, make sure that you get some of the early history of the newsletter. But we started that newsletter up and in 1981, then we had our second annual meeting in 1982 at the Hilton Harvest House, and after that we published highlights. And then our third annual meeting, we went to Denver, we met at the Holiday Inn, and after that we published proceedings, not highlights, but proceedings, and I have indicated at least in some of my milestones that at that point we did elevate the newsletter to a bulletin with refereed articles. So it wasn't that the newsletter had refereed articles, but when we called it a bulletin, and again this was Peter. It definitely had a very high quality to it. After 1983, our next annual meeting was at Auraria, and I was so impressed because Ted Downing, the current president at that time of SfAA came to our annual meeting, and I have told the SfAA people that

they have no idea of the status and the confirmation that it gives an organization to have the president of the, of the major organization come and speak, and Ted was just so personable. I just found that to be so stimulating to have Ted there and, and to listen to him at that Auraria meeting, and you were probably involved in the organization of that meeting. [Editor: Auraria is located near downtown Denver and serves as a joint campus for a number of public universities.]

CAMPA: I recall that meeting because I began organizing it in September, and the way I did it was to appoint chairs of different sections for the meeting and said, all right, you take the responsibility of doing it. I remember calling Reed Riner at Flagstaff about colleagues and, if I recall correctly, that's how we got connected partly with Ted Downing.

LITTLEFIELD: Right, so is that—because Reed was president of our society?

PUNTENNEY: Reed took over presidency in 1983.

LITTLEFIELD: In 1984 we had had our fourth annual meeting which was held at the Auraria Higher Education Center in Denver, and the fact that Ted Downing had given the keynote address, and I've already spoken to how stimulating it was for the High Plains to have the President of SfAA come and join us. But I thought now that since Peter is here both Art Campa and I had alluded to the high standards of our newsletter and how Peter Van Arsdale had even raised it to a new level of being a bulletin with refereed articles the previous year, in 1983. I would really like to have [Peter] address the newsletter, and how he was able to create a wonderful communication vehicle for our organization.

VAN ARSDALE: I was aided in the creation by several folks and I took many ideas from many good folks. If I recall, I might well have gotten ideas from you Carla, from Art, from Friedl, from Michael Higgins. I know at that point in time [David J.] Dave Stephenson [Jr.] gave me several inspiring ideas as did Larry Van Horn and Deward Walker. Those are particularly several people that I got ideas from, not only to found the newsletter in eighty-one. Pam Punttenney's earlier point about regional and working regionally is quite correct, because even then the newsletter, I recall very clearly, was founded on a regional basis. We didn't even use the phrase LPO, for example, with the newsletter. We talked about it as a regional organ for a group which at that time had Society for Applied Anthropology ties. So in that sense, we also felt with it as regional. In those two years, from 1981 to 1983, we increasingly moved from a media that was newsy and notesy, telling about what people were

doing and what was coming up with the various conferences and what not, to one where we had short articles and then eventually articles. In the last issue I edited—because that was part of my dream, to help me get to that point before my tour of editor expired, to have peer reviewed articles—so the very last issue that I edited which had the first peer reviewed and that was a stepping stone to later expansion of the bulletin and then eventually expansion of our nice journal, was written and it was on the topic of a native American fisheries and environmental work, as I recall, and our peer reviewer was our own Omer Stewart. Now I think that is most exciting to know that he was the first peer reviewer for the first peer reviewed article, the last issue that I was editor .

LITTLEFIELD: That was a very exciting time for us. I think we recognized in the Fall of 1984 that we needed to have a retreat, and it was the very first retreat we had and I got some funny memories of that. We went to the Broken Arrow Ranch, I remember driving over there with you, Peter. And I think we drove on some cliff hanger of a road to get there. But anyhow, we all found the Broken Arrow Ranch, and that was a retreat held by the board, but we invited anybody else who wanted to come so that we could talk about the future of High Plains.

LITTLEFIELD: Peter, which year—or maybe Art knows this too because I can't remember—in what year did SfAA spin us off, because my own milestones indicated that we did change our name in 1985 to the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology, and we developed our own by-laws, and at that point then, we began just an affiliation with SfAA. We began an affiliation with SfAA in nineteen eighty-five.

