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Interview with Greg Sawyer, Providence Builders, 2006 (audio)

Greg Sawyer

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Term/Year: Fall 2006
Major: Political Science/ Sociology

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And it's one of the main reasons our clients value our services. Our 10 year success is due largely to the fact that we recognize the importance of evaluating each client's needs and objectives, and adhere to budgets with creativity and always the best in workmanship.

We Believe:

- Honesty never goes out of style.
- It's not the size of the budget, but what you do with it that counts.
- Interactive planning (keeping you involved and informed) is key.
- To remain 100% professional with honest communication is the only way to do business.
- Original thinking mixed with tasteful design knowledge makes happy and repeat customers.

Our skills include...

- Tasteful well-matched additions
- Custom woodwork
- Beautiful bathrooms & kitchens
- Resurrecting tired 're-models' of all kinds
- Window and door replacements to the correct style and period of your home
- Marvelous porches
- Dry rot, and big & little disasters

Years of search and discovery have procured seamless working relationships with the best designers, architects, and crafts people in the business. All of our subcontractors are held to the same high quality standards that we demand from ourselves.

Our continuing experience has been that once a person tests our services, we have a customer for life.

What we will do for you...

- Keep you "in the loop" for all phases of your project.

- Provide you with superior customer service.
- Work within your budget.
- Help you with innovative design tricks.
- Show you the latest in building materials & fixtures.
- Always suggest the most cost-effective solutions for the best results.

4. There was no relevant "google" information.

5.

PROJECTS GALORE AT HOME REMODELING SHOW

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

October 22, 2000

Author: DYLAN RIVERA of the Oregonian Staff

Summary: The annual event, which ends today, is a candy store for those who want to sweeten their abodes. Al Oekerman came to the 25th Annual Home Improvement & Remodeling Show seeking ideas for remodeling a bathroom. But it was a crumpled mash of leaves and pine needles stuck in a model rain gutter that fascinated him Saturday.

"Watch what happens when I turn the water on," said an excited Harold "Bud" Jones, selling the Gutter Drainer at a booth at the Oregon Convention Center on Saturday. "Watch what moves." Water flowed. Leaves stayed put.

"I don't believe it, but I'm looking at it," said Oekerman, 70, who lives near Beaverton.

It was one example of the solutions -- some small and inexpensive, some large and pricey -- that people have found for their household needs at the show, which started Thursday and ends today at the convention center.

With 350 exhibitors yearning for attention, the floor of the convention hall is a Disneyland of home improvement. Walk into a sunroom over here. Inspect a rainbow of hardwood floors over there. Warm yourself by fireplaces in black, silver or copper. Sit in a hot tub or pick a contractor to rebuild your kitchen.

The show typically draws more than 30,000 people during four days, and thousands were apparent Saturday, but organizers said a daily tally for this year was not available.

National and area contractors are on hand, ready to take a dank Sellwood cottage and make its early 20th-century charm glisten.

Although some contractors at the show have a sales pitch, the most successful simply listen and communicate well with their customers, said Linda Schoffman, executive director of the Oregon Remodelers Association, the event sponsor.

"They come into the place where you live, ripping it up in front of your eyes," Schoffman said. "So you have to be able to have a relationship with that person. You're like part of the team."

One team member is Greg Sawyer, a 10-year remodeling contractor, who sounds like a therapist for home improvement.

He works side-by-side with clients or trouble-shoots their crises in what he calls his "Monday" phone calls. Customers call, panicked about some problem they found: rotting beams they uncovered in a bathroom or a window they took out that won't fit back in properly.

"Invariably, it's a group of people who tried it over the weekend and opened up a bigger issue and are stuck," said Sawyer, whose company, Providence Builders of Portland, has four other employees.

An average kitchen remodeling job easily can cost \$30,000 or more, Schoffman said. But what about folks who only want to spend a few thousand dollars to liven up a humdrum part of their house? Remodelers have some ideas for those projects, too.

Grant Newhouse of Oregon City started a company, Your Handyman, to handle projects of about \$3,000 or less, including tile installation and custom cabinets.

"It's all that kind of stuff that people have been meaning to do, but never do," Newhouse said.

For about \$10,000, kitchen remodeling is generally limited to some surface changes such as a new floor, new drawer covers and perhaps new lighting, said Mike Patterson, owner of Full Spectrum Renovation and Design Inc.

Spend the same \$10,000 on a bedroom, though, and big changes become possible, Patterson said. Have French doors replace the old windows. Take up the carpet and expose the hardwood floors. Have the French doors open onto a small backyard deck.

"You might be very proud of your back yard," Patterson said. "So by putting in a small deck, you're able to get access to your back yard that you didn't have before." You can reach Dylan Rivera at 503-221-8532 or by e-mail at dylanrivera@news.oregonian.com.

7. The interview will take place on Friday December 1st at 9am at Greg Sawyer's office in Northeast Portland.

8. I. Background

A. Family

1. Could you tell me a little bit about your family?
2. Do you have any children?

B. Geography

1. How long have you lived in the Portland area?
2. What made you come to this area?
3. Does this area have a better or worse market for green architecture?

C. Education

1. Describe your educational background.
2. Was there something in your educational background that sparked your interest in green building?
3. What has changed in your field since your formal education?

D. Past Work

1. What was your first job relevant to green building?
2. Did you make any career shifts?
3. Describe the transition from the beginning of your career to where you are currently.

II. Current Business/ Employment

A. Logistics

1. What is your current position and what duties does that entail?
2. Do you employ people? How many?
3. How long does it take you to complete a project from start to finish?

- B. Materials
 1. What sort of materials do you work with?
 2. Where do you get these materials?
 3. What sort of materials would you like to see more of?
 4. What sort of problems do you run into when trying to obtain materials?
 - C. Resource Issues
 1. What sort of renewable energy resources do you work with?
 2. Are you concerned with off-gassing?
 3. How you minimize water waste?
 4. Do you work with solar passive heating?
 5. Have you utilized places such as the Rebuilding Center?
 6. What materials do you use that are non-renewable? Do you hope to change that in the future?
 7. What do you think qualifies something as a “green” product?
 8. Have you had to deal with green washing? How?
 - D. Projects
 1. What project are you currently working on?
 2. Which project have you been most proud of?
- III. Sustainable Oregon
- A. Green Building
 1. Why do people ask you to remodel their homes?
 2. What sort of clientele are attracted to this housing option?
 3. Why is this movement important?
 4. What made you decide to work in this field?
 5. What sort of incentives does the government provide for people that are willing to work with green building?
 - B. Sustainability
 1. What does sustainability mean to you?
 2. Do you see sustainability as a force in your business?
 - C. The future
 1. What do you see in the future of green building?
 2. What do you see for the future of your business?
 3. What projects are coming up on the horizon?

9. These are the directions that I was given:

You'll find my office at 5506 N Columbia Court

Columbia Court runs parallel to Columbia Blvd

There is a really handy exit off I-5 North onto Columbia Blvd. if I were you I go this way as it's the simplest path to success.

Coming off the exit you will want to make a right turn (mostly west) onto Columbia Blvd

Follow Columbia Blvd west for about 3miles (this is a guess)
You will cross a whole bunch of railroad tracks (can't miss these they're bumpy)
After all the tracks you'll see a lighted intersection
This is N Portsmouth St
Turn RIGHT onto N Portsmouth
It will only go 1-block before it Tee's with Columbia Court
Turn LEFT onto Columbia Court
Another block down Columbia Court and you'll see a couple of green buildings, the smaller one
is my office
Follow the road on around to the back and you'll find a large gate, honk if it's closed and we'll
open it for you.
If you get lost give me a call