CAP Oral History

Being interviewed by Pam Stevenson on November 4, 2004 in Mesa, Arizona.
(Interview started abruptly.)

Stan Turley (A):

…Springerville and other places in northern Arizona, he was really a colonizer and one of the early colonizers there.

Pam Stevenson (Q):

What did they do up there?

A: Well that's primarily ranching, it's truly subsistence type living little farms, little dry farms generally, except along where you had a little water. Along the Silver Creek and Show Low Creek, but it was basically ranching and then it got into lumbering a little bit. Primarily ranching, cattle, and sheep, but you don't see many sheep anymore, but at one time there were lots of sheep in northern Arizona. My people, we were never in the sheep business, as a matter of fact we didn't, we kind of looked down on sheep we were cowboys; we were ranchers.

Q: That's a whole story in itself.

A: Well, it really is.

Q: Tell me about your place in the family, how many children were there?

A: I was the oldest of 5. My father was Fred Turley and my mother was Wilma, you won't believe her maiden name, her name was Fillerup. She used to get a little attention over that name and still does when people ask me my mother's maiden name. They sometimes think I am trying to joke with them. My mother was born in Mexico in one of the Mormon colonies down there in the revolution of 1910 and

1912 in Mexico they were expelled and became fugitives and then they settled here in Arizona.

And Dad's family were already here. I was the oldest of five; I have a brother Grant who was Arizona's first ace. He flew fighter planes in World War II out of England, but he lost his life. He was killed in Germany flying a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane. And I have 3 sisters, one Wanda, Monita, and Marilyn. Two of them live here in Arizona and one in Utah and we all have families quite sizable. We have ourselves, my wife and I have seven children, 28 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren with five more on the way. We have enough family to kind of keep us going for a while.

Q: I guess so. That sounds like quite a family.

A: It keeps us interested.

Q: Tell me a little bit more about growing up.

A: I grew up on the Sundown Ranch. This was about 25 miles from Snowflake, 40 miles southwest of Holbrook. It was a dry farm and a cattle ranch along with a little later on my dad had always been interested in, I shouldn't say always, but at some point, he became interested in trying to establish a boy's camp which he eventually did. Known as Sundown Ranch where we would take eastern boys. He found a partner from New York City by the name of William Kurtz who was a, he was the athletic director of a private school, Fieldston School in New York City and he would make up a group of boys, from 20 to 30 boys, and bring them out there for the summer, for the months of July and August. So much of my boyhood was spent with the boy's camp there and they would take, about all we had really to interest them were horses. We had lots of horses. We had over a hundred head of horses and the idea was to give each one of those boys their own horse when he came the first year. Some of them would come back several years and one or two of them even took their horses home when they left. It was a wonderful way to

spend the summers because the idea was to just have fun and show these eastern boys a good time. Most of them were, came from wealthy families or at least, you know, seemed like they must have been wealthy families because our life out there was just pretty much subsistence living throughout the camp. We had that, dad had that until World War II came along, but the first boy that came, and there's still that picture here on the wall, a boy by the name of Larry Foster from Ridgewood, New Jersey, who had just a wonderful summer and just really was an outstanding young man. Three days before he was to return home he had a tragic accident. The horse that he was riding in that picture, dad took that picture, probably within an hour of that time that horse dragged him to death. He was killed and so dad thought that would be the end of the camp. If it hadn't been for his parents really insisting that they continue to try that dream, they probably would not have had the camp. But they did and they operated it for about 20 years there. But Larry was just an unusually fine young man. That was in 1925.

Q: Was the camp basically a money maker, is that why...

A: Yeah, it was a money maker when you look at what they made now it doesn't sound like very much for the work you did. They would end up with a couple a thousand dollars at the end of the season. Of course, you get 25 or 30 boys running around on horses, you've got some risks there too. But things were different then too. As a matter of fact, when dad sent Larry's body home on the train, this is before they had...this was 1925, Mr. Foster's father and this was their only son stepped up and put out his hand and said, "Fred we want you to know that we don't hold you responsible for this." Now that's pretty big, you got to be a pretty big man to deal that way, but you did. Up until the time of the camp, it was...we had cattle and a dry farm. It was about 6500 feet elevation so it was pure subsistence. We'd raise enough feed to feed a few cows, have enough milk to drink during the winter is about what it'd amount to, because there wasn't much going on really. To have a school at that time, you had to have eight children in order to get a county school teacher. And at the ranch, there were just

the two families at the ranch. I think I was telling you, you had to have eight in school before you could get a county teacher and they only had seven. So they put me in a year early to start grammar school then I was the only one in the class with five years there out of the eight. And I was also set to be the valedictorian until Junior Lefer moved in that year, but I ended up salutatorian that was pretty good for me. We had a...but it was a wonderful growing up time for me. We were this, I say ranch and dry farm, and we would work. There was so much work to be done just to provide basically for food. Mother would can everything she could. We'd have a garden and we had our own chickens and beef and raised pigs. It was a lesson in how to survive and how to get by. I mean they were so...maybe I'm telling you more then you want to hear. But we didn't even throw out the dishwater. We'd would wash the dishes in a pan with your warm water hot water, but instead of throwing it out on the ground, you'd thrown it – you'd pour it in a barrel for the pig pen and then put everything and anything else you could find there corn, or anything. And I found out that pigs will eat anything but grapefruit rinds. So you know you learn a few things along the way too.

Q: That shows how precious water must have been.

A: Well, yes water was precious. We had no running water but we had surface wells. You'd have to go down about fifteen feet to get...our home is by the wash, the Decker Wash, and you could get water almost any place, but primarily you'd try to dig a well where there'd been some willows or some trees along the wash that showed where there was a little extra water. And so we had good water, but you had to work for it, you had to dig for it. And we had windmills. But water has always been...and rain, my goodness, we had a flat roof. When the storms would come around, dad would get up on that old roof and wave his arms at those clouds and try to get them to come by to give us a little rain. Rain and snow, moisture was so necessary and just so important to us that you'd just grow up with a wonderful feel for water, particularly running water. To see water just coming out of the ground, to see a spring where the water just comes out of the ground is one of the most beautiful sights in the whole world. And we were just brought up on

the idea of how important water is and also like for your cattle or any kind of life, you got to have water. You don't have water that's one reason...in those early days when you'd have a drought like when the Hash Knife Company was in there, around 1905 or in 1895, they had droughts, they'd have cattle die by the thousands because they had so little water, except in a few streams like Silver Creek or someplace like that. And they didn't have all the tanks, they didn't have windmills, so they just found out that you had to have water. Well, you got me talking. I talk too much here.

Q: That's alright, no that's interesting.

Videographer:

No, that's a great story that truly sets the whole stage for, I mean water.

A: Water, I'm telling you that water...and now you know tap water, tap water, I see people now going around buying all this bottled water. I'll tell you this tap water is so good. It beats that old cow tank water that I drank a lot of. As a matter fact, the best drink of water, the drink of water that I remember most in my life was probably some of the worst water. We were on our way to the "snake dance" trip, to the "snake dance" in the Hopi Villages. There's a horseback trip from the ranch there, about forty miles south Holbrook. I was ten years old and we were north of Holbrook in one of those old alkali flats up there. And we came to a...strangely we never did carry canteens. We never did carry canteens when we were riding horses, we just didn't do it. They're a just nuisance. But what we did do when you get dry, you put a little rock under your tongue and just kind of roll it around your mouth and it really helps, you can go a long time with a rock in your mouth without water if you kind of keep it moving a little. But this time, we got up there and I mean I couldn't even spit. I mean it was in August, it was hot. And we came to this old well out in the flat. I wasn't very deep, it probably wasn't over six feet deep, but it was alkali. Oh you know, alkali is salty, it's terrible. But here was this little pond, it was this old well and it had a little kind of a curb over it, a scaffold over it. And there were Russian thistles down in there, and a dead rabbit in it, and

there was these little pollywogs, mosquito larvae, and mossy. It didn't look very good. But we, I got down there and kind of pushed that stuff back and got a drink of that. That was the best drink of water I ever had in my life. I've never forgotten, I think it probably made me realize just how important water is. And I survived it, never got sick or anything. It didn't save my life. I wouldn't have died because we dropped camp that night and had water. But I've never forgotten that drink.

Q: You mentioned you were on your way up to the Hopi dances?

A: Yes, we were. This was one of the first years after we had the eastern boys. We had a bunch of them, but they wouldn't drink that stuff. There was only one other, one other boy drank it but he just took one small one and spit it out. He just got his mouth wet. But I took a good drink of it and it was good.

Q: What was your relationship with the Native Americans up there, the Hopis?

A: Well, we used to work some of the Hopi girls. We'd had a couple of the Hopi girls come and work on the ranch during the summer and work in the kitchen. And they become lifelong friends. And they're wonderful people. Love the Hopi people. And the Navajos, we'd trade for saddle blankets. They make these blankets just the right size for saddle blankets and we would use them because they're excellent blankets and you'd get a saddle blanket for $10. So we had a lot of nice colorful saddle blankets. They did steal one of our horses one time when we were...for about three years, I think, we had a horseback trip going from the ranch to Walapai or Palatka, the first Hopi villages up there where they had the "snake dance." But they stole one of our horses along the way that we never did get back, named Old Blue Jay. He was a nice horse. We found him later but...we found out where he was, but we never did get Old Blue Jay back. So we really didn't have very much to do with the Navajos. We had a little more to do with the Apaches. They were, our ranch was only about seven miles from the reservation fence. The Apaches were more over around White River and that area. But the

Hopis, the ones that we had contact with were excellent, excellent people just very nice. That's where they had the "snake dances" over at the Hopis.

Q: And what did you think of the "snake dancing" as a boy?

A: Oh, they were exciting. They were exciting. I guess they don't even let you go see them anymore. They'd get crowds around there. It was exciting. They bring those snakes out...they have the antelope tribe...well it starts out they have what they call an antelope race on the morning of the snake dance. It's a marathon, well it's not a marathon, but they start out several miles away from the mesa and you can see them running, this is early in the morning. You can see them running along and then they finally end up running up that mesa, climbing that high mesa in Walapai in the antelope race. And then later, they have a "snake dance." The have the snakes in a kiva, an underground place and they'll bring them out. As I remember, they kind of bring them almost like in an arm full and they'd bring them out...I'm not sure if I remember exactly how they'd bring them out to the dancers. But then they'll, a dancer will take one, put it in his mouth about four or five inches back from the head in his mouth. And then he'll have a partner that puts his arm over his back and he'll have a turkey feather and he'll go around with him and he'll rub that snake's head. I guess to divert his attention. They'd dance around and then they'll put the snakes down and once in a while, one of those old snakes would get away when they'd drop them down and go off out through the crowd. Even though the crowd would be thick, they'd open up for the snakes. It's surprising how they'd just find a way. But they would generally catch them and get them back. And then when they go all through and they had as I remember, seemed like fifteen dancers with their sidekick to stroke the snake's head. And they weren't all rattlesnakes. They had different kinds of snakes but they had a lot of rattlesnakes. I remember one time, the old head – I suppose he was the head priest, as he came around a snake bit him or struck him on the cheek. And he pulled it off and you see two little streaks of blood running down his cheek so that old snake still had his fangs in anyway. But it was an exciting, it was an exciting dance. They had their costumes and they weren't as elaborate as some of these

things that you see now with the hoop dances where they have all these flumes and feathers and everything. They weren't that elaborate, but they did have, I suppose a protocol, to their dress. But it really was exciting and the idea was to generate rain here again, water. That's what the "snake dance" was all about was to ask for rain and to do it this way. And along the latter part of August was a pretty good time to do it because that was kind of there, when you could hope to get some rain up there too and very often you would. You'd get some...and of course, then your dance was a success I guess. But it was fun. It was part of the law at that time.

