**Scott Ford Transcript**

Paul Ochman, Friend of Scott

Scott Ford and I met back in 1981 when he and I were both at school in Champaign. We met over at the McKinley Foundation on campus where they had a series of gay support groups for students. Scott just always had such a great smile on his face and he had such a wry sense of humor, and he could just make me laugh. And he would, he just really saw, like, most of the time, you know, the bright side of the situation. Scott was kind of a, you know, he's had a bit of a bad boy in him, too. And would you know, which I loved.

We got a call that Scott had died. And it was just, you know, I knew it was gonna happen. But it was just, it just seemed like, you know, it's like, “No, this can't be.” Trying to push back on reality and coupled with relief, you know because, man, Scott was very sick. Such a sad sad time. I mean, Scott had his whole life in front of him.

And he, you know, he loved what he was doing. You know, he was a master gardener for the Parks Department in Oakland, and just creating just this beautiful landscaping. Such a waste, such a loss.

Scott is an amazing person. I still speak in in present tense because his spirit is absolutely with me. That, you know, you hear that and, you know, but Scott really was, you know, and he just, he was just so full of life and joy and mischief. And he just gave me such tremendous joy.