

Excerpted from an interview with Carolyn Driedger conducted by Alys Adams and Liz Westby on November 20, 2019. This interview is part of the Mount St. Helens Oral History Project of Washington State Parks.

*Excerpt begins at 37:23*

**Carolyn Driedger (CD):** There's a real distinct difference before May 18th, May 18th, and then in the months and years that followed. You know, before May 18th, people were getting pretty tired of Mount St. Helens not doing very much. You'd get these little skimpy steam and ash plumes coming off the summit and that was it. And then things kind of shut down, "Well that wasn't very fun. That's the end? Ha." It just fizzled. So, people were wearing shirts like, "I'm a survivor of Mount St. Helens." Facetiously. And then May 18th happened. And then everyone put their shirts away. I bought a shirt, the afternoon of May 18th. I never wore it. I didn't wear it for probably 30 years. I just didn't want to, didn't seem right.

**Alys Adams (AA):** What's your shirt say?

**CD:** Pardon me?

**AA:** What does your shirt say?

**CD:** "I'm a survivor."

[Laughing]

**CD:** or "I survived" or something like that.

**AA:** Yeah. I know there's a lot of goofy ones that were developed.

**CD:** Yes. That's true. That's true.

*Excerpt ends at 38:40*