Q: But still, a pretty much authentic way that they'd always...

A: Oh yes, yes indeed. Then they go back to the...as I understand it, then when they got all through, they'd gather those snakes up and run off in the four directions and turn them loose off out at the edge of the mesa then. And then they'd go back and, this is the second end, but then they'd go back to the kiva and apparently they had a potion of some kind that they would drink and perhaps they did it before as well. Something to as an antidote for it they get bit I guess. But I never heard of any of them dying. It didn't hurt the snakes either I guess. So yeah, it was very interesting and I'm glad that I got to see a few of those.

Q: I would think as a boy that would be very impressive.

A: Well, it was.

Q: Maybe you were too young to really understand how special that was.

A: Well of course, my first trip I was ten. I remember that. I was on that horseback trip but I've been there several times since then as well.

Videographer:

What about the eastern boys though, that must have been...

A: Oh, they loved it. Those eastern boys, as a matter – you know Sam Steiger was one of our boys. Old Sam, his first trip to Arizona he came to Sundown Ranch. They did. They really did enjoy Sundown Ranch. Like I say, about all we had were horses but we'd ride before noon, we'd ride again in the afternoon. And then sometimes if you had a nice moon, you'd ride at night.

Q: You didn't put them to work doing roundups?

A: Yeah, we had cattle. Yeah, we'd brand. We'd have our little rodeos. They loved it. We get them out and they'd get dirty. There wasn't very many of them didn't really like it. And it made it so much better for us then pulling weeds and chopping corn all summer.

Q: You said Sam Steiger was one of the boys there?

A: He was one of our boys, yeah.

Q: So did you know him then?

A: I happened to be gone. I happened to not be there the years that Sam was there. I was on a mission, a Mormon mission for the Mormon Church the year that Sam was there. But he was there. He may have been there two years, I'm not sure. But I was gone for two years. But I've known Sam since then and my sisters; he's well acquainted with the sisters.

Q: Is that what made him to decide to move to Arizona?

A: I'm sure it had something to do with it. Yes, I'm sure it did. He made a good family friend. As a matter of fact, there was another boy that came by the name of Al Veen. He came and spent, lived the rest of his life and married a girl from Snowflake. And taught up there in the high school, he's dead now. He came and others...and there are some that now live in Arizona. A boy over in Scottsdale by

the name of Gil Augenblake that I keep in touch with that was there, you know, sixty years ago and we're still friends.

Q: Who mentioned the Mormon Church; tell me a little bit about your family and your church and that's why they came here in the first place.

A: Well, that's the reason they came here alright. Because the church, when they were driven out of...the church started in New York and from the day it began there was intense persecution. The church...well, let me say just something here about the church and then if you don't want to hear, but to give you the position...the Catholic Church, for example, maintains that they're the church of Jesus Christ. It was organized by him and it has remained from his time until now as his church with the Popes, and beginning with the Apostles and the Popes and so forth. And then along they've had, they maintain a broken sixth succession even though it may have had two or three popes at the same time or whatever. They maintain that they are the Church of Christ. Then come the Protestant movements of beginning probably with Martin Luther who says no, you know, there are too many things wrong. The Catholic Church fell off the turnip truck somewhere along the line here and I think it's this way. So he rights out his edicts and nails it up on the church House door and so he cut him off. He was a Catholic Priest. They cut him off, the church, and so there you have the Lutherans and then you have John Wesley or the other reformers. So they and they protested, they said no that's not the church anymore but this is a better way. This is it. So then you have all the, fifteen hundred whatever your Protestant, and the Mormon Church or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is what we prefer to be called felt that reformation was not, not the way or not appropriate, was not what had to happen that it required a restoration.

A restoring of the original church that had to be done by direct revelation from our father in heaven to the prophet Joseph Smith. The boy prophet Joseph Smith who from the age of fourteen until his death at the age of thirty-eight and a half, was the leader and the king, the lynchpin of the movement. And then it has gone

from that time but maintaining that it is a restoration of Christ's Church. So this claim, and then as part of that claim, was the publication of the Book of Mormon. Which Joseph Smith claims, and which we believe, came as a direct gift that an angel (a person who had lived and died and been resurrected) placed in this boy's hands a set of golden plates, they had the appearance of gold, with inscriptions on them which he translated by the gift and power of God and published as the Book of Mormon and here it is. Read it. Now if that is true, then there must be something there. If it isn't, it's a whopper. I mean, you know, it's about as big as you can get. You can't tell much bigger stories then saying here this old angel brought me this book. Now here's a boy, Joseph Smith, who had maybe a fourth grade education. He was young. He was only like twenty, twenty-one when he translated that. He did it through what was called urim and thummim or some...I'm trying...they're clear, they're like crystals. Anyway, that he maintains that were necessary for him in order to translate. Because these are unknown, this was like hieroglyphics.

Anyway, there's the book and which is part of the foundation of the church. To make these kinds of claims brought great opposition and from the very day that he began, he was persecuted. He was taken to the courts about forty-four times in his short life, accused of everything from treason to just disorderly conduct or whatever. And he was eventually killed in Carthage, Illinois, by a mob at the age of thirty-eight and a half while he was in jail. So from that time...so that was the demise of Joseph Smith the founder of the church. Then Brigham Young, who was one of what they called the twelve Apostles, as the leader, directed the movement that they had been driven from New York to Ohio, Kirtland, Ohio. And they were there for several years, and when I say they, I mean the primary group of church members. But they had their difficulties there and then they went to Missouri. And coming in and saying, they were very united, and they were and by this time they were getting converts from England and other places. And so wherever they went in those early days in this country, they received great opposition. They were driven from Missouri back to Illinois. As a matter of fact, in Missouri the governor issued an extermination order said the Mormons were to

leave or be killed, that was the governor, governor of the state. And so then they established in Illinois, the largest city in Illinois on the banks of the Mississippi, Melvin, around 20,000. But here again, they built up so much opposition so then in, it began in 1846, they migrated. They began the migration to the west to leave the United States and to go someplace. And they ended up in Utah. And of course, the resources in Utah were very limited and they were coming in there in the hundreds and the thousands. So Brigham Young, from his headquarters in Salt Lake City, then began to send, to send people out to establish their homes and here again, the key was water. They had to go someplace where there was water. There was just no way they could live without water. So over the next thirty years or so, there was something over 300 communities established. They'd come in and Brigham Young would put together a group of say a shoe maker and a tinker (he'd make metal containers), and you'd have a farmer and a blacksmith and maybe somebody that knew a little bit about herbs and pills or something and he'd put a group together and try to get groups and send them out to establish another community. And so this is how granddad, he had established himself in Beaver, Utah, and had worked very hard. He was born in 1839 and I still remember him. I had my picture taken with him when I was a boy. He had established himself in Beaver, Utah and had a good little growing farm finally. And he was called, he was called by Brigham Young to come to Arizona and settle in Arizona. He didn't want to go. As a matter of fact, they had built a temple in St. George, Utah. And he had gone down there to the dedication of that temple and at that time, they read from the pulpit the number of names, they didn't necessarily ask them all the time, but they read his name off as one that they wanted to go to Arizona. When he came home from that trip, his wife says that she knew something was wrong because he looked sick. And he had to tell her that they had been called to go to Arizona, leave everything; told them not to keep anything but to take everything so he wouldn't have anything to come back to. So they made that trip. Now by this time, grandfather had entered that plural marriage program. The church in the early days, not many just a small percentage two or three percent and there was some pretty strict rules about it, believed in plural marriage and grandfather and two wives to bring with him to

come to Arizona. In order to enter that order of marriage, and like I say, it wasn't a high percentage that did, but you had to have the approval of the local authority, the bishop, that you're an honorable person.

Well, the first thing you had to do was have the approval of the first wife. You had to have the approval of the first wife, if she just would not or could not enter that order, that would be the end of it. And then you had to have the approval of the ecclesiastical authority that you are moral and straight forth and the third was if you could support another family. So granddad had entered this order and he'd brought his wives, his two wives, and came down. They ended up, he ended up with, I think, twenty children, only twelve of whom actually lived to maturity. Several died in infancy before they were three years old. I think he had about five little boys that passed away before they were five years old. It was hard living. It was a hard time. And so he came to Arizona then and settled up on the river. There were already some settlers there, a locksmith. And settled there for a time and he...it was almost an impossible situation. There were on the Little Colorado between Winslow and Holbrook, they had about four little settlements there but they couldn't keep the soils alkali. The weather; it was cold in the winter and hot in the summer and a lot of wind. In other words, it's not a very productive place. And they couldn't keep a dam in the river. They'd build a dam in the Little Colorado and divert the water, but you had problems with that. There was so much silt in it that it would fill up the ditches and then you'd put it out on the soil and it would seal, that silt would go out and seal. Anyway and then with the water it was almost a hopeless situation most of those little communities, most people either went back to Utah or they finally ended up, I think there was only one of them that ever really lasted more than...that's still there, that's Joseph City. Joe City they call it. That's the only one that actually ever really remained. So granddad became very discouraged there and he went looking for a better place and he found the site on Silver Creek where is Snowflake. There was a man by the name of Stenson, Jim Stenson. He had settled there with a few Mexicans and cleared some land and had the farm there. And granddad ended buying that and then when he moved there and others came in and that was the beginning of establishing that

community, which has remained. But here again water, water and this was clear water. Silver Creek didn't have the problems that the Little Colorado did. Because it was more consistent, it was flowing...the Little Colorado was subject more to storms and floods and you'd have floods. Water in the Little Colorado would be so silted that they'd have to put it in a barrel and let it sit for a day or two just to have the sediment get out where you could drink it. It's almost like drinking mud, tried to use it anyway. They tried it to on the Little Colorado, but it just wasn't in the cards to do that. And so then he went on from there and that was the settlement of that little town.

Q: And he was a Flake?

A: Yes ma'am, he was a Flake, name was William Jordan Flake.

Q: Now when you were growing up, was your family still very active in the church?

A: Well, we were active except that we weren't close to a church. My father went on a mission as a young man to New York for two years and I went on a mission when I was twenty also to the eastern states. So we were active except that we didn't participate much. We'd have a little home Sunday school between about four ranch families. The Decker's and the Turley's and the Reidhead's that were close by and we'd have a little home Sunday school part of the time, except in the winter when it was too hard to get around and then the summer when we were all working. Mother would have a little...and we would observe the Sabbath. We didn't work on Sunday and we'd take the church magazines and we talked about the church and we'd read the Book of Mormon. Yeah, we were active as well as you can be without being in a community where you had all the...the church has a lot of programs. It has programs for the times for the children. It has programs for the young people. It has programs...it's a very active church. They've got a lot of things going centered on family. It's always been centered on the family. And today, the church takes a position for example, against gay marriage. Feeling that marriage itself is such a basic part of an orderly society that it

shouldn't be opposed upon with anything else really. So they're very, very family orientated, not that we don't respect people, whatever their beliefs are, whatever their beliefs, that's their privilege. We believe that probably God's greatest gift is life, life itself. His next greatest gift is agency, the right to choose. God, Father in Heaven, he doesn't make us do anything. He doesn't make us do one thing, but the one thing that we do have to remember is that there is a consequence to whatever our actions are and we can't avoid that. We have to accept that consequence period, that's the nature of agency. You do what you want to do, take the consequences. Really, life's pretty simple in our terms but it's pretty satisfying. And it's, it's...our church's precepts are we think are sound, reasonable, they're true, and they're satisfying. They're very helpful to us to try and live an orderly sort of life.

Q: You say you went off on your mission at twenty, so that would've been like 1941?

