Mr. Harvey Johnson Water Supply and Storage Company
October 25, 1973
Interviewer: David McComb
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I: First of all I need to identify this tape. This interview is with Mr. Harvey Johnson. I am in his office at the Water Supply and Storage Company at 1819 East Mulberry (Ft. Collins, Colorado). The date is October 25, 1973. It's about 9:30 in the morning and my name is David McComb. I need to point to you, too, Mr. Johnson, the microphone is pretty sensitive and you can swivel around and look out the window if you want to, and it will pick up your voice okay. First of all I want to know something about you and your background. Where were you born, raised, where did you go to school?

J: Well, my folks were eastern folks. They started in from Iowa and wound up in Kansas. I was born in Kansas in a sodhouse in 1895 in Cheyenne County.

I: Cheyenne County, what part of Kansas is that in?

J: That's in the northwest. Dad had eight of us boys and three girls and he figured there was a better country west so he hitched up two covered wagons as I can remember very well, 1902, two covered wagons and a surrey, and started over the prairies to Colorado. And I can remember so well Dad carrying a hoe, to hoe the cactus away so the horses could lay down at night. Those were interesting days for a kid—going across the prairie then, I never will forget those days.

I: And he headed westward into Colorado then.

J: Westward into Colorado.
M: You were riding along in a covered wagon?

J: We were in the covered wagon, two covered wagons and a surry. My mother rode in the surrey, and us younger folks rode with them. My older brothers, of course, had saddle horses and drove the wagons and that's how we came across the prairies.

M: Did he have any particular goal in sight? Did he know where he was going?

J: He was an agricultural man. Yes. He had had some correspondence with some folks in and around Fort Collins. And we landed up three miles east of Ault with some folks that were acquaintances who had been through Kansas. We were there for around three months.

M: How long did it take you to get from Kansas to Ault? Do you remember?

J: I think we were in the neighborhood of eight days on the road. It was 200 miles but, of course, in those days you didn't travel far in a day.

M: And you camped at night?

J: Camped at night. With a little tin stove and fed the horses along the way. Grazed them or something; fed them along the way. Next morning we would start and make some more miles, and that was a trip across the country. Those were times that you don't forget because mother was leaving an area where she had had the family pretty well raised and she found hard water in this western country. And then one night along the way the horses got loose and started back, all loose except one little pony that my
brother had. So he had one to start after them. He found them twenty-five miles back east headed for home. When they brought the horses back, I remember my mother saying, "Well I don't blame them. I feel like going back too."

M: What time of the year was this?
J: We left Kansas on the second day of May.
M: So, it's late spring?
J: Late spring, yes, and I might say one of the most beautiful sites I saw along the way—the first time I saw apple trees in bloom. In Fort Morgan, Colorado, that was the first apple tree blooming that I'd ever seen, and it was quite a remarkable thing. Anyhow, we then came that summer to three miles east of Fort Collins to the old Rigdon farm. There, father lived for a year and farming the farm and then he had a homestead and timber claim in Kansas that he traded for a quarter section five miles south of Fort Collins. We then took up residence there and have been in the Fort Collins area nearly ever since except in 1914 and '15 I had eighteen months in a Packard motor plant in Detroit, Michigan. You ask about my schooling. I had one year of school in Kansas and the rest of the schooling was in a little country school northwest of Fort Collins. Father had quite a lot of obligations and thus I took over the operation of the farm when I was in the sixth grade.

M: So you got, what, into the sixth grade?
J: Into the sixth grade was my schooling.
M: And then you had to go to work.
J: And then I went to work as operator of the farm.

M: A question of curiosity—when you were coming west into Colorado do you remember when you first saw the Rocky Mountains?

J: Yes, that was something that we had been told to watch for. Some sixty miles west the air was so clear we could see sixty miles east of there, we could see Pikes Peak, and that was a thrill. It was still covered with snow. We'd always had a vision of what it might be, and of course, all of the time from then on your eyes were glued towards the mountains.

M: Well, what kind of work did you do for your father?

J: We did regular farming. We broke sod, planted crops, and seeded hay and grain, and the regular farm work. He had one quarter section. He had finally changed the farm south of town to a farm two miles east of LaPorte. There's where the folks spent fifteen years.

M: Was this unbroken land? Virgin land?

J: A bigger part of it was. I would say twenty-five to thirty percent had been cropped. Then I spent a good many days walking behind a sod plow, three head of horses. As a youngster handling that plow and hitting some roots it would throw you around pretty much. I'll never forget the time when I hit a stump and the doubletree broke. The lines we put around our backs to drive the horses and that pulled me over the front of the plow and took the skin off and I went. Those were days of real toil, but they were pleasant days.
M: The way you harnessed the horses, you had them three abreast?

J: Yes. They worked three abreast with an offset on the hitch. The middle horse went in the furrow. One horse worked the plowed ground and one worked out. You changed every few hours and put the outside horse on the inside that tramped the soft ground. That's the way we broke the sods in those times. We had quite a time finding that the sod would lay clear over and not stand on edge and flop back in again. It was hard to keep that regulated. If your plow was tipped a little bit to the left the sod would roll back into the furrow just where it came from. And then you had it all to do over again. So those were the problems we had at those times.

M: How thick was that sod?

J: We didn't trim the sod much more than four or five inches. Because that was a virgin soil on top and if you went too deep you had too much raw soil. Secondly, the power that you had pulling that plow couldn't pull it to the depth that we think about today because those three horses would have all they could do to turn that sod and pull about a fourteen inch plow.

M: Where did you get your equipment, say the plow?

J: There were hardware stores here in Fort Collins. The Pete Anderson Hardware Store. You buy those plows and, oh, it was quite a severe charge to have to pay $13 to $14 for a plow them days. And today the plows that are going behind the tractors—we have a retail equipment store up here—and
several of those plows are costing $2,500 nowadays. What with three or four plows tied together—a good deal difference in the operations today.

M: Did you use a different plow for breaking the sod and another plow for tilling the soil?

J: There was what we called a sulky plow that you plowed after you broke the sod another year. But with the sod broke, of course, the soil being of such quality that you could run it quite a little bit deeper. Six to seven inches then was quite a depth, while today we're figuring twelve inches.

M: And, was it productive soil, was it good soil?

J: The virgin soil was productive soil. At that stage the, well I'm speaking about now, I'm speaking about as late as 1907, there were not the developments of water. There were not the storage of water and the area of the country that we were living in at those times unless you had quite a little water you were handicapped at raising a crop. So the soil was virgin soil and was very productive soil. The shortage that we had in crops the bigger part of the time was lack of water. And too, then, the old seeds that you had before they began developing hybrid seeds and the better grades of barley, the better grades of oats, the quality of seeds made a quality of crops that were not half the productive crops that we have today. So when you talk about production being large, then it looked pretty good because it was a good production, but with today's production it was half of what we're producing now.
M: What did you plant?

