

## CAP Oral History

Kelli Ramirez (Q): Good morning Mr. Shumway. Let's start with your full name and the date and location of your birth.

Dale Shumway (A):

Dale Rex Shumway, born May 31, 1930, in Taylor, Arizona.

Q: And tell me about your family. Were you from a big family? A small family?

A: My family had seven children. Three girls and four boys. I was the oldest boy. My father was a farmer. My mother was a homemaker. We lived on a farm in Taylor, Arizona.

Q: What did you do growing up? Typical farm things? Did you take care of animals or crops?

A: Well, I worked on the farm. We had a dairy and raised feed for the dairy cattle and beef cattle. My dad had ranch. He raised the Hereford cattle and, he sent, every year, he sent a corral full of cattle. And we shipped them on a train to California to the stockyard.

If we go to California and follow the train, feed the cattle and sell them, he would come back with a big check. And I always thought we didn't have much money. We'd buy new cars and he'd buy new land. Land, land, land. He was always buying land.

Q: So, when did you and why did you decide not to be in farming? You instead went to college?

A: I came to Arizona State University. Well, it was Arizona State College, in 1948. I had graduated from Snowflake Union High School, and so then I came to Arizona State. I graduated from Arizona State University in 1954. And I went to work in the cotton gin business. I was a cotton gin manager for Produces Cotton Company. I worked in Maricopa. I was the general manager there.

So, I was going to be a cotton man. But, I had always wanted to go to law school so finally in 1960, I quit cotton ginning and went to University of Arizona law school.

I got a law degree and graduated in 63.

Q: Why did you decide to go to Law school?

A: Well, I'd always wanted to go to law school. As a boy, I had two uncles, Renz Jennings was justice of the Supreme Court and his brother Irving was head of Jennings Strauss Law Firm and, I always wanted to be like them. They were lawyers and successful lawyers. But I didn't decide to go to law school until I was 30 years old.

Q: It's a big decision.

A: Yep.

Q: So, tell me about your career after you graduated from law school.

A: Well, I started a law firm called Udall and Shumway. It's a business that still exists. it's a big law firm. And it's, Bass Pro Shop Way is where the headquarters are. There are 30 lawyers in the law firm today.

Well, I, after I graduated from law school, I got a job being an assistant attorney general for the state of Arizona. I did I was assistant to Bob Pickrell, who was the attorney general who hired me. So, I was an assistant attorney general, and I

went to the supreme court and won two cases for them. And I argued two cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Q: Wow.

A: And, then I then I decided to run for mayor of Tempe. Somebody talked me into it. So, I was elected mayor of Tempe in 1970. And I was reelected two years later. So, I served as mayor for four years.

I guess I got to be well-known and all that, and so in 1976, I got a call from a guy named Roger Ernst, who I had never known. Roger Ernst was on the board of the CAWCD, and he wanted me to run for the board. I said I didn't want to. He said, we'll take care of it. We'll get the signatures, and you'll have to do nothing. And so, I was on the election for 1976, and guess what? I got more votes than anybody else.

Q: They did take care of you.

A: They did take care of me. So, I got the most votes for a member of the board, that was in 1976. According to this plaque they gave me. Here is the plaque.

Q: Oh, nice.

A: This was signed by President George Barr 1983. January of 1983. No, it's May 1984. May 3, the date of this plaque, issued by the board of directors of the CAWCD. That's now the CAP.

I was president of the board. I was elected president of the board in January of 1983 and served until 1984. So, the board had a few well-known names. Howard Pyle was the former governor of Arizona. Do you know him?

Q: I do. Well, I know of him. Yes, absolutely.

A: Howard Pyle was on the board. He lived right back-to-back with me in Tempe. So, we used to go to the board meetings together. Lynn Sharp of Mesa was on the board. Paul Fannin was on the board. Jay Rhodes was the attorney for the board. Jay was the son of John Rhodes. And Stewart Udall was on the board.

Q: Mr. Shumway, what do you remember most about your work in water and on the board?

A: Well, you know, that was the beginning of the, the really the construction of the CAP. And so, we had a lot of meetings that had involvement with the construction project and we -- you work for the CAP, don't you?

Q: Yes, sir.

A: And the CAP is paying for the project.

Q: Yes.

A: Governor Paul Fannin was on the board and Governor. What was his name? My memory's getting old. I'm 95.

