

Transcript of John Collins's interview with Brad Edmondson, October 23, 2002

So the developers and the few local hot heads really had to work to round up a lot of noise. But they did a pretty good job.

I remember John Hosley with an Indian headband, one of these feather headdresses, standing up in the gymnasium in Indian Lake Central School, and the gymnasium was full. So I can't say there was no interest. The gymnasium was full. A lot of us were there as spectators. It was the best spectator sport you ever saw. There was Richard Lawrence with his patrician tones and his patrician bearing listening to people like John Hosley, who's no fool by any means at all, but with his Indian headdress comparing the agency to the white people who stole the Indian land and now the agency was stealing his land. It was a show.

Some people had been convinced by the developers that their American way of life was over and that they couldn't leave their land to their children. Their children couldn't build homes, and so there was some teary little old ladies with tears running down their face because of basically the fat lies they'd been told, oh the misunderstandings that had been spread around. But it was exciting. It was interesting. It was fun. Mr. Lawrence became a hero of mine early on. He stood up there. He took all that guff, and he never lost it. He never just threw his hands up in the air and said, "Oh my God who needs this." He just took it for two years.