J: Oh, at that time, of course, all of your power on the farm was animals, horses. Oats was a must because of horse feed and oats is good for the young animals and all of that. And, of course, they did plant some corn this being a high elevation and the type of corn they had. They didn't have any corn that would mature less than 150 days. The corn that they did grow was what we termed a "squaw corn." It was a hard white corn and if it made twenty-five bushels it was a pretty good sized crop in them days because of the type of the seed and the lack of knowledge. We had no commercial fertilizer then at all. What a lot of this land needed was humus. Humus has done a great job of building up the soil, but those days we didn't know, we didn't have those things to put into the soil.

You asked me what did we plant. Well, the home living off the farm was a must in those days. They planted potatoes, there were some commercial potatoes, and of course, alfalfa. At the turn of the century alfalfa was a great thing here in Colorado. Alfalfa had done very good in this climate and virgin soil. It was one of the leading crops. I've seen lots of alfalfa bring two and a half to four dollars a ton. But, of course, a dollar in those days went quite a long ways. And barley, some barley was planted. When we came here the sugar company was building the plant here in Fort Collins, and we just started to grow sugar beets. And our first year, if I might give some of my experiences, the first year Dad planted some
beets. We had what we called a walking cultivator with two wheels. One man went behind, walked behind and kept that cultivator on the row. Shaves went up front and one horse was pulling this cultivator taking care of the beets after they were planted in twenty-four inch rows. Then I being one of the younger of the boys I was then stationed on this horse. For days and days I rode this horse to keep it between the beet rows. Dad walked behind and kept this cultivator from cutting out the beets and we cultivated the beets that way. Those were the days that the sugar company was just being started.

And if you might excuse some of my personal time there, on the farm where we worked, the sugar company was building one of these high rise beet dumps where the horses pulled a wagon up to a height and the wagon dumped and the beets rolled down into a railroad car. And in the Spring after we had the beets cared for, the crews were working on this dump and of course, the snoopiness of a boy I went over and watched them. The foreman said he'd like to have a drink of water. So I went to the house. I remember so well getting a gallon bucket of water mother gave me and I went back to give those men a drink of water. So he hired me then to keep them in water for seventy-five cents a day while they were building the high rise dump. The first money that I ever made. This stays with a kid, you know.

M: That was pretty good money for a kid.

J: Yes. So the first purchase I made was a little red wagon,
M: That's what you bought with the wages?
J: Part of it, anyhow.
M: Where did you get the sugar beet seed?
J: That was shipped in from Germany in those days.
M: And you bought it at a feed store?
J: The sugar company shipped this in in carloads and then they gave it to the farmers. The farmers signed a contract to grow so much beets. They then let him have the seed and in the Fall they took the price of that seed out of his first beet check. So they were the instigators of the beet seed and later on well for some fifteen, maybe twenty years, the seed was bought from Germany. Then the Great Western Sugar Company began to reset the seed, reset the beets, for the second year. They would take these beets up, plow them, and cover them with dirt, pick them up the next Spring, and set them out, so many inches apart. And the second year they produced seed. This 500 acres across the road north of us was one of the spots where the Great Western did this replanting of what they called the stucklings and grew seed I would say for maybe fifteen years. Other places in Nebraska they did the same until they found that they could leave the beets in the ground in the Arizona area over the winter and the second year then they produced a seed and this is what has been done since then.
M: Okay, how did you harvest these beets?
J: Well, the first harvesting of the beets. There was a little puller, as we termed them, it was a couple of irons come
together with points on them and handles came back up a
man walked behind and two to three head of horses were
hitched on the front of this and it went down on the
side of those beets and popped them loose from the bottom.

M: It was a mechanical operation?

J: It was done from the machine and then followed that by
manpower that picked them up from out of the ground,
knocked them together to get the dirt off, piled them in
a pile and then went back and got knives and cut the tops
off and layed them in another pile. Then a man came along
with a wide shovel, forked shovel, and picked them up and
put them on a wagon, hauled them to the high rise dumps,
and the sugar company shipped them in for processing.

M: What did you do with the tops?

J: The tops were left in the field. They found that one of
the most nutritious feeds for livestock were the tops. So
they were fed to lambs and cattle in the wintertime and
they found that a ton of tops would equal a ton of hay.
So they added double value to the sugar beets.

M: And how would you store these tops?

J: The tops were left in the field mostly in piles, some
were siloed, put in silos, but today even, they are left
in the field and livestock is turned out to pick them up
in the field. And this is a practice that you'll find
down here with livestock, picking up the tops, and carry-
ing a good value today.

M: And where would you get your farm labor to do this?

J: Farm labor was very plentiful. The first years that we
were in the sugar beets we had a great amount of Germans
Good-sized families worked these fields. A farmer put up a house for them; they lived on the farm. They were very reliable farmers.

M: Did they spend a whole summer, or only for the harvest?

J: They would spend the whole season because in the Spring, they would care for the beets. They would thin them, and hoe them, and keep them clean, and then they would harvest them in the Fall. The average farm had a carload or two of cattle and a carload or two of sheep. This man would help the farmer through the winter. This was a very thrifty, workable agriculture area we had in here at that time. Then those people that came here at that time, the first ones, the second and third generations from there are some of our better farmers today. They were thrifty people, and they learned, and they sent children to school. Then as we had no more of those we had a lot of Mexicans coming in from the South.

M: About when did that happen?

J: We went over from the Germans to the Mexicans, it was pretty much in the early twenties. Then we had an awful lot of the Mexicans that would come in here. It was very easy to get them. The sugar companies had programs of soliciting down there. They went to the bother to bring them in and pay the transportation to bring them in. They advanced them some money to live on for awhile. Of course, as they got them in here the farmers advanced them or put them out to handwork, cleaning ditches or various
things around the farm. They were just not too much. I remember so well of hiring a good many people at a dollar and a half to two dollars a day. They would do work around the farm. They would probably hitch up a team of horses, haul fertilizer out and clean the corrals, and they would fix fences. Each farm was kind of a unit of its own, and, of course, as we mechanized more dropped out of that.

M: Did these Mexican families live for the entire season like the German families?

J: The Mexican families were of a different trend. The Mexican families were more inclined to clique together. They would go to live in smaller quarters down around town. We have the markings of that here today. They enjoyed being together and associating together and their own life was different. And then as the Spring came and the grass began to get green, they wanted out. They went out and did this work. This was carried on for several years before they finally got to where they didn't care to do that stoop work. It was heavy labor, but it was clean work. Nobody wants to do the stoop work now. This has been a big change.

M: "Stoop work," being things like picking up these beets and putting them on the wagon.

J: Yes, much handwork, manual labor. It was manual labor.

M: That's tough work.

J: They had a good healthy life, but no more. No man wants to get out and work his body.
M: Why is that? Is it just too tough?

J: They wanted an easier life. As far as healthwise is concerned, they were healthy then.

M: How did you learn or find out about new farming techniques?

