

40 Years



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

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NJMC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Phone: 201-460-4619 • Cell: 201-615-8570
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov

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NJMC Launches Oral History Blog

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) is bringing the rich and colorful history of this region to life through its newly launched Oral History Blog, www.meadowpast.net. The blog, featuring recollections of longtime Meadowlands residents, is part of the NJMC's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

“The Oral History Blog is an informative, educational and entertaining way to remember the past and see how the Meadowlands has changed over the years,” said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. “The blog is a wonderful resource for anyone who wants to learn or reminisce about what it used to be like here 30, 40 or even 60 years ago.”

The first batch of blog entries includes audio clips of lifelong Carlstadt resident Estelle Rochat Oehlmann. Estelle tells several fascinating stories from her childhood in the 1930s and 1940s, when she hunted bullfrogs with her father and every day was a new adventure. Secaucus resident and North Bergen native Vince Petto relates humorous close calls and precarious predicaments from a boyhood spent hunting, fishing and swimming on the Hackensack River, and Moonachie native Don Torino tells how growing up in the Meadowlands led to a lifelong love of nature.

The blog also features audio clips of current and former NJMC employees explaining the Commission's role in helping develop the area while protecting and cleaning up the environment over the past 40 years. Retired naturalist Don Smith discusses the NJMC's pivotal role in restoring the Hackensack River, and former Director of Land-Use Management Ileana Kafrouni talks about development in the area and the challenges she faced as the NJMC's first woman engineer. Look for more posts in the coming weeks.

“The stories on the Oral History Blog really give a sense of how special this area was and continues to be,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio, who also grew up in the Meadowlands. “I encourage anyone who is interested in the Meadowlands or simply enjoys good stories to visit the blog.”

Anyone who wants to be interviewed for the NJMC Oral History Blog, or who wishes to submit written material or photos, should contact Brian Aberback at 201-460-4619 or brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov. For more information on the Commission's 40th Anniversary, including a list of special events, click on the Anniversary icon in the lower right hand corner of the NJMC Web site, www.njmeadowlands.gov.

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