

KGW 8 “Packy and Me” interview by Tracy Berry on *Making a Difference*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWpfwSJvAdo>
“Packy and Me” arnicacreative YouTube Channel
February 28, 2011

Tracy Berry: In 1962, a 225lb. baby put Portland on the map. Packy the elephant, of course. Tonight, a rare interview with the doctor who delivered Packy, the book he's written about it, and the difference he made for elephants everywhere.

Never had a birth been so anticipated in Oregon. Our old film shows hundreds of tasty roses arriving at the maternity ward and super-sized medical equipment tracking Belle's vital signs. The only problem, they weren't exactly sure what they were looking for.

Dr. Maberry: “Much as I tried to find some information on the birth of an elephant, I didn't find anything.”

Tracy Berry: Now 93, Dr. Matthew Maberry was the zoo's first full-time vet, and this would be the first elephant born in the Western Hemisphere in over 44 years. But when—

Dr. Maberry: “No one would probably ever have any conception of what it was like except a woman who was pregnant.”

Tracy Berry: In the second week of April, things changed. This is what Dr. Maberry told us then.

Dr. Maberry: “No, we do know this. The temperature has begun to drop, which is characteristic of most pregnancies. I don't know about humans. That's completely out of my field. But in so far as animals are concerned, we expect this usually from 12 to 24 hours before delivery.

Tracy Berry: Packy arrived just before 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 14th, taking his first few wobbly steps with a little help. unaware that he was making history. History that Doc Maberry details in his new book, *Packy and Me*.

Dr. Maberry: I've lived the life that most people would dream about.

Tracy Berry: Doc Maberry's legacy goes far beyond Packy, though. What he did here improved the lives of zoo elephants everywhere.

Mike Keele: He ignited kind of a culture of learning here.

Tracy Berry: Mike Keele, the zoo's elephant guru, says Doc Maberry's work changed things. Elephants were unchained, socialized, and given better care. And there were more baby elephants, 15 during Maberry's 15 years at the zoo.

Mike Keele: And when he left, still there had been no other elephants born any place else in the US but here.

Tracy Berry: And little Packy, he turns 49 this year, the oldest male Asian elephant in America. Don't you love that footage? You can find out more about Dr. Maberry's book on kgw.com. Just go to the lifestyle section and look for "Packy and Me." We've provided a link to the publishers's website. You can also find more Making a Difference Stories, nominate someone, and learn how you can get involved.