J: The new farming techniques, of course, came on. We've had the biggest advance in farming techniques in the last twenty years because hand labor has become scarce. It forced the farmer to mechanize. The last ten years we've had tremendous advancement in mechanization. Ours went through a pretty hard time for several years because of mechanization and commodities not having the values that they should have had. The mechanization, the changeover from the old method when a man produced his feed for the power, the horse power. He produced his feed, he had a sale for it. When he went to town, he drove that horse to town and he came back and that horse ate the food that was raised on the farm. When he began to change over and he went off of the farm and he bought the power, it made the necessity of a larger sale from the farm. And the conversion did not work out very fast. It didn't advance. We still had a time of lack of funds. We had quite a lot of unemployment, and the farmer got caught in a pretty bad squeeze for a good many years in this diversion.

Now, sugar beets, of course, up until about three years ago were not bringing very much more money than they were in the First World War. We got paid more for beets then than we had up till about a few years ago. Sugar
being imported didn't allow the sugar prices to be what they should have been.

M: Okay, in your early days your commercial crops then were beets, some potatoes?

J: Yes, a considerable amount of potatoes in the earlier time.

M: Corn?

J: No. Corn of any commercial consideration was not here until along about the thirties. Early thirties. And as they became hybrids, that were eighty to one-hundred and ten day corn. We became very competitive to Iowa in corn.

M: How about some of the grains like sorghum, winter wheat?

J: Sorghums because of our cold nights have not been successful in our area. Sorghums, as has been proven by the college up here, have not been successful. Winter wheats, the farmers went into after our dilemma of overproduction. The Department of Agriculture program of limitations of planting brought about a very fine conversion of wheat growing. When the farmer was made aware that he'd only plant so much, he found out that he could let half of it lay idle to accumulate moisture, farm the other half, and it made wheat growing very much more successful. Wheat growing in the state of Colorado has been quite successful for dry ground, without irrigation. The irrigation has been pretty expensive to be able to grow wheat because of the price of wheat. So our wheat production in Colorado joining Kansas and various sections of Colorado is strictly with the dry land. It is not practiced today on irrigated...
I, land except maybe five percent, no more than five percent.

M: Can you recall when you first started to use a motor-driven tractor, gasoline or diesel?

J: Yes, we had a few tractors brought in to operate the farms back in '25 to '28. There was a great feeling amongst the farmers. To put that equipment on the soil might pack it too tight. Oh, you'd have all kinds of problems. I can remember now, of course, what I'm talking about--I suppose you want to get back to water after while?

M: Yes, we'll come back to that.

J: I can remember so well when in '28-'29, I guess that would be back in '29, the John Deere dealer here had what we called a John Deere "A," a tractor that was built for a row crop. I was farming a section of land and felt that I should have some power. I had twenty-four head of horses that could be hooked up and put to work. I did buy a John Deere "A," and the Goodrich Rubber Company had been indicating that we should put these tractors on rubber.

The old tractor wheel had a spade on the side that dug in about three inches in the ground and this was its footing and that's what they had to work with. As I bought this tractor, the dealership I found out afterwards here played a trick on me. They had an agreement with the Goodrich Rubber people. They said, "We can sell you the tractor but we can't get any wheels. But we do have rubber."

So when I went to get my tractor they said, "We don't have the wheels. They're just out of steel, but you take this out there. You bought it and try it." And if it
don't work we'll have the wheels at such and such a time.
But take it out, you got to get your plowing. Take it
out and we'll go out with you." So to my knowledge to
what they told me it was the first rubber-tired tractor
that they put out on the farm here.

M: And it worked?

J: And I was most astounded as I put that out and plowed.
It went along and so I said, "Well here is some alfalfa
here six inches high now and that's greasy. I know it
won't work in that." But it did. And, of course, I
never put steel on my tractor. So this was the big change
for changing from the steel to the rubber.

M: Were you sorry to see the horses go?

J: I have had a love for horses. There was an admiration
that you had when you hitched up a good pair of well-bred
horses. They had heads up in the air and a good harness
on them and they worked together. There was a pride that
no machinery will ever replace. I retired from the farm
in '44, rented my farm in '44. I kept two of my top
horses. Today I have one of the different breedings of
those carried on down, some of the colts of those. I
have one today of those horses. This is what I think of
horses.

M: What kind of breed of horse did you prefer for that work?

J: There were a good many different breeds of horses, the
durability of course, was one of the things we must have
had. The eastern country was very much on the Clydesdale.
We were not so much on them here, we had quite a little ice and stuff. We didn't care for the hair on the legs. The Percheron horse was one of our very fine animals. They take a lot of endurance and hard work. The Belgian was an all around horse that we used to like so well on the farm work. But the predominating horse had pretty much Percheron breeding in our good horses that had class stood up and done the work.

M: And these were all shod horses. Is that right?

J: The only shod horses that we had went into road work. We never shod the horses in the field.

M: Never had to do that?

J: Never had to do that in the field. Working on the soil those hoofs were in good shape. We always had trimmers. We kept them trimmed up. But when we went to harvesting a crop, we put a horse on the road, we shod them.

M: And then did a farrier come to you, or did you have to go to town?

J: No, we brought those horses in town. I can remember so well back in 1903 when Dad put me on a horse, led one horse and tied those horses to the tails that I was leading. I went into town and stayed there most of the day while the blacksmith put horseshoes on them. We had in the town here three major specialists in blacksmithing. Of course, they did the welding and horseshoeing. You had to have an appointment pretty much to bring those in to get that work done. Your blacksmith was a very
important man. As you broke a piece of machinery or anything you brought it in and they welded it. They did much work. Yes, the blacksmith was one of the men. He had his smoke and grease and dirt over him but he was admired because he was a very much a staunch man in your community. He was part of the community.

M: Do you recall the name of the blacksmith that you used?

J: Pete Cowan, was one. Old Pete Cowan, he was a Scotsman. I can't remember his partner. He had a partner, a great big man. Pete wasn't too big, but he could handle a horse very well. Anyhow, to a child at that age it was as big a treat as anything to hear that Scotsman talk to the horse. He could rassle a horse very good. And, of course, the smoke of the hooves burning and the iron and all, you know, is still stays in your nostrils from way back.

M: I need to ask a question about what you did. You mentioned that you went to work in a Packard plant.

J: Yes, a Packard motor plant in Detroit, Michigan. I went back there for eighteen months, having some relation back there, thinking that it was another life. I went into the Packard motor plant and went as a tool maker. Having been all of my years back here in the sunshine and the Colorado Rocky Mountains, I went there in the Packard motor plant. It was then the leading plant in Detroit, Michigan. I worked the shift; the night shift paid a good deal more money than the day shift. But even in daytime
your lights were on in those plants. And you looked out with the smoggy black skies and you scarcely could see the sun. As I looked out I still saw old Colorado. So I said to the foreman, "I'm going to take a trip to Colorado. I would like to have a pass." He knew me so well, he got as mad as could be, and said, "Gee doggone you, you fellows don't know what you want." He gave me the dickens. But I made up my mind and the next morning as I came back he handed me a pass and said, "We had followed you for a whole month. We know where you spend your time, we know what you done with your money, we have decided to put you through the plant. Now you come back and we'll put you through the plant from the tool-making clear to the whole top. We need young fellows in here." But that didn't hold me, I never returned. I brought back my permits to do different things on the plant. I returned everything to them and never went back until later years. I went back to visit.