A: '41. I was out six weeks before Pearl Harbor. They let us finish. They let us stay but people didn't look too kindly on some big strong guy going around touting the Mormon Church during World War II. It was pretty tough going. I've been kicked off a lot of doorsteps. And been maligned a lot of ways. But we finished and then I enlisted. Before I enlisted back there before I came home and I had...the reason I went on a mission at that time, I was going to BYU and playing football up there and I wrecked my knee and couldn't play ball anymore. So I thought this will be a good time to go on a mission. So I went out there and they redlined me back there because of a bad leg. And I said, "Well you know, I'm from Arizona. Why don't you pass me here and then when I get to Arizona, you know I will have to go through this again." So they did. Then when I got to Arizona, they redlined me again, says you can't go, you got a bad leg. And I said, "I passed through the biggest thing in the United States, New York City, they said I can go and here you're going to try and stop me. " So they said, "Okay go ahead" so I got in but I've had a bad leg. As a matter of fact, I have a new artificial joint in there now. So I got in the service.

Q: What branch?

A: Air Corp, my brother was in the Air Corp. There is a picture of him right there on the wall in that...with his fighter plane there and his crew. He was in the cadets and I thought, well that sounded better than then infantry and so I enlisted in that. But it was probably a good thing, I never even got to pre-flight. They just held us around for, it was towards the end of the war and they had pilots all over the place so they held us. I was out here at Williams Field finally. I started down in Lubbock, Texas and then Amarillo, went to basic training in Amarillo, and Sacramento. I went through the reel for a couple of years but never amounted to anything just dug swimming pools for the officers and KP and stuff that...my war record is not very exciting.

Q: And you never served overseas?

A: Never served overseas but I was in for a couple years. It was good. I'm glad I had it. I think it wouldn't be bad if all young men had a little military. I think you kind of, you kind of hate to have to salute all those little shaved hair lieutenants but it's not a bad program. And I think it...my brother he was, as I say he was Arizona's first ace. He shot down seven German planes, but then he was killed. He got the Silver Star and some...he flew in to one flight of ten German fighters and shot down two of them and got away. I think he was a little over anxious, little over eager. He was looking for a fight every chance he got.

Q: That must have been hard for your family though.

A: It was. Well, we didn't...first he was listed as missing for about six months. That's as hard as...that's as hard as to be...then we finally found out that he had been killed on that day that he was missing, first missing.

Q: You said you were going through Brigham Young University?

A: Yes, I went there three years.

Q: What were you studying?

A: Actually, I was study agriculture although they didn't have much of an ag school. I had a scholarship down at the University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is a land grant college and you know agricultural was one of their big deals in those days. That's probably where I should have gone, but if I was going to professionalize myself. But they came along and talked me into...my granddad had graduated from BYU and went to the church school and the football coach and his assistant came by the ranch there along about June of that year and talked me into going up to BYU instead of U of A. So that was the reason I went there, but then when I wrecked my leg, why that was the end of that so I'm a drop out. I never did finish. I just kind of...then I went on my mission and then I got back and right into the military. And then before, my wife and I had been going together at BYU that's where I met her. And after about five years, you have to decide whether, you know, are you going to get married or are you going to forget about it. So I was in the service and we got married there. And then I never did get back to school again.

Q: Did you use some of your GI benefits?

A: Well, I could've done I guess, but I got a chance to go to Eloy with Western Farm Management Company in kind of a sponsor program which looked like a good thing to do for me. It was good for me. It was pretty hard on my wife. Eloy was a wild place at that time; it was right after the war. The cotton boom was on and they had 10,000 cotton pickers come in there every Friday and Saturday night to carouse and buy their groceries. And we lived a mile and a half out of town but it was a, it was a real experience. There were twenty-seven killings there that first year. I mean it was the Wild West town of the United States at that time. We were there for two years and then I came to Queen Creek and worked for, managed a farm there for a couple of years, and then we bought a farm in Queen Creek.

And we were there for about twenty years before I sold that. We had, we had six daughters and one son. And going to high school in Chandler, twelve miles away and our oldest girl was a sophomore. And we can see that's pretty tough going to try and commute if they're going to do anything much besides just ride the bus back and forth to school. Farming is pretty tough and about that time I had an accident and lost this eye. And to do welding and to do work with machinery and then so much dust and dirt and got a pretty good chance to sell the place so we sold it and we came in and moved into Mesa. So that was, I never did...then old Marshall Humphrey who had been in the legislature was quitting and he...this was the first time that I ever had any time, is when I sold the ranch there. And he talked me into running for the legislature in his place, which I did and happened to win. That was back when the legislature only paid you $1,800 a year, paid you $200 a week for nine weeks.

Q: And what year was that?

A: That was in 1964 that I was elected and began serving in '65.

Q: Had you been involved in politics before that?

A: Well, not really. I was involved in...I was a student body president in high school and in college I was the junior class president. I was always kind of interested into sticking my nose in other people's business, you know. I was an active guy. I was in activities. And so, yeah and I was interested then. But I'd never been involved in it. I'd get on the election board and I'd join the local political group. As a matter of fact, I was a Democrat I guess to start, but I kind of turned Republican.

Q: Tell me about that. Arizona was more of a Democratic state.

A: Well, you had to be a Democrat to get any choice. Yeah, it was a Democratic state. As a matter of fact, the first year I was in the legislature, you still had two senators from each county. This was before reapportionment. You had two

senators from each county and I think there were fourteen counties and I think twenty-six of them were Democrats. So you know reapportionment that's what changed the legislature. That's when you start going by so many from depending on population you see. Little old Greenlee County over there had two senators, Maricopa County whatever the population was – two senators. But it's not a bad system either; it's not bad. I don't think it'd be bad now. Now you have counties in Arizona don't have anybody that actually lives in the county. So I've always felt like I was a Navajo County guy anyway even though I was elected from Maricopa County. I was a Navajo County guy. I'm still a Navajo County guy.

Q: When you were first elected were you a Democrat or Republican?

A: I was a Republican.

Q: And you changed?

A: Yeah, I changed. It wasn't any big deal to change. It's just to start with up in Navajo County they had one Republican his name was Dan Divelbess. He was the sheriff. And he kept...he was always the sheriff. I mean down here he was elected but he was the only sheriff, the only Republican in the whole county system was old Dan Divelbess. In order...Republicans just didn't run much. You had Democrats running against each other for office, but you didn't have Republicans run so really your election would be in the primary to decide who the Democrat was going to be that ran. So then I changed and I don't remember exactly when or why. I just changed.

Q: You were elected then in '64?

A: '64.

Q: What were you elected of?

A: I was in the House. I was in the House for eight years I guess. Then I was in the Senate for fourteen years. The House...when I was elected in the House there were eighty members. Then on reapportionment they cut that down, they cut the state up into thirty districts with two House members and one senator from each district. So then you began across county lines and you had a whole new system really with reapportionment.

Q: What year did that happen do you remember?

A: That must have been...it must have occurred in '65 and took over in '66 or '67. The first term that I was over there, they still had the two senators from each county. The next time, the next year that I was over there and maybe there were two terms that they had...I don't remember exactly. But it wasn't long after that until that whole system changed and then you had, you had proportionality and now you got about, of the sixty, you must have at least fifteen of them from Maricopa County of the senators...it's just a different system really.

Q: What was the legislature like when you first went there?

A: Well, it was...I liked it. It was fun. We enjoyed it. I did. It was, we didn't stay there...like I say you had the sixty-three day sessions supposedly. That's nine weeks and you got paid $200 a week for nine weeks and you went home. You didn't have to mess around with constituents like they do now. You'd have a few things and then you tried to do a few things to help people. But now, we didn't have an office, we didn't have a secretary. We had a little desk on the floor and if you wanted somebody to write a letter for you, you went down to the steno pool and stood in line for somebody to write you a letter. Now they've all got an office and a secretary and a keyboard. They've got it so jazzed up now that...but I've always looked at the legislature and I still do, as an opportunity for public service, that is, should never become a job. It just should not become a job, a lifetime job that somebody would try to get and just stay there. Even though I stayed for twenty-two years and I wonder sometimes why I did except that you get something going

and you think "Well gee I got to...", and actually the biggest thing I ever did there was this water business. Oh I got involved but I didn't really sponsor a lot of stuff. I'm just kind of a status quo....(tape change)...was kind of an old pack rat but she would keep track of things and in her journal, you won't even believe this. For ten months, she had her...she spent $77 on groceries. Of course, we had chickens and pigs and beef and garden and everything else that...but her groceries $77. (Casual conversation going on with Stan's daughter who just walked in).

I told you how they'd save the dishwater; they'd save the eggshells too. They put the eggshells in the, she had this old big stove with kind of a warming oven. She stick the eggshells up there until they really got dehydrated, dry and then you'd go grind them up and feed them back to the chickens.

Q: I've heard about using them in the soil, but chickens?

A: Well, you can do that too but see the chickens needed a little replenishment food. So we'd feed the eggshells back to the chickens. And it was a...like you say it was a fearsome system stock living. If you got by, you're doing pretty good. The way you could tell, the way you could tell the really poor people is if they didn't have anything to put in their beans. Mother, not always, but often she'd have a little something to jazz the beans up because that's what we ate mostly. But we had neighbors there and us kids used to eat back and forth some. And I remember they never had anything in the beans. They never had any bacon or salt pork or anything, just beans which are good, wonderful food. But that's how you tell when folks are next row down. They don't have anything to put in their beans.

Q: That's a good way, I like that, that's the whole idea of canning and preserving and making do with a garden.

A: Some things you can keep. You take those big old squash and they'll keep a long time. Put them down in the cellar, we had a cellar. Put them down there, they'd

keep for four months or so. And we had a sandbox, had a big sandbox you put carrots and turnips and parsnips, even if you don't like parsnips they're not too bad. So you can keep things for a long time. Well, I keep getting sidetracked here.

Q: Let's go back and talk about the legislature a little bit.

Videographer:

Where we ended it Pam was this is, he was saying this is...I stayed because this water was the whole thing, my whole thing. So we can kind of cut from right there.

Q: So tell me when you got in the 60's that's when, I think, still talking about the CAP.

A: Yes, it was still a dream at that time. They were still working on it to get it...and then it progressed along to the point where Cecil Andrus was the Secretary of the Interior, what do you call it I guess it's the Secretary of the Interior. And as the Secretary of the Interior he was requiring that Arizona do certain things in order to have the CAP.

Q: But even earlier then that you said that you went in, in '64, that was when Stewart Udall was Secretary of the Interior.

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember the negotiations and things?

A: Well, I wasn't that...

Q: They were talking about putting bridges in the Grand Canyon.

A: They were...right at that time and this is where I think we missed it. We missed a chance. The state had a license to put in a dam between Glen Canyon Dam and Roosevelt or Boulder Dam. They had a license down below Lee's Ferry; they had a

license to put it in. And they figured it would generate $25 million a year in revenue and actually, it wouldn't hurt that much. It may have stopped the river runners but it wouldn't...all you do is raise the water in that canyon, in that narrow canyon and run it through. Because this wouldn't be for anything other than power, really. And we had the license to do that and this was when Paul Fannin was governor and this is where my friend Marshall Humphrey was in the legislature. He's dead now. He was on the Power Authority and was so aggravated because the state let it get away. We didn't exercise that license. As I remember, and I'm.... it seemed like that would only cost $25 million, the state. But we didn't do it and so then we lost the license and so that never materialized. But they were talking then about running a tunnel from Lake Powell down to the headwaters of the Verde River or some place. They had all kinds of schemes, different options that they were talking about. But yeah, there was a big fight and of course they had already had the allocation. I think it's 1921 when they made the allocations between the upper states and the lower states and those allocations but they were still…

Q: Allocations for water…

A: Water from the Colorado River to the different entities, different states. And of course that was a big fight too. They fought over that for years and then they finally...everything they ever did, they had to fight over it for a long time.

