Interviewer: Dr. Ruth M. Alexander, Public Lands History Center, CSU
Location: Gateway Park

1. Could you tell us about your background, please?
   - Where did you grow up, and did you have any reason as a child or young adult to think about water supply and quality, or about storm water and waste water?
   - Where were you educated, and what mentors or events led you to a career in water engineering?
   - How and when did you start working on projects for FC Utilities, either as a contractor or a city employee?

2. The place now known as Gateway Natural Area was the site of the original water treatment plant for the city (Technically, this is the city’s second treatment facility. The first was down along overland trail, near La Porte, and operated until 1904.), established in 1905 and operational until the 1980s. What can you tell us about why this location was chosen as a treatment site?

3. Can you tell us about the buildings, infrastructure, treatment processes, and monitoring put in place at Plant #1 in the early decades, say from 1905 to the 1920s? How did Plant #1 compare in efficacy or durability to treatment plants in other cities in the region or nation?

4. From the 1930s up to about the 1970s, were there significant challenges in managing Plant #1, related either to the ecology or character of the Poudre watershed or to the growth of Fort Collins?
   - How did the city respond to these challenges or problems?

5. I believe your first project at Plant #1 was in the early 1980s, when it was still a working treatment plant. By this time, the city also had a second treatment facility near Soldier Canyon Dam at Horsetooth Reservoir.
   - What were the issues you were asked to address at Plant #1 in the early 1980s?
   - Did you face significant environmental or engineering challenges?
   - To what extent was the public aware of this project? Did you face any challenges from the public? Did the project become politicized in any way?
What would you say were the most important lessons you learned from this project? Did it shape the way you thought about subsequent water treatment issues and priorities?

6. In the late 1980s you were involved in another project at Plant #1, this time to take the plant offline. I have a number of questions about this project:
   • What prompted Utilities to decide to take Plant #1 offline?
   • What were the critical steps in closing the treatment plant? Were there environmental issues that had to be managed carefully?
   • Was the public aware of, or concerned about, the closing of the plant? How did Utilities educate the public about the closing of the plant?
   • Did this project have any impact on other Greeley or other utilities with water infrastructure on the Poudre? How were those impacts managed, negotiated, or mitigated by the city?
   • Did Utilities repurpose any of the Plant #1 infrastructure for water supply?
   • Did important lessons for Utilities emerge from this project?

7. You returned to the Gateway area again in the 1990s for pipeline repair in the canyon below the closed plant. What were the specific issues or concerns that this project needed to resolve?
   • What were the specific challenges you faced? What went badly or well?
   • Was traffic in the Poudre hindered by the project? How did the city work with other governmental entities to mitigate traffic interruptions?
   • What were the most important lessons learned from this project?

8. How different did Plant #1 look from the natural area that people visit today?

I wonder how Owen would place the significance of this site in the broader context of the City’s water management history as well as his own career.