M: When you said a "pass," is this a railroad pass?

J: It was a permit to return anytime I wanted to and go work where ever I chose in my department.

M: I see. What made you go there in the first place?

J: Perhaps it was the restlessness of a young fellow. I didn't have the opportunity to get the schooling I wanted. I had a brother that had gone back and had married a Michigan girl. He was farming back there. I went back to visit and of course, the new things that I saw in
Detroit I said to myself I was going down. I had some friends that I had met there while I was staying there who were working in the Ford motor plant. And I said, "Well, I'll go down and see if I could have a hand at that down there." I went to the employment department and that morning there was around forty applications that were strung out on the street. They filed us through a netting of fences on the side and you went up to the window where they had two men. He asked you what you could do. That morning, I remember so well, up there boys, they would flash a diploma that they would do this, that and the other. They'd say, "Sorry we don't have any need for that." I came up to the man and he said, "What do you want here. Where are you from?" I said, "Well, from Colorado." He said, "Well, what are you doing in town?" I said, "Well, I'm looking for a job." "Well, yeah, I came down here this morning lookin' for a job too." He said, "What can you do?" And I said, "Well I come here to see what I could do. I'm a farm boy." He opened a door and shoved me back. Two of us got on that morning. And they stripped me and put me through the hospital and put me to work that afternoon. That was in 1914.

M: Why would they take you over someone that had a diploma in toolmaking?

J: The foreman told me that they could use a farm boy. He could adapt himself. They had those boys that wanted to
come in to tell them what they could do. They wanted somebody that they could tell what to do. That's what the foreman told me.

M: Was your father disappointed to see you go off to Detroit?

J: Very much. Very much. Mother was very much. But they, of course, didn't hold it against me. Dad was a pretty level-headed old boy and he knew that the outside would teach you a lesson that he wanted you to have. He had quite a lot of vision ahead.

M: And did you have the money to get to Detroit then?

J: Ah, well you know a kid on the farm we had some pigs or something. And I remember trading three pigs for a colt. And then I broke this colt on the side and here came along a ditch rider that lived out there and gave me $50 for this colt. Well, I had a cousin in Nebraska that I stopped and visited on the way out and the first thing I knew I was picking corn for him. So I had a little money when I went into Detroit. I wasn't strapped. And then I went right to work. I didn't have to go back the second day. I was very, very fortunate in that. I didn't have to go back the second day. I went to work. But then I got up to $8.00 a day. And making $8.00 a day kinda made you, kinda ashamed to walk in and pick it up. (Laughter).

M: That was a lot of money then?

J: That was a lot of money then.

M: Well, you returned to Colorado and you must have come
back with your savings.

J: I came back with some savings, yes.

M: And so you came back and decided to stay. But what did you decide to do?

J: I came back in the summertime and Dad told me that he had some work out here on another farm and that he would give me a team of horses if I would settle down there with him and work on that place. So the following winter I was sitting and I had an associated friend that I had been with quite a little bit—we were sitting in a candy store then Kelley's Candy Kitchen having a soda when Henry McClellan, then a farmer out south of town, dropped by and said, "What are you young fellows doing anyhow?"

He said, "Why don't you come by and rent my farm?" That's out now where the REA built a new building. That is this is in 1916, in the early Spring, and he said, "I got a bunch of machinery out there to sell to you at a reasonable price. It isn't enough but," he said, "I can't work that any more and so why don't you boys come out there." We formed a company, the two of us that night. The next day I went down to the Poudre Valley Bank; Charlie Sheldon was president of that bank. The bank set down there on the corner of Linden and Walnut. And I'll never forget walking in there, Wolf was cashier, and Charlie Sheldon was president, a little, short, round-faced fellow. I walked up to Wolf and said I was going to start a farm. I had a team of horses. I'd like to
start farming. I needed $500 for the Spring. Mr. Sheldon, being the president, came and wobbled up there and he looked at me and I thought that he looked straight through me. He said, "Who did you say you were?" And I said, "Harvey Johnson." And he said, "The son of J. B. Johnson?" And I said, "Yes." "Well, he said, "J. B. Johnson is an honest man and I expect you to be." He reached out and he wrote me a note for $500. And I went out and baked. The girl that I had corresponded with for four years, we were married later in the summer. That was my start of farming.

M: Let me interrupt you at this point. I need to turn over my tape.

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M: Well the tape is running again. And you left off the story, you'd just gotten your farm and you'd gotten married that summer.

J: Yes, I married that summer to Margaret Capps and then this partner, Earl Anderson, stayed with us that summer. In the fall, Earl Anderson was drafted in the war and he sold out to me his equity in the operation. So the following year I farmed that piece of ground. To go back to the family we had a daughter born in February the following year. Yes, we were married in May, and that following August, a year from that anyhow, Louise was born. I gotta go back and get the dates on my youngsters. Seventy-eight years have passed and I could forget some of the dates.
M: This must have been right around World War I?

J: World War I. Earl was drafted and at that time I had had a call from Mr. McClellan, publisher of the paper, and he said "Harvey, we've gotta have some boys left here. I'm going to declare they can't take both of you boys off the farm. You're married and I'm gonna ask the department to leave one boy on the farm." I went and took my examinations and got classed as "A." McClellan then stepped in and wouldn't let me go. Anyhow, my brother Ed went at that time, but I was left there on the farm and I farmed that place.

M: What did you raise?

J: We raised some sugar beets. We raised alfalfa and we raised some wheat. Sugar beets, wheat and alfalfa was our crop. That fall Charlie Evans, one of the larger landowners in this area came over and asked me to go on to his farm. He would set me up with feeding livestock. So I went with Charlie Evans and in the year of '20 he put in 1,500 lambs. I did the work, he furnished the money, and when we got through, they had lost us $5 a head. I owed a considerable amount of money. I did a foolish thing then. I had been dealing at the Poudre Valley Bank. They asked for a mortgage on my equipment. And I didn't think that I should do that, so I went across to the First National Bank, and told Murdoch Nelson, then president of the First National Bank, that I owed the Poudre Valley Bank $1,800. At that time the
First National had moved up into the place where the Columbia Savings is now and the Poudre Valley Bank was across the street where the drug store is now. As I took the money over to Mr. Sheldon I had a very bad feeling. Mr. Sheldon said, "I'm hurt that you're doing this," but I did it because the man that owned the farm, Charlie Evans, was president of the board over at the First National Bank. So, I was in a bind. I never felt right about that. Anyhow, I made this transfer over there. The next year we bought those lambs at $5 a head, and made $7 a head. So we were dollars ahead when the next year wound up. But since 1920 I have had lambs in my corral. Ever since, for the winter feeding. Hay at that time was worth about $4 a ton and sugar beets, we got as high as $11 for the sugar beets at that time. $11 to $12. They made us a little money.  