Q: Then the issue was though, how do you get it from the Colorado River to central Arizona.

A: Yes, that's right.

Q: When did you first hear about the proposal to build a canal for, you know, hundreds of miles?

A: Oh heck, I guess when it first came up. I don't…I don't remember dates very well. I don't try to keep dates in mind. I don't even know when my kids were born, you know. I'm not; I'm not very good on dates.

Q: What did you think of that idea? Did it seem like kind of one of those schemes again?

A: Well, no I've always been in favor of the Central Arizona Project because of the way we were depleting our groundwater here. Like I say, I was down in Eloy for two years and saw how that developed during World War II. How that whole Casa Grande-Eloy area developed and that was totally dependent on groundwater. And by the time I was in Queen Creek and getting ready to leave Queen Creek, that area there had actually subsided like eight or ten feet. I mean the ground level itself had subsided. The reason it subsided was because they've drawn so much water out of there that those aquifers then became compressed more. And I remember we lived next door to a big farm right on the edge of Eloy, a man by the name of C. A. Owens in California. Had a nice big farm there and he had a...his foreman had headquarters with a little swimming pool. It was a well-developed farm. And after I came to Queen Creek and I'd been there for a few years on my own farm, I went back down there and there was the swimming pool full of tumbleweeds and that farm was lying mostly dormant. And they had a well with a little old pump on it, about like that, and I can see what happened there in that valley in terms of water. And once that water is gone, it's gone. You just don't get the replenishment from storms, or from the river. It's taken whatever thousands of years to gradually accumulate water in those aquifers. And then in Queen Creek, our water level was going down. We bought an old ranch there, Germann Ranch and it was seventy-five feet to water. We dug a hand well, seventy-five feet to water. At that time, we were pumping from about 300 feet. And we drilled a well, was 1529 feet deep, and we were pumping that. We were pumping there...that is one reason why I sold that place. Because I got...I wasn't sure how long that we were going to have water there. And I saw what happened in Eloy when they began to run out of water. We farmed that. We cleared that land; it

was desert except for about forty acres and put it into cultivation. But our water level was going down. When I left there, if I remember, our water level was about 530 feet. And that was from seventy-five feet when the...and the questions. How deep can you pump and how much is going to be there? So I was, I figured we had to get water any way we could get it, we ought to get it. So to me it was that simple.

Q: Then you were involved in the legislature with trying to get the CAP authorized?

A: Yes, yes, yes I was. Well, of course, the authorization is congressional, but we had to do...we had to do things, we had to do things here. Well, it goes back when Sid, Sid Osborn was governor, Sidney Osborn; he called five or six special sessions of the legislature to create the first control of groundwater. And all they did was create some what they call critical groundwater areas. In other words, they finally said, well you can't drill any more wells in this particular area. So you had I think, I don't remember exactly, but maybe five critical groundwater areas running around Douglas, around Tucson, around Queen Creek, I think up around Prescott, I don't remember. But anyway, in the legislature they established these critical groundwater areas, the first control of pumping, of over-pumping. Any time you do anything like that, you grandfather everybody in no matter what you're doing and whatever you're affecting. Whoever is doing it at that time, they call what you call a grandfather. You know, they can still keep doing it. So Sid, they recognized they had a problem but...here and now that seems like nothing. Well, maybe you say well gosh you should be able to do that. But they had a heck of a time doing it. It took them several special sessions.

Q: We've been talking with people about the Central Arizona Project and how many decades it took…

A: It took years and years and years. Actually if it hadn't been for Carl Hayden and John Rhodes and Barry Goldwater, we never would have got it, I suppose. But here's the thing, here now...the price of that was like $3 billion, $3 billion or four

maybe, to put that project in. They have some heritance in Florida; Congress throws twelve billion in a week to take care of a problem down there. And here we're still fighting the Federal Government about paying for our three billion, for the Central Arizona Project. That is a lifeline for the state.

Q: I heard too that there was a point though when the Arizona people were so upset that the legislature was talking about just doing it themselves.

A: Yeah, we were talking about it. The Federal...but I'm not sure that you can, the feds have such...I mean you're talking about federal land. You talking about crossing federal…and the feds could say we're not going to let you cross our land. You can't put a canal, you run into so many problems. And you're talking about the kind of money we didn't have at that time. But yeah we talked about everything.

Q: Do you remember the compromise that came about when they decided not to build the dams and build the Navajo Generating Station instead?

A: No I don't. I don't remember the details. I mean I really don't. I was not that involved; that was more of a federal, a federal thing. My main involvement was in trying to satisfy Cecil Andrus and the Federal Government so that we could proceed with the CAP. And to do that, they established this commission that I mentioned to you earlier a twenty-five member commission.

Q: What was it called?

A: It was called...I don't know what it was called. It was called the Groundwater…it's probably says here someplace. It was probably called the Groundwater Commission of some kind.

Videographer.

Arizona Groundwater Management Study Commission.

A: Yeah, that's what it was.

Q: Why don't you just for the record here tell us again it was the...

A: It's the Arizona Groundwater Management Study Commission. This was a twenty-five member commission and it was appointed partly by the governor, partly by the Senate, partly by the House, as I recall. And it tried to cover all the bases, had a little bit of everybody in there. And to start out with, I think we had ten forums around the state different places. Public forums where we talked about the problems whatever the problems were that we had to deal with. And so we went around the state and it started out that the Speaker of the House and the, who was Frank Kelly at that time, and Leo Corbett, President of the Senate. They were the chairmen and they started out holding these meetings. I was a member of that committee, commission and we got a – their names are there somewhere. It had the farms, the cities, the mines, the Indians, the environmentalists, it had everybody on there. We went around ten places from Yuma to St. Johns holding these meetings and we'd hear the same old stories and you'd see the same old people come, particularly like the environmentalists. Those folks are there at all of the stuff, you know. We'd go through the same things and then we got into the legislature to try and do something but before we did that, what we were trying to do with this was to come up with a program that we could take to the legislature. And we never could really get going on it, we never could get consensus. So Leo Corbett and Frank Kelly, they got tired of that stuff of being chairmen of that. And so they quit and turned, they made Burt Barr, he was the Majority Leader in the House and I was in the Senate and they made us co-chairmen of that committee. So then we picked up the gauntlet and went from there. And we went through this for about a year. We finally had a retreat up at Castle Hot Springs where we were going to settle something. We got up there for two days and fought like a bunch of tigers and came out of there...

Q: Who else was up there besides you and Burton Barr, who else was up there?

A: Well, it was that whole commission.

Q: All twenty-five?

A: Oh hell, whoever was there I don't remember. There was too many. It was not only just them, but all the lobbyists. I mean there was a mess of people around there. And we came out of there; the mines and the cities got together up there and beat up the farmers. And we came out of there with a program that was, and I was chairman of the Natural Resource Committee in the Senate, and as I was driving away from there with...and it was a bad thing, I don't remember just all we did. But it was bad and I was driving away from there with one of the big shots from one of the mines and I looked him in the eye and I said, "This is not going to go anyplace," I said, "this is dead on arrival, just forget because as long as I'm chairman of that committee it will never see the light of day." So just don't get your hopes up because it was dead. And it was.

So then we...but we kept messing around with it and finally we had everybody worn out. I mean even the press, the press hated it. The guys that were assigned to that, there's old Earl Zarbin, now Earl Zarbin if you ever...he's one guy you probably ought to talk to. He knows as much about water as anybody. Old Earl never gave up on us, but everybody else quit on us. So finally, what we finally ended up doing was picking out a few guys, and I don't remember just how we did it, I think between me, Burton, and the governor, Bruce Babbitt, we picked out a few guys. And formed what they call the "Rump" group, a Rump Committee. And we met for five months behind closed doors over in Bill Stevens' office in Phoenix. And worked out a plan, worked out a bill and we got down to a, we called a special session. We were working; we did it on this basis. I finally just had to sit down with these guys and say, "Now look, you guys we all know where you're coming from, we know what you want," and all of this and that, "now look I want you in the next couple of days, you look at these other people here. And you know what they want, too. And you look at it through their eyes and you look at it, let's start trying to get together on something here. We know that anything that comes out of

here, nobody's really going to like it, but it's got to be something that you can live with. It's got to be something that everybody can live with. So let's start looking at it on that basis that we try to work this out." And that's what happened. We went...we went, you'd go line by line and paragraph by paragraph and back and forth. And we finally came up with, so we were close enough where we set a time for a special session of the legislature and we didn't make it. We blew up the last, that last meeting. So we went back to work and set another special session and we came up with our final thing, I don't know, in the middle of the night sometime, and the session was to start that next day. And we took that thing in to the legislature and passed it without changing a comma in about twenty minutes. No debate to speak of and the reason we could do that was because everybody that was concerned had enough confidence in the people that represented them in that group to say well that's the best we can do, we can live with that. And we came out with a deal.

Q: Is that the Groundwater Act of 1982 (ed. note: 1980)?

A: Yeah, it would be. Yeah, that's what it would be. It was the Groundwater Act and it put the hundred-year supply, you had to have your hundred-year supply. It was a…it was a mess in a way. But it was the best we can do. And it did kind of take care of things for many years. It satisfied the Secretary of the Interior. It did what it had to do to keep the CAP going and it did, it did, it did some good things, if you can do good things in an impossible situation sort of.

Q: Well you were kind of in a unique position weren't you, because you were representing a city, but yet you had your rural background.

A: I represented the legislature. I was...I'm basically, I'm basically an agriculturalist, agriculturalist. I mean I am more concerned with their interests than anybody else, because they're kind of the last on the totem pole. But I'm trying to...let me put it like this. I'm not very parochial in terms of representing. I have a...my priority list goes like this. If it's a moral issue, if it's gambling, if it's drugs, if it's alcohol, if it's

what I consider to be a moral issue, I'm going to do whatever I feel like for myself. I don't care what anybody else thinks or feels. I'm going to do what I want to do. Then I want to look at the state's interest. I think if you identify a state interest that's where you should be. Then you go to a district interest, your district where you represent. And then you go to your party. That's...well the Republicans don't much like a guy putting the party down to number four but that's my priority. I can get away with it because that's just what it is.

Q: It seems like it has changed somewhat today though. The party seems to come first a lot.

A: Well, it shouldn't. It shouldn't. And as far as that goes, I was not very; I was not very parochial as a member of the legislature. I figured the minority and over the years this has kind of gone back and forth. As a matter of fact, the first time I was in the legislature when I was first there. Well, let me go back. The year before I was in the legislature, Taylor Cook, a rancher from Cochise County, was the Speaker of the House. Taylor was a tough old cattleman and rancher and whatever from down in Cochise County. And Taylor ran a very tight ship. This is when they had, this is when they had a legislature of eighty and he had a majority of forty-one. And he never lost a bill. I mean, but he also isolated some of his best people, put them on one committee (these are Democrats a lot of them) and gave them one bill for the whole session. I mean... so the year that I came in we had a coalition. This year we had 35 Republicans and 45 Democrats, now you think the Democrats could organize. You think they had a majority and could organize, but old Taylor had been so hard to deal with that Jack Gilbert, Democrat, and John Haul, Republican, got together and put together a coalition of 56, 19 Democrats and 35 Republicans, and we had a good coalition. But at that time, anybody who was in the minority, they just didn't let them even run bills, period. You just forget it, if you're in the minority...I never felt like you should do that. So the minority, they may not pass them, but they could sure introduce them and some were good. They cross and work together and sponsor bills together. It's just changed quite a bit.