VAN ARSDALE: I believe that's when we spun off and became separate. Affiliated...but separate. I believe it was eighty-five. But it was about that time that we were both enhanced further by SfAA and feeling a little bit constrained by SfAA, in terms of what we could and could not do. My take, and my memory is that about that time, we realized that we would be under their umbrella. We had been, and that can help us get going, and that are also certain constraints by being under their umbrella, for example, the sorts of things we do, not do, publish, not publish, get their say so, not get their say so, and it was my memory of it. We thanked them greatly and caused us to go on our own.

LITTLEFIELD: There was some kind of an IRS ruling though, that I think required that SfAA spin us off...

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CAMPA: I've heard Deward articulate the fact is that the IRS made that ruling so we had to divest ourselves of any official connection as a subsection, so therefore we became independent after that. We still had more of an informal, professional relationship with SfAA but we didn't have the official relation that we had prior to that as a subsection.

VAN ARSDALE: I think we were excited about the spin off though. My sense is we were excited about it. Not as if it was some ominous thing. We wanted to have more freedom.

LITTLEFIELD: I think we were ready for it. And there also seems to me that it was about that same time that we realized that we didn't necessarily have to follow the model that SfAA and the AAA had. We didn't have to have our annual meetings at hotels. Art came up with the idea why don't we go to the Bethlehem Center, go to a rural location which would be informal, get away from the hotel, and Art, you ought to talk about the Bethlehem Center.

CAMPA: The Bethlehem Center was a retreat run by the Bethlehem fathers. At that time was in rural Northglenn [Colorado]. [It is] no longer. It's been swallowed up by the city. And the reason we used it at that time is that it was relatively inexpensive, they would offer some type of a retreat setting so that people couldn't wonder off to go shopping and do other things, and it was a very homey atmosphere. It was kind of like the barracks building thing, but nevertheless the cost was minimal compared to the hotels. I thought it would be a good inexpensive retreat given our limited modest resources at the time so, I think it worked out well for quite a number of years.

LITTLEFIELD: We had our annual meetings there for several years, and we even planted a tree before we left there.

LITTLEFIELD: That was a big year for us, 1985, I'm noticing that we had changed our name then to the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology, we changed the name of the journal to the High Plains Applied Anthropologist, we published our first membership directory, we never have had one like that since. It was a wonderful directory.

CAMPA & VAN ARSDALE: Yes.

LITTLEFIELD: [In] 1987 we held our, our annual meeting jointly with the Rocky Mountain Futurists. Reed Riner was very interested in that.

CAMPA: Reed helped promote that.

LITTLEFIELD: I think we had a very broad orientation and we were very accepting of anyone who had had an anthropological orientation to whatever it was that they were doing.

CAMPA: Like we made it real clear they did not have to be, just a friend or interested.

LITTLEFIELD: [In] 1988 we applied for IRS 501 (c3), tax exempt status. I thought it was going to be a horrendous application process and it was so simple. It seems to me that we had it within two months or three months of my submitting the application to the IRS.

VAN ARSDALE: But to your credit Carla, you were the person who took the lead on that. You did submit it and you got us to that point as a non-profit—a formalized non-profit, that was important.

LITTLEFIELD: I didn't know how or why we really needed it, but the board kept encouraging me to apply for it, we got it, and I'm not even so sure that we've really maximized the benefits of being a 501 (c3) since we've gotten it. In other words, you know, it seems to me that maybe through the years we should have been applying for grants from foundations or grants from government agencies and maybe at the time that we got our 501 (c3), maybe we thought that maybe High Plains could be an umbrella for some of our members who might want to make applications. It's hard for me to reconstruct really what our motivation was for getting it at the time, and I'm not even sure to this day that we have maximized the opportunities that being a 501 (c3) do offer our organization. We'll see, we may indeed benefit in the future from it. Maybe we can mention who our presidents were at that time, following Friedl [Gottfried] Lang in 1983. Reed Riner was our president. In 1985, Peter Morley took over for a two-year term; in 1987 Ken Keller took over and then 1989 Art Campa was our president. We actually, in 1990, we started our, our newsletter, our first newsletter had metamorphosed into a journal.

CAMPA: Well I took over editorship I believe about that time 1990 and continued for what? Another ten-eleven years.

VAN ARSDALE: Yes, you were at least a decade.

CAMPA: During that time. And the emphasis, what I was trying to do is always for the lead article, to something out just human interest, and we got quite a variety. I think, I think you wrote an article, did you?

VAN ARSDALE: Several!