Q: Wow. That's an accomplishment. Was it Bruce Babbitt who was the governor then?

A: No.

Q: Wesley Bolin?

A: No. Before that. His name was Jack Williams.

Q: Oh, gotcha.

A: Yeah. Who else was on the board? Roger Ernst was the one that got me on. Burt was on the board. We signed the first contract with the Harquahala Valley Farmers. A picture here of the signing. That's, that's the picture of the signing.

Q: Can you hold it up just a little bit more? A little higher. Oh, I've seen that picture.

A: I'm seeing that as a signature. Bill Plummer is signing the ... See the bill? The guy signing? That's Bill Plummer who was a, signing for the Bureau. He was a Bureau man. Gosh. So, that's Lynn Sharp right there. Lynn Sharp. And Plummer and me and Roger Ernst.

Yep. And behind the, this guy right here. In the brown jacket. Yes. That's the head of the Harquahala farmers, what do they call it ... Harquahala Irrigation District. He was the head of that. So anyway, I was, I was elected to the board first in 1976 and was reelected in 1980. I was elected President in January of 83 and I was called to serve as a mission president for the LDS church. And so, I resigned in May of 1984.

Q: You did a lot for our state.

A: Well, we had to. There was a good project with good vibes and all. The CAWCD was the predecessor of the CAP. I don't know what I don't know what changed, do you know?

Q: Well, we are we are technically still CAWCD. They just, it's central Arizona Project is the canal. And so, it's just kind of what they've started naming us or calling them.

A: So, you're still the CAWCD?

Q: Yes. We legally are. And when you go to vote this year, the candidates on there will be listed as CAWCD board members, just like you were all those years ago.

A: Well, I didn't know what it was when I got a call from Burr. He says you're running for the seat on the CAWCD and we will take care of it. So, they took care of it and I got more votes than anybody.

Q: As a lawyer, did you work in water?

A: I represented farmers. There's a there's a district called Cibola Valley Irrigation District, have you heard of this? That's an irrigation district that's south of Blythe, California. It's on the Arizona side of the river, and it's Cibola Irrigation District. I represented all of those farmers down there in that district. We negotiated the sale of their land and water. They sold all their land to the Indian tribes and, so I represented a lot of farmers in the ... what's the name of the district ... the district in California. Palo Verde Irrigation District. I represented a lot of farmers in that district, too.

Q: So, what is it that you loved about water?

A: It's kind of essential for Arizona. It's, It's kind of the lifeblood of Arizona. And the CAP now is really the lifeblood of Arizona. It's the canal that comes from the Colorado River to Phoenix, to Mesa, to Pinal County and clear to Tucson.

Q: Once you were on the board, what was your favorite part about serving on the board? And do you have any good stories from those times?

A: Well, it was a good to work with those gentlemen who were on the board. You know, I, I got acquainted with, Paul Fannin and Jack Williams. Mo Udall. And Stewart was his brother and was Secretary of the Interior. I remember one time I got on a helicopter with Mo and we flew to the control tower – you know where the control tower is – on a mountain north of Phoenix. It's right above the CAP headquarters. And one day I flew up there with Mo Udall and we got off the helicopter and walked to the tower. Anyway, I liked Mo and Stew, they were good friends of mine.

So, what's my favorite part? I will tell you a few times I testified on budget hearings for the CAP. We spent a lot of money building that canal project, didn't we?

Q: We did, \$4 billion.

A: \$4 billion? We're going to pay it off, aren't we?

Q: We are, we have a few more years. Tell me why you think the CAP system and the water it brings to the state is so important, and how it's impacted life in Arizona? You're a native, you're rare.

A: The CAP is the lifeblood of Arizona. It's an important asset. And, you know, it was a long time in coming. Getting that authorized. We had to give priority rights to California. So, they get the best water rights to the Colorado River. But we did that to get construction, the contract, and the project. So now it's there.

Anyway, that's my story. I don't know what else I can tell you.

Q: Do you keep up with what's happening in Arizona water?

A: Not very much anymore, you know. What do you do for the district?

Q: I am actually in the Communications Department. I write a lot of articles about CAP and the things we're doing. I communicate a lot with employees. I do all kinds of things. I interview nice people like you and write stories.

A: You sent the questions you ask me. Why should Arizonans know about the water. Well, you know, Arizona has many citizens who know nothing about it other than they cross it sometimes. They don't know anything about it. You know, I just tell people about the CAP canal and they're like, "where is that."

