Hunt Brothers Offer to Buy Majority Share of GWU

By JACK PRINNEY
Denver Post Business Writer

Sons of Dallas billionaire H. L. Hunt said Thursday they will make a tender offer for the common stock of Great Western United Corp.

The Hunt brothers — Nelson and Herbert — said they will offer $27.50 a share for up to $10,000 shares of GWU common. Added to the GWU stock they've already purchased or have arranged to buy, the $10,000 shares would give the Hunts a majority interest in the Denver company.

GWU's board of directors was holding a special meeting in New York Thursday. In Denver, the company said it had "no comment" on the Hunt offer, which is expected to become effective next Monday.

GWU stock closed Wednesday at $32.75 a share on the New York Stock Exchange, having dropped $2.25 during the day.

Thursday it opened at $29.50, after a lengthy delay presumably caused by news of the tender offer.

Along with their brother-in-law, Randall Kreiling, the Hunts began buying GWU stock in big batches about a month ago. After acquiring 259,009 shares, the Dallas group said it would buy 200,000 additional shares from GWU President Robert Everett, GWU director George Sarkisian

and his brother, John Sarkisian, both of Binghamton, N.Y.

What's more, the Hunts said, they would purchase 20,000 shares from Charles Hurwitz of SNR Holding Co., Houston, who, it was reported, had been planning a GWU raid himself.

The GWU common stock controlled by the Hunts at that point totaled at least $27,000 shares — about one-fourth of the company's common stock outstanding.

The Hunts began their raid on GWU shortly after the company's shareholders turned down a plan to sell Great Western Sugar Co., the main GWU subsidiary, to an organization of sugar-beet growers.

The plan, which had been in the mill for three years, was rejected by GWU shareholders at their annual meeting in New York Sept. 30.

Until a month or two before the meeting, GWU's board of directors unanimously supported the proposed sale. Then rapidly rising sugar prices caused a change of thinking, and by the time the shareholders' meeting was held a majority of the board opposed the sale.

Big holders of GWU common include James Kreiling, chairman of the company, with 156,189 shares, and Colorado & Western Properties Corp. of Denver, with 106,000 shares. Colorado & Western is headed by Neal Blue, a GWU director.