CAMPA: Yes, several for that. We had, remember Bitten Skartvedt who wrote the experience of eating Chili that time which [chuckle] I think was quite funny, and I would try to get something of interest or try to find somebody who would be willing it. My usual tactic was to commit about two or three people knowing that at least one of them would produce.

ALL: [laughter]

CAMPA: I remember that formula I usually had to do but it was just getting news, and then regional news, or membership participation activities or grants, or scholarships, or some type of teaching, whatever it was of interest so it was a variety of things and at that time I had my step daughter who was quite adept at the computer graphics to get things so we could get it organized, and I think we used different types of software we experimented with, but it was getting more and more streamlined and easier to do as the computer software and the hardware improved through the years.

LITTLEFIELD: I have many of your newsletters in our archives.

CAMPA: I did keep a collection of the newsletters. In fact, Deward Walker has a collection [and] has Xeroxed all my collections or took the extra that I had. It was a lot of fun I think in many times. Near the end of the nineties, I remember, there was a lot of difficulties because there were increasing demands in the job, although I did have the gracious support originally from the University of Colorado up to 1993. And then when I transferred to Metro, we were able to use the postage through the Dean's office of LAS Letters Arts and Sciences and continued publishing and usually would get volunteers or just pay people off our grant money to help us with it.

LITTLEFIELD: Our academic connections were very critical in assisting us financially.

VAN ARSDALE: I believe, again we like to name names as we are doing this historic remembrance in institutional enhancement here, while giving a wide range of people credit, I believe in particular, the institutionally connected people who deserve much of the credit over a long period. Many people contributed in the shorter ways, so I

hope I'm not omitting our people, including Art Campa, Deward Walker, Friedl Lang, earlier on when he had that institutional connection helping me. Several others, but I think those folks in particular, Deward, Art, Friedl, deserve a lot of the credit for the longer standing institutional connections we've had through CU and Metro.

LITTLEFIELD: I think that Ken [Keller] with his Auraria connections was very helpful, perhaps not to the degree of the people that you just mentioned, but I know that Ken in a very quiet way has provided some resources for us. He has been very helpful.

VAN ARSDALE: So, at the Auraria campus, Ken particularly was good at in sponsoring mini meetings and mini seminars. I attended at least three mini seminars or celebratory events. One was even more like a birthday party for key people who were applied anthropologists, sponsored by Metro and organized by Ken during that period of time. They were High Plains events but not, you know, seminar events, not seminal scientific events. They were more collegial events.

PUNTENNEY: That's really important to bring [university support] forward here because, in the discussions with LPOs over the years, it seems to be this contentious notion, and I need to say reality, notion about whether they should or shouldn't be involved, should you have these relationships so, huh-huh, hands off, and I think this has been really insightful because it's actually been part of the strength, the backbone of this organization. The story is similar with the others that have managed to stay strong over the years over the long haul.

CAMPA: I think one of the things I've learned through the years, since I had a quite a number of adult education non- traditional programs and other such related things, was community networking became an essential part, where you would be linking up resources of your academic institution with community resources and in my case state wide. I had satellites all over the state and it was a constant, having to meet with organizations to maintain the personal ties, to maintain those relationships because we needed those resources to make our programs work and of course the Feds, also made it a requirement for your programs to have all these formal linkages, so we had to formalize what we had begun informally, and I think many times when we thought of doing things, I would remember talking to Ken, let's get so-and-so to do this part, let's get this institution to do this, and just naturally went out, you know, to get these linkages and to bribe because that's how you do things to get things done, in a kind of communal sense.

LITTLEFIELD: Was there any high point in your presidency that you can think back on? That period of eighty-nine and ninety?

CAMPA: I'm trying to think of the high points. I think that we came up with the idea at the time of having co- sponsorship and having two people involved in the organization of, let's see, I was trying to think of the meetings. That's when Jose Cintron and I co-sponsored the meeting, we were thinking, why don't we have two of us do it instead of just one, and I remember that, let's see, getting those meetings established, we were able to bring some outside people in. I remember we brought Henry Trueba who was an educator in bilingual education of national stature. I think he's now vice president to one of the big universities back east, so we were bringing him in. I remember specially trying to think out how can we encourage these people to come out and give them some kind of a stipend and we went scrambling around for stipends I remember, we were able to get something out of CU, Ken was able to get something out of Auraria, and we got some third connection indirectly through grant moneys, I don't want to say laundered. We were able to bring this person in. We also got, who is the educational anthropologist?