Q: Let's go back and talk a little bit more about water and the Central Arizona Project. You mentioned something about the hearings, the environmentalists.

A: Yes.

Q: Tell me about some of those environmentalists. What were their arguments? Why were they such a problem?

A: Well their arguments, their arguments were I guess not to develop it. Not to do things that would make you want to use more water. In other words, keep the streams running. Keep the...don't mess with the water. And let the birds have it and you got to have water for the some little chub fish that might die out on you or something. They seemed more concerned about endangered species than they were about taking care of the needs of people. And I personally have never got that excited about the little flycatcher or the fish chub or...I don't know, they just never hardly got on my radar. And so when they would begin to try to require that you have water that you put them as a priority for your water, I just didn't like that approach and thought it was the wrong way to deal with it. You deal with people first. Deal with people. Now I know too that agriculture, agriculture was using most of the water. We only used it because it was there. And they traditionally used it and they were going to use it as long as they could. But you also had to realize that eventually as people came in that agriculture had to give up their water. Now that's just a matter of being realistic. I have no problem with having to transfer agricultural water to other uses. But I think it's a mistake when you begin to use too much water for lakes and golf courses, even though some people can't seem to live without them. Why you have to keep a balance there some way and that's when I think it fits in using you effluent and getting managing water, where you get into management water. And people are reluctant to manage it up until they have to. They just want to use it; that's just human nature.

Q: I guess some of the big things that happened when you were there as the CAP progressed was forming the, I guess it was first, the Arizona Water Commission and

then the Department of Water Resources. And you were part of the group that hired Wes Steiner. Tell me about how that happened.

A: Yes, I was. Well this whole thing evolves to where you, where you...we felt like we needed that kind of an agency to deal with it and we were looking for somebody and Wes came by. And I did, I think one of the best things that I ever did was help hire Wes Steiner. And I remember the day; I remember the day we did that. We were walking down and I had had an interview with Wes and we were walking down Central Avenue in Phoenix across by that old, it used to be the big First National Bank building along there, and walking along with Wes. And I felt, well here's the man. Here's the man we need right there, old Wes Steiner. So we got him.

Q: Wasn't that old at the time though.

A: No, no, no that's true.

Q: He was from California. I think some people thought he was going to be a spy.

A: Oh yeah, they had reservations about him. But I don't know, you know sometimes you get...I guess everybody does. You get kind of a flash of some kind saying you know here's the guy. Here's the guy, right here old Wes Steiner. And he was. He was the guy. He stayed here a few years and then he went back to California but he did his job here.

Q: He was here almost twenty years?

A: I have the highest regard for Wes Steiner. He's the most, one of the most honorable, he has much integrity, you just know, you just know there's no double dealing with Wes Steiner. He wasn't in trying to satisfy or...there's no duplicity in Wes Steiner. He's just, he's just a class guy in every way. I can't say too much good about him. He's the kind of guy we needed for that because you can't get in

there and double deal with all of these interests. For the mines, these were critical issues, for the cities these were critical issues, for the farmer's critical issues, I mean this water is a critical thing. And to let it get out of whack and so what you have to do really is to try and to keep them all...well, it's the art of politics is to satisfy the irritated without irritating the satisfied. If you can do that, you're doing pretty good. And that's what we had to try to do with this bunch. And I think we did it in that, in that Groundwater Act of '82 (sic). That's really about the only thing really good I did in the legislature. Well, we did another. We did outlaw smoking in elevators; it took us four years.

Q: Only the elevators?

A: Well, yeah we were laughed off the floor. It took us four years to outlaw smoking in elevators. Dave Pratt and I sponsored that bill. Now you're outlawed in the whole town, not back in 19 whatever it was.

Q: Had to start with the elevators.

A: We had to start with elevators and we had a hard time. Man they just ha-ha, they just laughed us off the floor. As a matter of fact, I remember...you know you remember some things along the way. In that first coalition, the fifty-six of us and most of us were in a room about three times the size of this one. The smoke from about here to the ceiling was just smoke and I had a little bit of asthma and I was sitting there, and do you know what the discussion was? How are we going to close down that smelter in Douglas down in there in that big Alta Valley. So those poor people in Douglas don't have to handle that smelter's smoke. And there they were smoking; the United States at that moment had to be in that room. It had to be right there. And so, I would come home and my clothes smelled so bad my wife would never let me in the House. So we, Dave and I, said we'll take care of that will stop it on the elevators.

Q: That was a true smoke-filled room.

A: It was. And we got it but it took us four years.

Q: That's amazing today.

A: And the other thing I was involved with, now I'm a family guy. I'm all for families. But I hated to see divorces end up with everybody trying to make the other party look so bad and I got involved in a no fault divorce. Where you could actually split up without having to make enemies of yourselves in order to do it, whether that's good or bad I don't know. Those are some of the few things I remember in my legislative time.

Q: Let's talk a little bit more about water. Do you remember the whole controversy over Orme Dam and Plan 6?

A: Yes, yes, and yes that was a, yes that was a controversy. First I was, I was much in favor of the Orme Dam, even though it displaced some of the Indians and all of that. I thought well they can just, you know, accommodate them. Pay them. And I thought it fit in well but the way they've used that Lake Pleasant, it's probably a better idea because you're keeping water there that has recreational use and other use. And it's just as available as it would've been at Orme Dam and you're not getting into the displacement. And also, that's one time, that's one thing that contrary to what I thought would be the best thing, it turned out probably better the way they did it. But it was quite a controversy, you know, those kinds of things takes a year or two to work them out.

Q: I guess Plan 6 turned out to be a good compromise.

A: It turned out to be a good compromise, yes it did. It did. Even though it wasn't what I would, it wasn't what I was pulling for but it worked out.

Q: One of the other issues that came up and I guess is still an issue is the salinity in the river and the water that goes to Mexico.

A: Yeah, I don't know how much you can do about that.

Q: Well, they built a desalting…

A: Yeah, but it didn't work very long and it's sitting there and they spent a lot of money on it. I'm not sure how...I know if you get the water so salty and all, there comes a time where it's not very usable. But I'm not sure in my own mind where you have a river, thousands of miles long, that you have to try to preserve the quality of water at the very end there like it is along the way. I'm not sure that there should be, that you should be required to do that. I'm not sure, as a matter of fact, there isn't really that much...there hasn't been, there wasn't that much developed there to use that water. I'm just not sure we have that obligation to try to do that. As a matter of fact, going back to one other thing, the biggest discrepancy in the whole water situation in my opinion began back in 1911 with the Winters Doctrine. Now the Winters Doctrine says that the Indians, and I agree that they should, that the Indian tribes, and they're talking about nationwide and you're talking about the use of water, the Indian tribes who were using water should be given what they need for their use. But in order to do that, you have to make an allocation. Sometime you have to make an allocation that says you have the right to so much water. That wasn't done. And the reason it wasn't done is because the whites just kept taking it and using it and not paying any attention to the Winters Doctrine that says you have to supply the Indians with some water. This in my opinion, this is...I really...I don't know I can't even think of the words hardly to use. But this was certainly something that somewhere along the line long ago should have been done probably no later than the 40's or thereabout. Because what has happened now, and this was before the Indians had their lawyers and all of this kind of stuff, what's happened now, the Indians are demanding their Winters rights which were granted back in 1911, nearly a hundred years ago. And we've taken their water and used it and now they say that's our water. We want it all and they're getting it. Who's getting CAP water? The Indians, even San Carlos. They go down to Ak-Chin and give them, in my opinion, probably three times what they deserved. They deserve water. Indians

deserve water, they do. But they don't deserve all of it. And they're getting all of it practically for a variety of reasons. One of the reasons is when you give it to the Indians, and then good old Arizona says okay now this is for the Indians now Federal Government you pay for CAP, don't make us pay for it. You're talking about a billion or two dollars. We'd end up paying the Indians a heck of a lot more than that to get it back. And that...that water should not be managed that way, in my opinion. They should have had these allocations years ago. And even when we put that out there in '82 that it says, the thousand pound gorilla here, that's still roaming around out there is your Indians settlements. We didn't do anything with Indians settlements. It was out of our control, we couldn't do anything. It was out of our control, but it was still there. And now you see what's happening, where it's going. It's going, they've got their legal teams and they go after it and they're getting it. And then what are they going to do with it? Sell it back to us.

Q: Why didn't you deal with it back in '82?

A: Well, like I say, that's the federal, that's federal, the state can't allocate. But the feds didn't, they didn't want to because it's a big fight. And of course now, you're finding that farmers aren't using much water. It's gradually going to the city and the cities will pay and they'll pay anything they have to. But that's where it's going. I said, I said at that time, this needs to be done but we couldn't do it. It wasn't in our...we didn't have the power to do it. If we had the power to do it, I'd sure...of course that's another fight. But I think that's the, that's happening now. As a matter of fact, they got this big settlement in Congress right now. It's getting close that that's where the water is going. And I don't...I like the Indians, I'm not against the Indians. I'm just saying, and it's just like the salt water going to Mexico, that's what that water is, I guess, down there. Why should we have to clean it up and give it to them like it came out of the Colorado?

Q: But the reason it is that way is because California and Arizona and now Nevada, are taking the water upstream.

A: Well, not only just taking it, but whenever you take, whenever you take water out of the river and run it out over your farm land, as you do all day long, and whatever recharge you get coming back to the river, it's not as good of water as you take out. You're degrading it, I think.

Q: But now we're bringing it to Phoenix, so it never goes bad.

A: And that's one reason that water isn't very good when it gets down there, because you're degrading it, starting clear up in Colorado or wherever in the San Luis Valley. Wherever you got, wherever you got an irrigation system, you're taking water out and putting it out on the ground and you're reclaiming it again. It comes back not as good as water as it went in.

Q: I think earlier when the battle for water was all with California.

A: Yes, it was because they wanted to take all of it. They wanted to take more than their share and poor Nevada, they are up there with that river, that Lake Mead in their yard and can't use the water. That's not really fair in a way and yet if you don't have the water to start with you better stop using it sometime. That's the way water is, there is always a fight over water.

Q: Now another issue that came up with water, I believe it was in 86 and Babbitt was still Governor, about the groundwater recharge law. Do you remember that?

A: Yeah, do you mean where you take CAP water and recharge it? Yes? Yeah I guess there was some question about that although I don't remember being involved it that much. I left the legislature in '86 and my last big work was on that '82 thing, I'm not too familiar with, well, you get into problems whenever you get into water. That's just the way it works, sure is.

Q: They have been doing a lot of that, pumping it back in.

A: Yes, they have been and I guess it works. I guess it does. We got some right out here below Granite Reef we got those holding places. Yeah, I guess it works.

Q: You weren't that involved with it?

A: No, I was not that involved with that. It's kind of an awkward way, and it's kind of an expensive way, and it's kind of a wasteful way in a way. But if it's a matter of retaining your rights and all it's not a bad way, too. But water, you know from the day, well I suppose even in prehistoric times I imagine they had problems. Let me tell you one little kind of funny little story about water. This would be back, oh probably a hundred years ago. Up in Taylor, Arizona there was a man by the name of Jim Pierce, the name isn't important. Up there they had their irrigation system and they had a lot of men. And every spring the townspeople and I did this when I was in high school, I'd go out with them and work and you would clean out the ditches with a shovel and repair the ditches and things. They were building a little system up there and they were working on a ditch and old Jim rides up on his horse and he sees them digging that ditch. He says, "Well I'm not a prophet or a prophet's son but I'll prophesize that you'll never see water in that ditch." That very night or the next day they had a cloud burst up there and just washed that ditch out. I mean it just demolished it. And so they got to teasing old Jim about water in the ditch and he got paranoid about it. He got so mad, Jim...they would say, "Jim is there any water in your ditch?" Anyway they would tease old Jim till he just couldn't stand it and he got so mad, the kids would tease him, "Jim what about the water in your ditch?" He threw rocks at the school bus one time and I mean he moved out into Joe City from Taylor and he had a garden down there. And a neighbor had his garden next to it in their little field next to him and his neighbor, I don't know if he knew much about this but, he says, "Jim have you got any water in your ditch? Let me have it when you get through." Jim jumped over the fence and hit him with his shovel. I thought that was a funny story.