So anyway, what do I see happening in water in the next ten years? Oh well continue to pay off the district it won't expand anymore.

It was designed to aid the farmers, but now it's more a city project and we drink the water. The farmers use it, but it's too expensive for them to use. So, I don't know. What's the future. It's the asset that will power Arizona.

Q: Do you still have farming in your family. Are there still farmers?

A: No. The, the farm I had was, is now owned by my brothers' sons but I don't own it anymore.

Q: Do they still farm it that little bit?

A: Yeah. Farming is hard.

Q: So, tell me about your family and what you're up to now.

A: Well, I'm getting old. I have a picture on the wall right behind you that is my family. I have five children. I have 22 grandchildren. I have 61 great grandchildren and six great greats. Pictures of them on the wall behind you.

Q: Congratulations.

A: So that's my family and I'm proud them.

Q: You've left quite a legacy for your state and for your family, Mr. Shumway.

A: Well, my family came to Arizona in 1880. My great grandfather came to northern Arizona in 1880. That was before you were here.

Q: What why did your family come to Arizona? Was it to farm?



A: Well, they were sent here by Brigham Young as colonizers. They were sent to northern Arizona, a little town called Taylor. There is a place called Shumway that my grandfather settled. He came there in 1880 and so we're long-time residents of Arizona. The Shumways came to Shumway. Do you know where Shumway is?

Q: I don't. I'm going to have to look it up. Are there any Shumways that live there?

A: I don't think so anymore. That's where my grandfather came. And they, they developed an irrigation system called the Snowflake Taylor Irrigation System, and it irrigates all that land.

Q: Well, what else would you like to tell me, Mr. Shumway? What else would you like to tell me about your work and what you did to sustain Arizona? Because it's a very important thing you did.

A: Well, I loved Arizona. I have always loved the state. I loved working. I loved working in the water system because I, I got it the water system backwards. I was induced to run for that board by Roger Ernst and I got elected. They elected me president of the board. I got some pictures on the wall and the plaque that I read from. And I guess I would still be on the board if I hadn't gone to New York.

Q: Is that where your mission was?

A: Rochester, New York is where I served for three years.

Q: And then you came back to Arizona, correct?

A: Yeah, I came back here.

Q: When did you retire?

A: I retired three times. I retired when I went on the mission. I left the law firm. Then I came back and I started working again, and then in 1988, I was called in by the church to serve as director of the visitor center, located in the Mesa Temple. And so, I retired again. And, I quit, the law firm about five years later.

Q: You're not one to let much grass grow.

A: Yeah. So that's my story. Why should all Arizonans know more about water? I think it's too bad that Arizonans don't know about the CAP. It's sad they don't know about the CAP. They ought to know about it because it is really the lifeblood of this Valley. Without the CAP, Phoenix would not be the size it is today. Phoenix. Mesa. Gilbert, all depend on water from the CAP.

Q: It's absolutely true.

A: And, most people don't know about it. They don't know about it. And they just they know that their tap opens up and water comes out. But, where does it come from?

Q: It's easy to forget that we're in a desert.

A: Well, some people don't even know it. So, anyway, when I look at these pictures of these guys that made this happen, and you say, "what if these men had not been bold."

See that picture? Their legacy lives on. It's interesting. Kelli, I sometimes think, where are the movers and shakers that were here? John Rhodes. Paul Fannin. Mo Udall and Stewart Udall. They were movers and shakers. Where are the movers and shakers today? Who's president of the board?

Q: It's actually Terry Goddard.

A: Well, Terry Gardner, he was on the board with me.

Q: It was his dad that was on the Board with you.

A: That's right. What was his name?

Q: Sam. Sam Goddard.

A: But in days, you know, in these pictures you see the Udalls and Rhodes, big names. They were busy and they were involved. And, and they're not like that today.

Q: They don't make them like they used to.

A: Well, I, you know, I don't know, maybe they just don't need to be.

Q: Well, I'm looking forward to writing this story about you and doing your oral history. What I will do is I will email it to your son before we post it online, so you can have a chance to review it and make sure everything's accurate. How's that sound?

A: Good to me.

Q: Well, I appreciate your time, Mr. Shumway. It's been great talking to you.

A: Thank you. Kelli, you have a great rest of your day.