VAN ARSDALE: Was it George Spindler?

CAMPA: We got him to do a session with us, that was, again, through Henry because he is a personal friend of George Spindler. I remember he did a presentation—what was it? Well anyways I just remember because of the fact to Jose and, and his mentor at UC Santa Barbara that we began to make other contacts and get people involved. And we were trying to, during that time, to get more people of color involved, we tried to get some Latinos involved.

VAN ARSDALE: You, to your credit Art, were one of the leaders in enhancing us ethnically in that regard membership- wise. You deserve a great deal of credit for that.

CAMPA: Well we tried; I don't know if we really brought in a lot of people.
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VAN ARSDALE: Well you started articulating it in a very collegial way. You were the first person to do that more openly. I mean all of us thought about it, but you started to talk about it in a collegial but more dynamic way, that was an important point.

CAMPA: And I remember trying, twisting the arms of a number of my professional colleagues to get involved, I don't know how successful that was.

LITTLEFIELD: Well I followed you as president and it was during my first couple of months as president that Mary Granica came up with the idea of going down to Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. She'd heard about Ghost Ranch and I have to admit that that was one of the best ideas that emerged from my presidency, in ninety-one and ninety-two, was establishing that fall retreat at Ghost Ranch. [While] we were having an annual meeting every year at the Bethlehem Center, our group never met monthly. Some LPOs do try to meet on a monthly basis, but our membership was so far flung that it seemed much more appropriate for us to have an annual meeting and possibly a retreat. I remember at that first retreat that we had at Ghost Ranch, Peter talked with us about strategic planning, and it was I think the first time that High Plains as an organization really looked at planning as an issue that was important to get into.

VAN ARSDALE: 1991 in particular—as the Ghost Ranch phenomena emerged—it wasn't just a notion of a retreat place, it was more like a phenomena that would enable us to enhance our capabilities as an organization. As that started to emerge, under Mary Granica's idea, Carla's leadership, I myself at that time had just been elected president elect so I was working with Carla. We also had strategic planning-wise, the notion that the president elect, while continuing his or her role, as membership chair and sort of membership guru for the organization, would also then become Ghost Ranch, at least initially, strategic planner for the meeting, logistics planner for the meeting, and possibly even help facilitate strategic planning sessions should they be held at Ghost Ranch and they often have been, not always.
[Transition]

CAMPA: During the 1990 NAPA board meeting in Washington, DC, the SfAA meeting was noted that was going to be in York, England, and since a lot of the board members at that time could not attend, or, because of the financial cost, I suggested why don't you take the meeting to the High Plains Society meetings back in Colorado, and I think that the idea was well accepted, and it did emerge as something that was done. So we did hold the mid-year meeting, I guess you'd say wait, because the AAA is, is the main meeting and then the meeting of the SfAA. We held it at the High Plains Society and I think it went over very well, and it also snared a number or present day members including Pam Punttenney. Shirley Fiske was a member for quite a while and some other individuals as well, if I believe, but I thought it was an interesting way of bringing more people in, especially from WAPA.

VAN ARSDALE: The [1990 meeting] it was a seminal meeting, it was a type of watershed meeting and our other friends can share too. But, not only did it commemorate the tenth anniversary of our organization but it did many other things: it further reaffirmed and I think appreciated, the role that the Catholic fathers at the Bethlehem Center had played in promoting our meetings there for those many years, because we weren't going to be there much longer, and we had several, I recall, very nice interchanges with the various priests, such had to have been so collegial to us over the years. We had an important event involving Omer Stewart which perhaps Deward would like to comment on, in terms of the tree planting ceremony and associated ritual, and then the other thing, in addition to introducing the newsletter, the new newsletter which is continued on to the present day, my original newsletter that I began editing years before is what evolved into 'The Bulletin,' and then 'The Bulletin' evolved into our journal. In addition to that, I would say too, that maybe that was, at least for me, a watershed in that we'd reached some degree of maturity. Maybe in eighty-four we had reached rich adolescence, but by ninety I felt that our society had reached a sort of an adult stage.

LITTLEFIELD: I agree. I don't know what else needs to be said about that meeting. What are your recollections Deward?

VAN ARSDALE: We want you to share [concerning the tree].