Q: Along with that, you know about getting too much water sometimes. You were in the legislature when we had our hundred year flood.

A: Oh yeah, we sure did. I'll tell you we sweat one night out. There was one night there they predicted that there was going to be another big storm when everything was full and running over. And it didn't materialize and if it had, I don't know what would have happened. I think there were a lot of prayers said that night because that was a very unusual situation but it, but it didn't happen.

Q: Were you involved with the some of the _____ (1:49: 35) the National Guard they had set up some place?

A: Oh, they had all kinds of precautions out. I'll tell you, I said my prayers that night. That really was, that was a critical time. That's where; now we got that whole build up on the dam up there that would've handled that without a problem you see. But that was a very serious incident, it really was. Boy, if the storm they had predicted had come in on what was already there, I don't know what would have happened.

Q: In Arizona, you either have no water or too much.

A: Sometimes, sometimes.

Q: And raising up Roosevelt Dam was part of the Plan 6 compromise?

A: Yes and it's a good one but now there's flycatchers, those little flycatchers are after them. It cost them $20 million...you know...I think I'm an environmentalist, but I'm not a tree hugger.

Q: How do you see the future of water in Arizona?

A: Oh, I think we need to be more careful with it. And I think with this drought, the governor for example and others, I think they're starting to recognize that we need to be more careful with it. We, there are a lot of things that we can do. But we shouldn't...it's too bad to force people to do things but we ought to, we ought

to just learn to live with less really. But it's, you know, it's human nature. Human nature is that you do what you want to do until you can't do it anymore. So it's not an easy task.

Q: Let's go back and talk a little bit about some of things that when you were in the legislature that we didn't quite get to. You mentioned at one point that you went back to Washington and met with Carl Hayden. Carl Hayden was still...

A: Yes, he was still; he was the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I believe at that time.

Q: Why did you think back to Washington?

A: The real specifics, now I suppose...I'm trying to think who all went that time. I think it was the governor, and I think Marshall Humphrey, and myself, some of the Power Authority people. I don't remember exactly...it wasn't a large; I think there was four or five of us there. And I think they probably had some other things they were going to talk about, too. I think it was primarily to just keep, keep up to date with him. I don't remember that we had anything really specific. I was not the head of the delegation really. But we did have a visit with him and went over...I'm not very good at remembering details. You know really, I have the idea if the concept is right, you probably can work out the details. If the concept is wrong, it doesn't matter what you do. You'll probably never make it right. And that's kind of a lazy way of looking at things.

Q: Some of the other people that you worked with in the legislature, you mentioned Burton Barr.

A: Yes, he was one of the best, great guy. Burt Barr. If I was to name ten guys that I know of in the legislature that did the most for Arizona, Burt would be one of those guys. Burt, and Burt got criticism from some people as anybody would I guess in that position, he was the majority leader there for 20 years. His second term, Burt

and I went in on the same day and we left the same day. I was speaker the second, my second term. And Burt was the majority leader. Now Burt was the right man. I had no more business being speaker than the man on the moon. I really didn't know much, I didn't know much. But they, John Haul and Burt Barr not John Haul, John Pritzlaw and Burt Barr, wanted to be speaker but they were deadlocked. We thought we had to organize the first night after they elected...that was the first time Republicans ever been, ever had the legislature. So we sat up most of the night and thought we had to organize. We didn't have to, but we thought we did. And Burt and Pritzlaw deadlocked and they couldn't seem to get off that. So we recessed a little while and I think the Tucson guys went off and thought well there's old Turley over there, he's kind of dumb. I think we can handle him. And so we came back and they put me in as speaker. And so I was the speaker and Barr was the majority leader. And we made a pretty good pair. Burt loved, loved that kind of stuff. He had no real agenda. Burt didn't come, now most legislatures come in with the idea well I'm going do this or I'm going to do that or I'm...Burt didn't have that. Burt wanted to take; he'd take anything that comes along and try to make it work. He loved to make things work. He loved to put things together and he was good at it. I felt so bad, see he ran for governor. When he quit the legislature, he ran for governor. And he would've been a good one I thought. And old Ev Mecham, he'd been out there. He'd run for governor about six times and I supported old Ev a couple of times. Ev was a good guy. But when Ev came out about three days before the primary election and had a three-page sheet running old Burt down about anything that he could think of a lot of which I didn't think was true. Well, I felt real bad about that and that's where I had a, kind of a knock down with old Ev about that. Ev beat Burt and that's when Ev went on to be governor. Burt ended up just not getting back into politics. But he really was a great guy. Anybody that knows him would know what I'm talking about. Burt seemed to learn more talking than listening. Now that doesn't sound possible. But Burt, it was hard to carry on a conversation with Burt. Burt would waggle his eyebrows and he'd move around, and he'd fuss. And every once in a while, I'd say, "Burt, listen to me, now listen." Sometimes he would kind of. But you had the idea, he didn't hear me and yet later on, you'd get talking about

something and old Burt would put things together and he heard you. And he was putting it together I guess. Because he'd end up knowing what you said and knowing what he thought about it. But you had the idea that he just wasn't getting it along the way. But he did and I don't know how he did it. A phenomenal guy.

Q: You mentioned Evan Mecham. You kind of had a run in with him.

A: Well, I just...I went through this kind of this same kind of dialogue. I defended Burt. I was on my way to China. I was in San Francisco or some place over there getting ready to go to China when the primary election was held and I got word that Burt or that Evan had beat Burt in the primary. So when I got home, I felt bad about it. And somebody, and I didn't give them any press deals, I didn't give him any press conferences or anything. But somebody asked me about that. Somebody at the press and I issued a little statement getting after old Ev and complimenting Burt and saying what I thought about Burt and in the end, I ended up calling Ev an ethical pygmy. Which seemed to kind of stick some way and I guess with the press looking for something to talk about, they kind of blow that thing up out of...and you know Ev being kind of a little guy and all. I guess it kind of stuck. Anyway, they made quite a commotion over that. And I was just trying to make Burt feel good, you know. But...Ev wasn't a bad guy. As a matter of fact, in some ways, in some ways Ev was pretty darn good. See I was on the parole board for several years. And after I left the legislature, and old Ev and one of the problems I had with Symington, this is getting clear off the subject. I won't even get into it if you don't want me to.

Q: Go ahead.

A: Well, you know I like Symington and we were friends. But darn his old hide, old Symington, he was so intent on being the big tough guy on crime that he wouldn't...we could send him a recommendation for a commute from the Parole Board and old Fife, he'd never give them a commute. He just simply, well maybe

once in a while somebody if it was political or something but he really...we could send him a seven member unanimous recommendation, now with 22,000 inmates, there ought to be somebody in there that deserves a commutation. And if you go through all the hearings and all of the fuss to decide and you have a seven-member board, you ought to at least take a look at it. Now Ev would do that. Ev, and I wasn't on the Board when Ev was there, but I saw his record. Ev would give some commutations occasionally. But old Fife wouldn't do it because, you know, just had a different attitude. He just didn't give them much chance. I had a...I had a, they changed the whole well, no don't get me into that. (tape change)...name of Bert Dana, he worked for one of this hamburger places old Carl's Jr. knew how they worked, anyway he got on drugs and got drinking and he wasn't a bad guy. Anyway, he went and held them three times. The place where he used to work, knew how it worked. He made the mistake; he had to be drunk in order to be brave enough to do it. Had a gun, which was unfortunate, and the last one, somebody got hurt. He was trembling and the gun went off and somebody got hurt. It didn't kill them. Anyway, they gave Bert seven, and ten, and twenty-one consecutive, that's thirty-nine years. Bert didn't need thirty-nine years. Burt needed three years. He'd straightened out; he never had anything done before. Booze, you know, no excuse for it I mean it's a crime and he's trembling. But he's still in there and he's never gotten one write up in eleven years. He hasn't had one write up in there. He's taken every program they could possibly give him. And he still got years to go.

Q: Gosh, that's a whole another issue.

A: Yeah, that's another issue because I was never that involved in the legislature with, well I was involved some in the criminal justice system.

Q: It sounds like being on the Parole Board, you got pretty involved.

A: And yes I was. But I enjoyed that work. I really did. I enjoyed that Parole Board.

Q: What about some of the other people, you mentioned Sam Steiger. Tell me about Sam.

A: Well Sam was a...Sam was an interesting guy. I don't know whether Sam is still alive, he had a stroke.

Q: The last I heard he was in a nursing home, an assisted living facility.

A: The last I heard, he was really – he was on that program. He had a radio program and he's gone. Sam was an interesting guy. He was an ambitious guy. He was in congress for about ten years. He was one of these guys that hated congress but he loved to be part of it. He was a very independent guy. He was an entrepreneur; he was his own worst enemy, I think. But he's a likeable guy. I liked old Sam. We got a long pretty good.

Q: He always seemed make the news.

A: He had a nose for the news.

Q: Shooting burrows.

A: Yeah, he did. He was a good friend. I had some correspondence with him. Well, here they come. I'd like you to meet my wife and my daughter. And eighty acres that I sold in '63, I guess it was. We bought that old farm, my partner and I, bought it in the '40's. We gave $60,000 for it. It had a good house and a deep well on it. Farmed it and then I bought him out so I had it until '63 and I sold it. Then I sold it for three hundred and fifty, which seemed pretty good. The last time I heard it sold was 4.6 million. And I'm sure it's more than that...I went by there the other...this makes you feel kind of strange. I went by that place a week ago and there's not, and I was there for nearly twenty years and built a lot of stuff had trailer and sheds, and houses, and there's not one thing left, except two palm trees that were out in the driveway. And the neighbor's house and his little air hanger and all my

beautiful fruit trees...little orange grove and dates. I had some date palms. There's not a thing left. And it makes you feel like maybe you never even lived. To drive by there and...the well, the two wells that I drilled are there. That's the only thing left, and by one of them there's a water tank as big as this old house. But the water company bought that well to supply water...and half of it is now in houses, nice houses.

Q: That is what I was thinking that it probably has houses on it by now.

A: Half of it is. And they're putting streets in the other half. But you know, you go on and don't look back too much. That and hindsight, you know no hindsight; nothing. As a matter of fact, I bought 160 of desert land across the road from it for $30 an acre and the Land Department wouldn't let me put a well on it and clear the land. So I gave the guy a hundred dollars if he'd take it back. The last time I heard about that, it sold for eight thousand an acre. You know, you can't take it with you. I got by okay. Hindsight, nothing and hindsight, it's looking ahead that catches up on your once and awhile.

Q: A couple of people that I wanted to mention that you worked closely in legislature, you mentioned Bruce Babbitt.

A: Yes, yeah, I like Bruce. I got along well with Bruce. He's a Democrat. He was pretty partisan in a way. But we always got along well. Bruce was good for the state. He was a little heavy on environmental stuff, but as long as you could keep him under control. He was always pushing you a little but I guess when you've got a constituency, you have to do that. And he had that kind of a constituency. But I like Bruce and we got along well. I haven't talked to him in a while. We kind of maintained contact a little bit over the years. On this water thing, we worked, you know, very closely together. There's nothing wrong with working with people, you know, that's the way to do.

Q: Being a lawyer, I'm sure he had a lot of ideas about how the law should be written.