M: You would buy the sheep.  
J: We would buy the lambs on the range in the Fall. We'd bring them in and they would eat the beet tops that we had off the beets. After they'd eat the beet tops we would shut them up and feed them corn and alfalfa and little cotton cake for about four months. Then we'd put them on the market at a finished lamb.  

M: Where would you buy the stock?  
J: We would buy the stock in Wyoming mostly. I bought quite a few in the later years in New Mexico, and the San Luis Valley in Colorado, and Wyoming. Wyoming is a great
producer of lambs.

M: Bring them here on the train?
J: Brought them here in train, yes.
M: And feed them through the Winter?
J: Feed them through the Winter.
M: And who would you sell them to?
J: Sell them to packing houses. At the first of this there were not many packing houses down there in Denver. We would ship an awful lot to Omaha and Chicago. We'd get a whole train load. We'd get ready and three or four stockmen would get in the caboose. They'd furnish the caboose. We'd go back and put them out in yards they have down there, rest them up and feed them, and the next day we'd string them into the market two or three loads at a time. They'd go on the market then—in Chicago, in Omaha, we'd go east to Kansas City, St. Joe, various places.

M: You took your sheep then to the buyer. The buyer did not come to Fort Collins?
J: We took them to the buyer. Always took them to the buyer. They'd have a man out here, a solicitor and he'd tell you I think I can get you such and such a price if you'll take them to John Clay's or Henry's, or some other dealer back there. And then they took them into a large building and then they were in a pen and then here come the packer who would go down through and get on this pen and that pen. There would be four or five buyers. You'd have
Swift, Cudahy, Armour and Wilson's, you had all of those big packers back there. Chicago was the biggest packing area in the West. In the whole United States, Chicago used to be a livestock center, the big packing houses.

M: So the pattern of your life then in the 1920's would be sheep feeding in the wintertime, beet growing in the summertime.

J: Right. That was the practice we had. Yes.

M: Did you somewhere along this point in time buy a farm?

J: Yes, I was a tenant on this place and that went then for nine years. The First National Bank had a customer who was pretty well involved, a man by the name of Munroe. He had a section of land twelve miles east in the Black Hollow area, the old Montview Ranch. They asked me if I wanted to go out there on that 640 acres. That's the time I became a farmer under the Water Supply and Storage Company. 1928.

M: This is out at the Montview Ranch.

J: The Montview Ranch.

M: Did you buy that ranch then?

J: No, I only went out there as a tenant. This was a large operation, 640 acres. We would feed 4,000 lambs and 200 head of cattle. Things were moving along pretty good until the crash of '29. The crash of '29 put my partner out of business and put me $35,000 in the red. And I didn't have any land. The banks were closing, so I went to Denver. The Commodity Credit Corporation had an office
in Denver and I borrowed $3,000.

M: Why would they loan you $3,000? You had no land.

J: This was set up for emergency because of the calamity over the United States.

M: They were willing to loan you the money?

J: They loaned me the money on my integrity as they called it, and I raised a good crop. Paid them off that Fall.

M: Is this sugar beets again?

J: Sugar beets. I had a hundred acres of sugar beets, and a lot of alfalfa. I had enough people that had faith in me that I bought some calves, five-six dollars a head, put them out on grass. I had paid my debts and had accumulated a little bit and banks then were in operation. Here they came and they wanted me as a customer again. They reorganized and Nate Warren had become president.

Well, then in '34 I had by playing with young livestock, I had purchased a quarter section four miles out of Fort Collins. I stayed on the section out there. In '35 I moved on to my own quarter section. The following year I bought the sixty acres to the south of me. The following year I bought the eighty acres to the west of me. So I have 300 acres of my own. And that Fall in '35, '35-'36 I could be a little bit off in my dates, anyhow, the Big Thompson was being studied, you know the Big...

M: Big Thompson?

J: Big Thompson. I was out carrying corn to the lambs to put in troughs, and turned them out to eat corn and put them
back in to feed them hay. And a big car came pulling up and this was the president of the First National Bank, the manager of the sugar company, and the president of the college. They said that they had put in an application for an investigation of the possibilities of the Big T conversion of water and they would need a farmer's signature. So I was one of the eighteen that signed a request to the government for the Big T. I was the only farmer.

M: This means that you knew something about irrigation. Something about water.

J: I had been on the big farm out there.

M: Montview farm?

J: Montview farm, and they had some difficulty. Their ditch rider out there and all had come to me for some assistance. In '28 and '29 we'd pressed very hard for the Farm Bureau to become active. Didn't get much done until the hard times of the 30's. We did get a little organization, a few people together, and of course, I was right away elected secretary of the Colorado Farm Bureau. I spent four years as the state secretary. With my farm work, building up the Farm Bureau, and all at the same time our ditch company out there and in Black Hollow and in '33 we had twenty-eight days of water. Shortage of water, lack of storage, hurt like everything and having a half production of crops. I did pay some attention to why. Anyhow, I acquired this place here and the neighbors tried to get me to run as county commissioner. And I didn't have any
business getting into that. Anyhow one morning in January I had bought this land and had owned it for a year and then I'd farmed it a year.

Gus Kluver, then president of the First National Bank owned twenty-six farms and I'll say this for Mr. Kluver he was a great ol' boy. He had told me that he had never foreclosed on a man but he had a store, a bank, and so many things if they'd get into trouble they'd ask to take his store over or turn the farm over to him. He had twenty-six farms. His son, Fred, just passed away a year or so ago. Gus had been president of the Water Supply and Storage for some fifteen years, he and Edmunds had been president. He had passed it over to the vice-president Clyde Barsles. He was still on the board and he had a time when they had a flood up in the mountains in 1904 and he was on the board. The big flood up there about broke the company. Kluver had gone to Denver and had borrowed money. In 1907, there were in a bad, that was a panic in 1907, they had a bad way.

Kluver went down to Denver to the First National Bank and mortgaged the farms for $50,000 to keep the ditch company going. He went down there in the 30's and first bought this bank back. He had brought back $100,000 to put the bank up here back in shape. He was that type of a man. He said, "I want you to go to a meeting with me." Well, I irrigated Water Supply and Storage water right out of the river. We had reservoirs, we had this and that
and the other. But I had not spent much time with it.
The old water commissioner was a very likable chap,
Armstrong. Then McInelly came along—we used to visit quite
a little about water. Anyhow this man Kluver said, "I want
you to come along to a meeting." We came up here, the
hall above the old central hall, and Water Supply and
Storage was having a meeting. They read reports, carried
on there, and they come up for election and this man Kluver
got up and he said, "I have a young man I want to nominate."
This was all right out of a clear sky. "He's a young man
that's had a farm, comes from a stable family, and I want
to nominate him." I wound up on the Water Supply and
Storage Board.