WALKER: Oh okay! Well we thought that something symbolic would help at that meeting and we happened to just stop by and buy a tree and we happened to bring it out and we asked the fathers if we could plant a tree, as part of the ceremony, and our tenth anniversary and Omer was there. Anyway we got Omer together, and Omer did his peyote song for the tree, if you remember. Then we did a blessing in which we cast dirt to the four directions. Ken Keller said, "Oh Deward, you're not much of a ritualist." He wasn't impressed with my little ritual. In my defense, I went out there about what, two or three years ago now and took a picture of myself in front of the tree. I was proud of that tree. The tree had has grown as we have grown.

VAN ARSDALE: [Laughter]

WALKER: That's a symbolism.

LITTLEFIELD: Yes.

WALKER: And as far as I know, unless they sell that to a sub-developer, you know, the tree's probably safe yet, but we need to check that tree occasionally. I think it's an elm. I'm not sure we could find an oak. You know, that was the choice; they grow fast. Anyway, that tree was both the celebration of our past and a kind of promise for the future, and I think it's still doing okay, like we are, how's that?

LITTLEFIELD: Excellent. So the other reason at the meeting then was the connection with NAPA, and are you going to talk about that Pam?
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PUNTENNEY: Well we had decided, as Art Campa had mentioned before, we had decided at the NAPA board meeting that since SfAA was holding their international meeting in York, England, and many of the NAPA board members would not be able to attend, that in order to hold our spring board meeting, that we needed a place to do it. And Art Campa had suggested and offered High Plains at the time he was president, and at the board meeting we agreed that that was a good idea. And so we held our board meet in, meeting in conjunction with the High Plains Society.

VAN ARSDALE: That's important too, because, for example, that's the first time that some of us met Pam, or got to know people like Pam and Shirley Fiske and others.

WALKER: Right.

VAN ARSDALE: I think another watershed, if I might comment—this is more personal, but I give Pam and our other friends credit for this—those of us who'd been active in SfAA and in the High Plains, and in the AAA, some were hesitant about NAPA, knowing less about NAPA, wondering about that traditional split or tension that had occurred or claimed to have occurred between NAPA and SfAA and or AAA, so it was thanks to Pam, Shirley, and a couple of other folks who were there who allayed those fears, who pointed out the collegial relationship that was going to develop and believe that it has, believe me in the years to come it indeed has developed, and that we shouldn't be hesitant about connecting with NAPA. We should do both SfAA and NAPA or all three, SfAA, High Plains, and NAPA, and indeed many of us in after that point did and have!

WALKER: There's another facet to that. I remember Art, and I'm not sure where it came from, but Art Campa seemed suspicious of SfAA at that time.

VAN ARSDALE: At the other extreme, yes, about SfAA, that's right.

WALKER: You remember that.

VAN ARSDALE: I do! It ran both ways.

WALKER: You might want to comment on that.

VAN ARSDALE: Well, just that some people thought I don't want to say untoward activity, but some, you know, mischievous or even just tension provoking activity that was there, in my perception of it Deward, something that might attract a member one way or pull him another, you know, and there might some competition, some untoward competition of some sort.

WALKER: There was also [the] academic/practitioners division that was in some people's mind, that NAPA was more practitioner and SfAA was more academic and I think this concerned some of the, particularly the practitioners, I heard more about that then.

VAN WILLIGEN: My feeling is that people realized that they couldn't afford that, after a while they had to paper over the contrast in a public venue even though it is still important. I think folks have set it aside early on.

WALKER: They seemed to go away!

VAN ARSDALE: Right, it resolved. Just this aside though, in more recent years such things as public anthropology have surfaced as topics of interest. What I'm glad to say is at least in my view, it hasn't done the—for example the discussion around public anthropology hasn't been one that pitted NAPA against SfAA or any of the LPOs or, RPOs against other groups.

An Invitation from on the Society for Applied Anthropology Oral History Project

Readers are invited to suggest persons to be interviewed for the project to members of the Oral History Committee (Martha Bojko, Carol Hill, Barbara Rylko-Bauer, Don Stull and John van Willigen, chair). Van Willigen can be reached at (ant101@uky.edu) or 859.269.8301. Think of the anthropologists that made a difference in places where you live and work. Often the person making the

suggestion is asked to do the interview. The collection of SfAA recorded interviews and transcripts is archived at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Library. The SfAA collection is listed in their on-line data base.