A: And he was very interested and he was very helpful. As a matter of fact, we probably couldn't have made it without him. Now Burt didn't involve himself much. As a matter of fact, Burt had just come by. We met every Saturday for five months over there. Burt would come by every once and awhile, eat a doughnut and wag his eyebrows but he didn't...Burt didn't spend much time on that bill. But he was part of engineering it and we…but that was pretty slick to get that twenty-page bill or whatever it was, and run it through the legislature almost a hundred percent without changing a comma. Of course that's the only way you could do it, too. You couldn't stop and start to argue about it. They just had to have enough confidence in their particular lobbyist and they say give them okay and it went.

Q: One of the problems I heard of later was that bill though was that is when the cities started to buying up ranches and farms. Scottsdale was buying land over...

A: Yeah, they bought that land clear over on Bill Williams River. Of course, that was their privilege. Well, that was one way to get water. Which we provided, we provided ways to get water which was part of the problem. We devised a way that they could do it and they didn't have to do it unless they wanted to. Now maybe they made a mistake on that. I don't know. They spent a lot of money on it. I went over and went over the place after they got it and it was so nice. It's a nice place. It's isolated but there's water there and a lot of it. And depending on, you know, what you have to pay for water maybe if they still had it they'd be ahead. I don't know.

Q: I guess it got some of the rural areas were pretty upset though didn't it?

A: Well a little bit but as long as you're paying that's better than just taking it away from them, you know. Yeah, a little bit. Like you say, nobody liked everything about it. It wasn't that kind of a thing. It was, there were some trade-offs there.

Q: What about Alfredo Gutierrez?

A: He was a nice guy. We got a long fine. Yeah, I liked Alfredo. He'd give us some fits sometimes. We would...anytime Alfredo, you know, every majority of a legislature makes mistakes sometimes. And when you have a minority leader that can pick them up and fight them and beat you up on them, why that's his privilege and he was pretty good at it. He get a hold of some...we'd mess around and do something a little bit wrong some way and old Alfredo would get ahold of it and he would give us the bejesus works on it. But he was a decent guy. I had one pretty good thing that I could use with Alfredo. This was back when...when they were...every year you'd come up. You have some perennial issues that come up. And one of them was to stop the rooster fighting, to keep the roosters...keep them from having public rooster fights. And that still, and some folks like rooster fighting particularly the Hispanics. You'd probably know something about this Mr. Garcia (talking to the videographer), that they get quite a bit of satisfaction out of seeing the roosters fight.

Videographer:

Very popular.

A: This was kind of an ethnic sort of thing. But every year there would be a bill to stop the rooster fighting. And I didn't care that much, I mean I guess it's kind of inhumane in a way, but anyway. But we'd have a rooster bill in there, I would put it in the drawer and it usually would fail. They voted on it a few times. The time they would vote on it, it would fail. I put this rooster bill in the drawer and we'd get in a little tight spot of some kind. And I say, "Well Alfredo, doggone I think I'm going to have to bring that rooster bill out." Oh no, what do want, what do you need. It made him a little easier to talk to, if I threatened to bring that rooster bill out. I don't think I brought it out, I think just kind of used it...because it was too controversial and it'd go through a big fight and you end up not doing anyway. But they have changed it, as a matter of fact, since then they have. We did change the dog. We did stop the dog fighting. But we never did stop the rooster.

An interesting thing in legislature, it's sometimes the trivial things that cause the most fuss over there. We made the motorcycle guys wear helmets. My goodness, you should've heard the commotion about that. We had a thousand of those motorcycles circling the capital down there, round and round, with the hair flying in the wind against the helmet bill. So we thought well if the dummies want it, we'll change it. Let them go ahead and kill themselves so we took the helmet bill off. Then another one that old Ed Sawyer wanted to make all the bumpers the same height. You wouldn't believe the commotion you'd get in to, to make all the bumpers the same height. This was so you wouldn't have so many accidents and all. You have to have you bumpers...because you got these high things and you got the low riders and you got everything. So you had a big to do about it but you don't do much with it.

Q: I guess you got out of there before the Martin Luther King?

A: No, it was going on. That was...it was going on. Well, actually I left just before Ev took over. When that got in trouble was when Ev just did away with it by governor's something. That was the big commotion. I...I was...and I'll have to confess, maybe I shouldn't. But we did have an issue there that I was a little slow to respond on that deserved attention. And I think your friend here would agree with this and that was the short hoe, using the short hoe to trim lettuce. In order to do it best, you can...lettuce is planted very thickly and in order to get it to grow, you have to cut most of it out. And they use a little hoe with a blade about this long but it has a short handle. And to do it best, you get down and you do it with a short hoe because you get down where you can see better. And there was a movement to outlaw the short hoe and make it so you could use it with the long hoe. You don't do it as well with the long hoe, but you do it pretty good. An expert can do it pretty darn good. And I was a little slow to pick up on doing away with the short hoe because that is a tough thing to do. To work all day bent over with a short hoe and just as a matter of humanity almost, we should've allowed the long hoe a little sooner. And we had a man by the name of Manuel Pena who was pushing the short hoe all the time and I'm ashamed of myself now that I didn't try

to help him do that. That is one of my few regrets of my legislative time is that I held out longer than I should have on the short hoe. And that's the first time that I ever confessed to that.

Q: And we got it on tape.

A: And you got it on tape but I think that's true. We should have done it sooner.

Videographer:

I actually did that kind of work; so did my dad.

A: Then you know what I'm talking about then.

Videographer:

In Spanish, it's called the sihar that's the term. And when you plant so close you have to kill all the ones around it otherwise you end up with a whole bunch of leaves. It's very hard work.

A: It is very hard work and I'm sure you have folks that eventually end up with a bad back because they've done that so much. And that shouldn't be required...you shouldn't ask a man to do that at minimum wage. And I'm ashamed of myself that I didn't do it sooner.

Videographer:

We had a lot of women that do that work. That was actually a lot of times woman were a lot better at it because they were more patient because they really paid attention. And you got paid by the row, how many rows you did.

A: By how many rows you did, yeah.

Q: One other person I wanted to ask you about that was down there in legislature longer than you, Rose Mofford.

A: Oh yeah, old Rosie. Rosie's a good gal. Yeah, we're old friends. She was the assistant to old Wes...who was the Secretary of State there, old Wes Bolin for so long. And Rose, yeah she was a good gal. She was from Brown Globe. She got caught as governor kind of without much practice. She'd been around a long time. That's getting in a little over your head, right all of the sudden. And Rose was a good gal and she did the best she could. And she did alright. But it was kind of hard for her to take over as governor to start with.

Q: I think she enjoyed being Secretary of State more.

A: Yes she did. And she was good. She knew what she was doing there. But Rose was always very agreeable to work with. She was partisan but she wasn't real partisan. Rose, she worked with anybody. I can give you about three names of what I considered were really outstanding legislators. One of them was John Haugh, H-A-U-G-H, John was a...he had a tower works in Tucson. And he was the majority leader my second term there, or my first term, my first term in the legislature; John Haugh was the majority leader. That's when they had the coalition, Jack Gilbert was a Democrat, was the speaker. And he was one of the most thoughtful, rational, just all around man of integrity and knowledge and interest and just an exceptional legislator. And then he ran for governor and lost. And then he came back into the legislature and was majority leader with the Republicans. But he was a great guy. He was almost a kind of sponsor to me, almost a mentor to me when I first went in. Another one was Jones Osborn, a Democrat from Yuma County. Jones published the paper down there for several years. And he was an outstanding man. Like I say, he was Democrat. He was on the Parole Board with me for a time and we were in the Senate together. He was just a bright, civic-minded, non-partisan sort of person in the sense that he didn't have a big agenda. He just wanted to do well for the state and he was very, very capable. Then you had old Harold Geiss who was there before I was and then after I was as well. Harold, from Yuma, he had extraordinary power. He was kind of like Burt Barr only, even more than that. Harold was a very hard worker. And this is when you had two senators from each county. And old Harold, he would work. I mean he

knew what was in every bill and most of them didn't know because they didn't pay that much attention. As a matter of fact, when I got in the...when Burt and I took over leadership in the House that time that had eleven highway patrol cars assigned to the legislature. Eight of them in the Senate and three of them in the House, now why would they have patrol cars assigned to legislature? Well, the whole highway system, that's part of your state government. They wanted to know exactly what's going on. They wanted to have some influence on it. So they were very good at providing transportation to all these out-of-county guys. They'd come there and they would have these highway patrol cars with a driver to take them wherever they wanted to go. Well, the first thing we did, we cut them all out of the Senate; no we left one at the Senate and one at the House. We did away with the patrol cars.

Q: As a long time legislator, you didn't mention Polly Rosenbaum.

A: Oh Polly, she was a jewel. Polly she was something else, that Polly. Polly was a...I will say this for old Polly though, Polly didn't vote on everything. And Polly sat close enough to the door where she could scoot out of there when something came up that she didn't want to vote on. Polly was…but Polly, Polly was just delightful. She was, as a matter of fact, when I was speaker. Whenever you have the majority whoever is speaker in front of the Senate, you select your committee chairman. And Polly had been chairman of Administration along the way. And very good by Administration in charge of the paychecks, and the secretaries which is an important function for the thing to keep going, so I stuck Polly back in as chairman of Administration, even though she was Democrat you see. This riled up the Republicans, they thought I should put a Republican there but Polly was just so good at it. And we were good friends, and we were always around the same with the library. We worked on the Library Board and we worked on historical things. So Polly and I were...we worked together quite a bit. I just love Polly. She had a great interest in Arizona and doing right for Arizona. And in the schools, and in the school system, and like that Eastern Arizona Junior College and things like that that were in her district. Polly was…she was genuine. She was good.

Q: I think she's the one that served longer than anyone in the legislature.

A: Yes, I think forty-seven years or something. I thought it was a shame when somebody beat her out. Of course, she was about ninety-five then.

Q: She retired. I think she gave it up before they beat her.

A: No, she got beat. She got beat. She didn't think...and times, things change you know. And she got beat.

Q: Now they got term limits.

A: Yeah, now they got term limits. I don't know. I probably would have voted if I...I probably did vote for them. I'm not even sure when they voted for them. But I'm not sure...they're some advantages and disadvantages both ways. I think maybe that's still out as to whether that's...I don't know. And, it may be better in the state than it would be nationally. I don't know. I don't know. Because there are some advantages and disadvantages.

Q: Let's sort of wrap up about the legislature. What were the greatest challenges of that job?

A: Well, the challenges I guess...I guess the challenge is just do not make too many mistakes. You have the feeling of the public, I think, is as they see public problems and they have a legislature to deal with them, they think, well why don't you dummies take care of whatever this problem is. And most problems are perennials, they're there no matter what you do, you still have the problem is still there. So what you find yourself doing is dealing with them. You deal with the same problems year in and year out. And if you make mistakes, if you make mistakes you still have...you're dealing with them later to correct your mistakes and so forth. And I guess the biggest problem is just trying to, trying to deal with the problems. As an example, when I first went in one of the problems was the taxing

authority that the counties had for property taxes. You had fourteen little systems of the County Assessors responsible for taxing property in fourteen counties in different ways and different levels and so forth. We considered this enough of a problem or that you had enough problems in that system, that we should make a state have some kind of a state system to bring some uniformity in the thing. Now this was very hard to do. And yet I think it was the right thing to do, but it took a lot of effort to meld those county systems into a state system. Now you still have county and you still have the Assessor and all but they have some state-wide rules now that make it a better system than we had at that time. So you're running into these kind of problems along the way and then you get into transportation and you get into...now you get into, I guess any kind of communications. Of course, you've got your Corporation Commission and all it deals with is a lot of that stuff. Then you have all of your state agencies and this is always there. You have state agencies that are designed to do certain things and most of them seem to, they have to go to the legislature for whatever their rules are, and whatever they're doing. And most of them each year have some little twist, or some little wrinkle they want to change in how to run their agency. So you're always dealing with, with scores of little minutia things that deal with state government some way. Some of them are just an effort by that agency head to make things easier for themselves without necessarily doing a better job or most of them...I suppose they're legitimate. They are at least legitimate in the eyes of the people trying to push them. But you always have this kind of, this kind of effort from state agencies to change some way. Maybe it's just the way that whoever is running it looks at it differently than the one that ran it before. So you have to be careful that you're not just changing too many things all the time to satisfy people. It's, to me it's ridiculous that the legislature will introduce about a thousand bills a year. There are not a thousand things that need to be done, that need to be changed. And too much of this is because some legislator has some constituent that says, why don't you dummies take care of this, so they'll a bill in. And say, well I'm trying. It's kind of ridiculous to do that.