M: Was the land that you bought irrigated?
J: Right.
M: And through this company?
J: I had two and a half shares of company stock. I had been
active all of the time in all of the agriculture programs,
you know that they put in in the 30's. The government
put in a lot of programs to help the farmer out. I had
been in a position where the county agent and all of them
would come to me to help organize groups. I would spend
quite a little time in organizing that. But I was never
in the organizing of water, or knowing where the supplies
of water were. Then I found myself with six old gray-
headed men. And Spring came along and this water commis-
sioner been quite a friend of mine. He had told me as I
visited with him that the Water Supply and Storage were very, very poorly organized. Ralph Parshall, you might know Parshall up at the college here, had patents that measure water—you know Ralph Parshall, he's one of the greatest men we've had here. Ralph Parshall was a very congenial sort of fellow. Visiting with him he had said that he had patented a measuring device that was used most all over the world but not used much in this area. That's the thing that happens so many times. You know, the man in your own community, you don't have any faith in him. I visited with the man enough to know that we were very handicapped.

So Mr. Parshall, Bill McInelly, the water commissioner, and I took a ride one day. We went over the system—the measuring devices were the old contour weirs. They turned out of this ditch and they had a board set up here that was so wide and the water fell over a foot deep and then they put a ruler down and measured this water. Some run fast, some run slow. They convinced me that we were forty percent wide in measurement. They had for years started to work on old gray-headed boys and they were honorable men and they'd spent a lot of hard years in bringing us up to this point. They'd been through a lot of opposition, and they were not going to be diverting over to new stuff without approving things. There wasn't a thing in northern Colorado, there were a few experiments, on proper measure of the water.
Well, here I was a kid and these old gray-headed men, my approach to them on water measurement was not taken with grace at all. Here was a young fellow, he just out of place and all, you know. By taking this trip with the water commissioner and Parshall, I was able to bring them into the board and explain in the most kind way they could, why the old measurement was wrong, why it could be corrected. The first month the board said, "Well, I believe you've got something. We'll charge you with the responsibility of changing this." We had pretty adoptable foremen. We worked out forms. We went down the whole system--some 500 headgates for $3,000 and made Parshall weirs out of cement. For those days though that was quite a little money. Anyhow, this was the first project and I was being picked on by these people to bring about something. I got a lot of cold shoulders. I got a lot of headaches out of it, but we got it done.

M: What did the farmers think bringing in these new methods?

J: When we made the plea to the farmers they were happy about it. Here was a neighbor sitting here and he took good care of his farm and the other fellow didn't. There was a feeling, something was wrong. They didn't know what it was. It was a good move. This was the first thing though that got my neck way out.

M: Let me ask you, interrupt you a bit. Can you give me some of the background and history on the Water Supply and Storage Company?
Yes, Water Supply and Storage. Of course, it was one of the growths that come out of the development of the country. It would go back down to the river here. It was in the early days, here was Coy over here. He was the last one right around in this close part of town. Coy walked to Denver and filed on water for a quarter section right across here. He had no idea what amount of water. He filed on it. The state of Colorado controlled all water rights in the states which is a very fine thing. A man could file on so much water for a certain piece of land. They filed on this right around town here, and took it out of the river and irrigated. As time went on they went out a little farther and he took the ditch out a little farther. The area around town, of course, run across ground that was soil on top and rock underneath. The water went down through it and they didn't get much good out of it. This was the first irrigation, and as people came here in the country, they found good soil out here on the bench land. It was very good soil. It was much more productive than this bottom soil was, if they could get water to it. But it was easier to get it here.

Excuse me, when you say "bench land," what are you talking about?

This would be river land here. "Bench land" would be the next step above here. Just a mile or so you come to another bench, that is more bench land. And this is river bottom here. John Coy was the father of Burgess
Coy, and he came in here. There's a great story about him. He came in here, and the family has still got a hundred acres out here. John Coy came in here because he had a friend across the road from him. He gave the homesteader on this farm a cart and a horse and a sack of flour for his filing on this hundred acres right next to town. The fellow took off back to Iowa. He lost his wife, and he took off back to Iowa with the little girl with him. So the Coys then took the farm and they finished up the claim and made a homestead on that. That is one of the earlier settlers here.

The Water Supply and Storage had all this good land in here. Mr. Anton Dennis had gone down when one of the early settlers down here at LaPorte, filed on twelve second feet of water and he built a dam and irrigated his farm. The Larimer County Water Company was formed to get water for this whole group out here on the bench. The Black Hollow was formed and began to acquire some rights. They went to the Henry Smith lateral and the Henry Smith lateral had a little place irrigated right up above LaPorte. They said to the Henry Smith people, they were irrigating about four or five farms, "We want to come out to your headgate and give you free water." Let's see, Dennis was sixty-two and Henry Smith then was four or five years older. They only acquired a small amount of that water. As they went out across Edmunds, they developed out to about the Weld County line. In 1902 when
we came, they were building the ditch bigger. I had an older brother who took a team of horses and worked on it. Anyhow, they had bought a few reservoirs, a few low laying lakes. I can show you pictures where they dammed across the river up there and had about six, no I guess four or five thousand acre feet that they dammed on the river up at Chambers Lake.

Anyhow they started in developing and pushed it on farther until they covered an area of about 50,000 acres. Well, of course, it isn't all of that 50,000 that is irrigated. It's less than that that is irrigated. But from talking to some of the old boys way back before the turn of the century, they ran half the amount of water that we run today. They ran a twenty inch where we run a forty inch head. As they got to the lower end, some of the lower boys only got five or six days of irrigating. But they were thrifty people, they had good land. The record will show here that they had mortgages of $30,000 which got up to $60,000 about the turn of the century. That was a whole lot of money. But in a time before the turn of the century they acquired through tradings. They would trade some stock and they acquired Long Pond Lake up here and Lindenmeier Lake, Richard Lake, all of them before the turn of the century. In 1904, Chambers Lake broke up there. They borrowed from everybody possible and built back Chambers Lake to a decent-sized lake. Then in around 1914, they built Black Hollow as a lake
down below that would catch what wasn't used up here and redistribute it down below.