Q: Were there that many bills when you were in there?

A: Not hardly, but too many. There were still too many. One of the most conservative guys we had would introduce fifty bills every year. I didn't introduce many bills myself. I would sponsor, co-sponsor a few but I didn't actually put my name as a, cause I didn't think, and I'm probably the wrong way to be but I'm kind of a status quo guy. If things are, if things are a...they've kind of be kind of out of whack before I get, as a matter of fact, I think a perfectionist has a kind of a handicap in that their kind of dissatisfied all the time. If things are pretty close, to me that not too bad, that's pretty good. If they're pretty close, if they are approximately right I am not going to worry about it too much.

Q: What do you feel looking backwards is your greatest accomplishment when you were in the legislature?

A: The water business. Yeah, I worked two years on that. That's really about the only great accomplishment I had except smoking in elevators.

Q: That started it and it expanded from there.

A: Yeah, but the water thing, actually, I was involved in you know as chairman of the Natural Resource Committee of both the House and the Senate...quite a bit of the time I was there except when I was in leadership. You know I was involved but that was kind of where I was, but I worked for part of that time for the First National Bank in their Livestock and Ag Department. But I never did one thing for the bank. I mean, I wasn't there and that was the idea, I had a contract with them. I didn't go there to help them. I didn't go there to hurt them of course, but I didn't go there to be the guy for the banks. Even though I worked for them and that's the way it should be. I don't think by the same token, and you talk about conflict of interest, it's a hard thing, who do you want on the Insurance Committee? Do you want somebody that doesn't know anything about it or do you want somebody in the insurance business that knows what they are talking about? And if you do have that kind of a guy how do you avoid a conflict of interest on it? You do it by not having a conflict of interest. On the Agriculture Committee who do you want,

do you want somebody that's running a music store someplace or something or do you want somebody that's been on a farm? This gets down to be a very individual thing, an individual can see that they don't have a conflict. I would vote on banking bills, but I didn't ever introduce a banking bill, I never lobbied a banking bill or anything like that. I never had a problem. I don't think I was ever accused of a conflict of interest. On agriculture bills, I don't know how I could avoid a conflict of interest if somebody wanted, just like on that short handle thing. I raised lettuce a little bit, not much, but I knew about the problem. But here again, like I say that's the only thing I can think of that I didn't support when I should have done simply because it was the right thing to do.

Q: How do you see the change in politics, the campaigning especially and all the money they raise?

A: It's too bad and it's getting mean-spirited. I think you got a little problem and I think it shows up nationally and in the state as well. I am for the two-party system. You need a two-party system because they kind of keep check on each other and I'm all for that. I think it's too bad when one party is in too long and the Republicans for example in Arizona now have had the House and the legislature too long. They had it now since, in the House they've had it since 1967 and they have got it by quite a majority. I think it would be better if it was either evener or, in the Senate they have gone back and forth a few times. So I'm for the two-party system but, now what was your question?

Q: About campaigning and all the money.

A: Now when I first went in like I say we got $200 a week for nine weeks period. I spent $1300 of my own money to win that first election that paid $1800. I think it's too bad, I think it's ridiculous, but I don't know hardly how you go about stopping it either. But now even these legislative races they spend a lot of money on them. Even to be mayor and things, I don't know. I think it's too bad because it eliminates a lot of people from even wanting to try I guess.

Q: And all the negative things that they start saying about each other, I think that discourages them too.

A: Yeah it does. Yeah, people don't like to have, don't like to have...they just seem to be kind of mean-spirited. But when you have a real right wing and a real left wing, if that's what you want to call them, most of our problems if you're going to get a solution are not going to be in either perimeter. They're going to be shaken kind of toward the center someway. If you're going to have a solution, a partial solution, it's usually not going to be in an extreme position. But you always have extremists in these places it seems like. And I see where the Republican Senator from Oklahoma just got elected to go to the United States Senate. And here's a guy that has some very extreme positions. I don't know how he even got elected. But he did see.

Q: Let's wrap up a little bit here, you talked about the changes you've seen in Arizona going back to your Queen Creek Farm. How do you see the future for Arizona?

A: Oh I think Arizona's got a good future no matter what. I think just Arizona has so much going for it, just being Arizona. It's got to have a future but it isn't the Arizona we used to have. And I don't like it as much as the Arizona we used to have. But it's got a future. Arizona's great; it's got everything that you could want in a place. It's got to have a future.

Q: What about you? What are you doing now in your retirement?

A: Oh, I go pick up the mail. I go swimming three times a week. I don't do much. I got twenty-eight grandkids. I keep track of some of them. We had one getting married here a while back and got another one had a baby. And I've got five little more great-grandkids on the way that we'll kind of have to keep track of. My wife is ill, takes a good deal of time. But I'm kind of out of the loop in terms of trying to keep...I'm still interested in the criminal justice system. I think we had a much

better system when we had a parole system, then the system that we have now where they serve 85% of the time without a chance for parole. I think that's a bad system. That was put in in '94; Symington pushed that. I think that's a mistake that should be corrected. And I talked to a few people about that. But you know I'm out of the loop.

Q: I heard that Jake Flake actually called you for some advice last year.

A: Well, they did call me in there...I used to...I used to get involved kind in those last round deals a little bit. Yeah, I went over there and talked to them. But I don't try...I just talked to them, I don't try to make their decisions for them.

Q: Is Jake Flake a relative of yours?

A: Yeah, he is as a matter of fact. His grandfather and my grandmother were brother and sister. My grandmother was a Flake and his granddad obviously a Flake. As a matter of fact, I lived in Jake's home. I lived with his parents when I was going to high school. We didn't have a high school out on the ranch. I had to go to town to go to high school. And I lived with his parents. Jake was a little boy then. So I've known the family and his parents were just like second parents to me. They were great people.

Q: What kind of advice to give to all of your grandchildren and great-grandchildren about what they should be doing with their lives?

A: Well, I tell them to play it straight, if you can put a definition under that. I tell them to think. I tell them to think a little bit. I tell them to, I tell them to do anything they want to do but to think about it before they do it and to remember that sometimes even some, what are seemingly small decisions, can have some very far reaching consequences. And to never forget that when they exercise their agency, they have to accept the consequences, I don't put it just in those words.

But that's what I'm trying to tell them to behave themselves and to stay out of trouble. I guess that's a plainer way of saying it. Stay out of trouble and to behave.

Q: Anything else that you wanted to talk about that I didn't ask you about today?

A: Boy, you've just about given me the chance that I haven't had in a long time. I appreciate it. You know I appreciate the chance to just talk about it because I don't do that much anymore. I'm just not very profound. I don't have anything profound.

Q: Good stories though.

A: Yeah, the kids got me to write a little life story kind of. I don't know if I got one here but...kids got me to write up a little, a year ago...I don't know.

Q: It looks pretty substantial.

A: Well, it's...

Q: Hardback and everything.

A: It's turned out to be more than I expected. Have quite a few pictures and things. It kind of goes through...

Q: How do I get a copy of that?

A: Well, if I had another one I'd give it to you. If you give me your name, I'll get you one if you'd like one.

Q: I will do that. I would love to have that. I love to collect Arizona books and things.

A: I'm not getting the...

Q: I know it cost a lot to print those.

A: Oh. I wouldn't charge you for it. I've got a soft cover now that has everything in it. But this is my favorite; this is me more than anything else you know. I'm just kind of a dumb cowboy.

Q: Few years younger.

A: Yeah, quite a few. But if you give me your address, I just ran out of them. I gave one to my...I got one for my kids. And I've given some to some friends. I've had some friends. It's actually just kind of a reminisce more of an old man.

Q: Yeah, but it's of another time.

A: It's another...really that is the main idea for the kids to know how times have changed. Things really were different. I mean there are so many things that are so different. I mean this issue of the gay business. We never heard of it. Never, never now it's quite a public issue.

Q: Well, it shows just how self-sufficient you were...

A: My kids, my grandkids if there is anything that irritates me is to hear them say, "I'm bored." "I'm bored; I don't have anything to do." My goodness, I don't remember, I guess I did kind of get bored, but if I got bored I'd just get gun and go down and hunt prairie dogs or hunt jackrabbits or something. But I never remembered being bored. We always had good books and good magazines. And we worked so hard that when night came, we were ready for bed. And we didn't have, you know, there wasn't even a service station. The closest even grocery store was Heber, twelve miles away. But I never remember being...we could take an old car battery and break it up and build a fire and get a bucket, melt the lead, get an old pine board and cut some figures in it. Melt that lead and pour it in there and make some little crosses or knives or whatever you wanted to.

We'd spend a half a day on that kind of a project and just have a good time. We could go out and build, we'd build a corral. Get some little stakes and build your corral and build pasture and get some little string and run it around and get a bunch of cow horns and get some heavy wire and build a fire and put a brand on your cow horns. There was lots of cow horns, we had maybe thirty or forty head of cows. Put a brand on there, put them in your pin, and keep track of them. And maybe you wanted to trade one with your brother or your cousin. And then you'd have to burn his brand out and put your brand on. And we had stick horses. We'd get these old Yucca stalks. They were wonderful stick horses. They were light. We'd have maybe eight or ten of them tied up to the fence. Get a little piece of string, tie them on to the fence and you get out there and buck around on one of those. You'd come in kind of dirty and all but...a wonderful way to...here's the horseshoes or mule shoes. You've got a little pin for them. I don't know. We just…

Q: But you had real horses too?

A: Oh yeah, we had real horses, yeah. Lived on a horse, you didn't walk if you had a horse. It was just a wonderful way of growing up really. And we had work. And one of the saddest things now, I don't know if sad is the word, but one of the two bad things now is that too many kids don't have chores. They don't have work that needs to be done that they can do. Now we had feed the chickens, that was our job, feed the chickens. Milk the cows, feed the calves, feed the horses. And then you'd weed the garden, and water the garden, and pull the vegetables, and clean the vegetables, and pick the gooseberries. And there's always something to do. And you felt like you're part of the family. We had four fireplaces and a wood stove. Takes a lot of wood in the winter time, we had wood piles twice the size of this room. And we didn't have a saw, we had to do it with an ax, chop it. But it was a wonderful way to live, it really was. I've never heard my parents tell a dirty joke. I never head my father take the Lord's name in vain. And I never heard about any thought of gay marriages. I just grew up innocent I guess. But it was, it was a great way to live. And I'm sorry that my family didn't have a little more of that to go along with growing up.

Q: It's great that you wrote it down for them though.

A: High school, oh high school, grade school was great. We have every morning we had to go down and get another bucket of water out of the well. And bring it, and then you had your own little cup in your desk. By the end of the season, it smelled kind of bad. But you got your water bucket and get a drink. Had an outhouse out in the back, always leave the slip pages until last. Use the white pages first. It's a pretty good system.

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