Well, at the turn of the century, 1902, '03, '04, in that era, the old ditch was fast. It ran awful fast, and washed pretty badly. They built a new ditch on a slower grade and about the same time they took in, as they were getting a little more water, they took in another group that went to the Pierce Lateral around on the other side. They were struggling. One thing that I think the records should show. The soils that the boys built, the Water Supply and Storage on were of such quality. Weld County down here is the third-ranking county in the United States. One in Iowa is tops, one in California is second and Weld County is third. The soil is of such quality as to be of great production. Much of the soil that we have in the area that this is built on is fifteen to twenty feet of good loam soil with the drainage underneath. And our production today for two to two-and-a-half, two-and-a-quarter acre feet of irrigation water, we have the majority of the high producers in corn and sugar beets in our system. While on the river bottom where they have shallow soil and gravel underneath they use twice the water. But a remarkable thing is and, I spend my winters down in Arizona, at the end of the Colorado River where they have allotment on the bureau of four acre feet, five acre feet per acre. I was up this summer on the Idaho where they have as high as seven acre feet per acre. But the boys
out here under the Water Supply and Storage, in my time out in the Black Hollow, were getting something a little better than one acre foot per acre. This is what we had on an average delivered to us. Production was quite good because the soil was quite good. You could hold the water. The Water Supply and Storage is today one of the better producing. Weld County is the high-ranking county and close to seventy percent of our system delivers to this high-producing area. So it is a high-producing area because of fertility. We have a grade of farmers that there is no better in the United States. They're efficient, they have good machinery, they're really efficient people.

Being a young fellow they would ramrod me into the mountains and a lot of places. They said one time Harvey take Mr. Mollander upon the grand ditch for a couple of days. Mr. Mollander was eighty years old but a very stout old boy. I was coming along the ditch bank up there, and I said to Mr. Mollander, "How did you fellows ever have that foresight to do something like this? We're pikers today side of you fellows. You had to go up there and build this ditch by hand." And he thought for a little while and he said, "Well," he said, "we had some good land that filled on the river for the water and we just had to do something." Now that created initiative and I think tells the biggest story there ever is in the world. We have too many of them now that they're handing them everything they don't have any initiative. Now that's
what them old pioneers was facing those days, and we owe them a lot of credit for the initiative that they had. They had to do it. I think that tells a big story and now here there was with this fine land and they had to do all they could.

Well, about a year or so after I was on there had been a company formed to take water from the Larimie River. The Water Supply and Storage was ahead of that and way back before the turn of the century and filed on and had built a ditch taking from the headwaters of the Larimie River and diverting into what we term our Skyline into the Chambers Lake. So this other company was formed for similar thoughts and built some ditches along the side of the mountains up there and built a tunnel 13,000 feet long under the mountain from the Larimie River to the water over at the Poudre. This company that was formed to do this sold bonds to various ones over the community and everything was built on the basis of this. Everybody pushed for us. We, the businessmen of the town, the college professors bought stock to the tune of $350,000 and developed what they called the Poudre-Larimie Build Ditch. But they had built this on bonded company and sold bonds and they didn't have the farmer out there that was a stockholder. They got in a tight bind and so they would rent the water. They'd develop some water and they'd rent it to the farmers as they developed. Some water up there they'd rent to the farmers under our system because our
system was short. They got in pretty bad shape. They couldn't pay their bonds and couldn't pay interest on their bonds so they called for foreclosure. Then our company and I and Mr. Baker found out that we could buy the bonds for $250,000. At the time the Commodity Credit Corporation in Kansas City was set up to help out in the development of water and things like that. We got in contact with them and got a loan from them at three percent and got the $250,000. This gave us at the time about 20,000 acre feet up there. We had 19,750 acre feet put into our system from that system.

I might go back and say when I first come on another thing that the water commissioner made me aware of right away—we didn't have efficiency in the operation of the system. They didn't keep close contact with the water commissioner and a lot of times they did not get all the water they were supposed to. I instigated a pretty close program with the water commissioner. He was paid about $600 a month. We found out that we could legally do this. We could pay him $700 a month to bring his wages up that he was able to keep in contact with us. We got our part of the water. So we went from what we did have then, to as low as 18,000 to 18,500 acre feet a year. We got some records of less than that, but then we had some bad years. We have built it up to close to 80,000 acre feet that is delivered to the system.

When I went on the system they had acquired a loan and
we got a man up there with the first power equipment that was ever owned by the system. '35 and '36 they began to extend the ditch. It was made by hand and the diversion was pretty low, but it was a small ditch. We got that up to only up above the 20,000 acre feet them. We have increased the size of some of our lakes. We have watched our decrees, until we have brought this up to quite a good supply of water. We have other projects here. We are now building a reservoir in the Long Draw. We have had one year of construction. We will have another year of construction where we will have 11,000 acre feet there—an increase of 7,000 acre feet over what we formerly had. We have a program of developing a ceiling on some of the ditches so that we can increase our flow of water.

M: May I ask you a few questions about this. You said that ditches were built by hand. Is this the Grand Ditch you are talking about?

J: Well, the first three or four miles of the Grand Ditch was by man and shovel. We have records where at one time there was sixty some Japanese. They said Chinese labor, but they were Japs, Japanese names. I found records, I found names and they worked up there by hand. We have some pictures that I would like to show you where they are throwing dirt out of a ditch by hand.

M: This was the ditch that runs beyond Trail Ridge.

J: The Grand Ditch. Right, right, but it didn't extend over the way you see it from Trail Ridge. If just merely went
from the Continental Divide north of there around the side of the mountain for a ways up to Dutch Creek. They had these crews there. They would pick and shovel. We find wheel barrows at one place up there where they put these wheel barrows up there and dug out this cave. There's hundreds of these things sticking up there today.

Anyhow, the man, he shoveled this into a wheelbarrow and took it up and dumped it on the bank. The bank was just where you could walk along. And they brought it to the Continental Divide and brought across and dumped it into what we call the Poudre Pass. It then came on down to the river and five percent more water was added to it. So this was a diversion that was started in those days. This is at a high elevation and on the wall over here you might see we have blown up pictures of the old system up there in the mountains.

M: Are those ditches, are they merely dirt and soil or are they concrete?

J: Dirt and soil.

M: What keeps them from washing out?

J: We have controls. We have sixteen creeks that come down into the ditch and at each one of them creeks, we have a regulation that only so much water can be caught there. The rest will spill over. They have men up there to control the amount of water that might be flowing in the ditch. It's a very particular piece of work to do that. We skipped a lot of things that we have done on the system.
We have increased the size of some of the reservoirs. After we had mechanized, and widened the bottom to twelve feet, to where we could handle up to five hundred second feet up there. We have, of course, increased the flow. In the Spring of the year the Never Summer Range up there is a high range of mountains and the best thing we have is that it is a high range of mountains. It gets a good coverage of snow every year. But our ditches are full in the Spring and it's not Summer up there until the last of June. But the water will start to melt so we have to go in there and take out this snow, make a small cut in there that the water can flow and it will in turn melt the snow. So over a period of years, after we'd enlarged this, we used to have as high as seventy-five men up there with shovels. We put goggles on them and give them boots and furnished them rubber gloves and they shoveled out so deep. Sometimes you had thirty foot of drifts in there. And this one man he would shovel it out and maybe pass it up on a ridge that had been dug out on a fellow above and he took it and up to another place and that's how we dug trenches there. Until the last twelve to fourteen years we had mechanized it that we had equipment that would go up there and then we could make these trenches. We had to get that to flowing in our streams instead of going underneath and going on down and losing that much water.

M: Excuse me, I'm running out of tape again.
M: This is a second session with Mr. Harvey Johnson. I am again at his office on Mulberry at the Water Supply and Storage Company in Fort Collins. The date is December 20, 1973. The time is 9:35 in the morning and my name is David McComb.

I thought we would start off today by asking Mr. Johnson to describe the irrigation system as it now works. We can start off is you wish with the administrative structure and then go to the physical aspect of it, whichever you prefer.

J: All right. All of these ditch companies in northern Colorado have probably been more progressive than other areas because we had a very limited amount of water available. We had to work every angle to get the best usage of it and develop it for the usage of the people. This company as I have been able to understand from history and records that we have with the company back in the middle of the 1800's started development in a small way in the valley. This company was formed as an irrigation company and as it developed it grew into the present form. It is an organization under the state of Colorado supported by the federal government under their rules and regulations. This company has a seven man board of directors elected by the people. It's a non-profit corporation elected by the people. The area that it covers is an irrigation system of some forty-two or three miles plus the ditch angles. We try to have this board of directors representative through out the system so that the people of the system would have a fair voice in the operation.

M: Let me ask you something about that. You say elected by the people.
J: Elected by the stockholders.

M: The stockholders, okay. And the stockholders, are they also users of the water?

J: In the early days they were 100 percent users of it. There are quite a few stockholders now, who are not doing the actual farming. It's done by tenants. We're not a speculative company. The stockholders have the land to irrigate with the water stock that they have.

M: Does a stockholder, because of his stock, have a right to a certain amount of water?

J: He has a right to the proportionate amount of water. I might say this. It was organized as 600 shares and the 600 shares of water equal the 1/600 of what might be available for that year. Each share has equal rights. So the board of directors were elected by those stockholders consisting of seven men and they then within themselves have their own organization, president, vice-president and they have a secretary that is steadily employed. Then they have managers--they have a manager for the main canal and they have managers for our subsidiary companies which consist of the Jackson Ditch, the Water Tunnel Company and then our different operations. We have men throughout the system who have certain responsibilities. This board of directors has an annual meeting reporting once a year with all of the operations of the year and then they have a budget to work out which is approved by the stockholders at the beginning of the new year. And this budget places an assessment upon the stock for an amount of money
to take care of the maintenance and operation of the system. The board of directors then have a monthly meeting set upon a specific date to go over the accounts and to make the recommendations for the operations for each month. They, of course, are subject to call for any extra meetings that might be needed. If an emergency or something comes up that needs attention they are subject to call.

M: There must be a staff of some kind to maintain this system.

J: There is a staff, of course. We have men who have sections that they check out each morning for the farmer the water for his proportionate amount. I might say that some of this stock is broken down to half shares and some of it might be, oh, two or three or four or fifteen shares per man, according to the amount of area that they might be irrigating. That is a workable policy that has been set up over a long period of years and we think has been quite successful. The State of Colorado has felt that it was quite successful. There is a lot of exchanging of water. There is a lot of decrees that come about in a system like this that I think we can cover later on. You probably have some questions within the body of what our operations are.

M: Yes. Just a basic question. How wide of an area, a region, does this system cover? Is it Larimer County, Weld County, what's the territorial area?

J: Well, there are several irrigation companies in northern Colorado. At the time of the beginning of irrigation one man
went to Denver and took filings on a piece of land close to the river and took out some water and irrigated that farm. There were twelve or fourteen different filings on the river. We could go back as an illustration to our own company. There was a filing on the river to cover a section of land in '62. Then as the company began to develop and reach out into an area we spread from the mouth of Poudre Canyon to the Weld County Line, this is in Larimer Country, some seven miles east. Then we angle off into Weld County, across Weld County to the plains, the dryland, and east of that area. There is a bench that goes above our irrigation system. In early days they went strictly by elevation to get the grade and that's the ground they covered. They angled back and forth as they got a grade through a draw and angled back around higher than those. They did all of this with a pick and shovel and probably a team of horses on a slip.

Therefore, we have a very angling system out and extending from the mouth of the canyon some forty-two or three miles east and in areas we might get pretty narrow. Other areas we'd get pretty wide. We might narrow up to eight or nine miles in places where the elevation was such that caused them to make that kind of a bend and then we widened out to where we might have eighteen to twenty miles in width. I would think perhaps not to be exacting about it, but more than two-thirds of the amount of the ground that is irrigated is in Weld County. We're fortunate enough that the area that we are irrigating is an area that is very high in soil fertility.
and types of soil. Some of the soils in here are number one soils and some number two soils, and have some number three. But the area that we are irrigating is without a doubt some of the best soils in northern Colorado. As history will show you, Weld County which we cover a great deal of, is number three in production in the United States. So we are covering a type of soil that is very high in production.

We've had real progressive farmers who have used the methods best available to them. Of course, we are changing very fast and my time of the seventy years, or the thirty-seven years of operation with the company have been very astounding in how the farmers have changed methods of operation. I think about the county agent coming in here some twenty-five years ago and visiting with him. He said, "I didn't come here to change the policy of the farming here in this area. I came here to work with the boys because I found them much more progressive than what I had been taught in school." So I'm saying that we've had a real high top-rate farmer in this area.

M: There's a question about irrigation in soil that I've read about that you may be able to answer. Some of the books on agricultural history indicate that a misuse of irrigation water will tend to ruin the soil and bring out the salts and so forth if it is not handled right. Is that true?

J: Well, it is true in areas, but we find it much more south of here. We've found a lot of it up in Wyoming, say in the Bureau of Reclamation and various projects that have been
developed. The area where we irrigate, we're limited on the amount of water appliable because it is expensive. It is hard to come by but we have a wonderful soil here that if it is applied right, one and a half to one and three quarters acre feet of water can make an ample crop. We have some areas where we'll say one ditch has excessive amount of water at a certain time of the year and the farmer applied that water excessively. It will leach into the ground the valuable nitrogens of the soil down to the root crop. If that water is applied properly, and not leached into the soil, the production has been shown much greater. It is very, very evident that irrigating lightly has been more valuable than heavy saturation at one time. And I have found in my experience that it is just as important to get the water off of the ground as it is to get it on. Any time you let it run too long you lose the value. The water drops down below the usage of the crop and that's a detriment to it.

M: Now, how do the farmers in the area find out about that? Through experimentation?

J: Well, he hasn't had as much research on this from our institutions as he might have had. And I'm criticizing the institutions because of that. But the farmer who is a progressive farmer, who watches his crop and has a knowledge of what he has done over a period of years will watch the soil, watch the color of his crops, and he will buy the water as needed. Any plant will show the need of something. He can
go out and he can test his soil with the shovel, bringing up certain depths, see what the moisture condition is there.

Now you've got dozens of different types of soil that even we convert. You have a man with silt soil on top and three or four feet. If he has a gravel condition underneath, he's got to apply water more often and get it off. If he leaves it on there it will saturate the ground and go on down through. He hasn't got use of it, only a certain percentage of it. I think there are available reports on what can be used by the plant itself, but you cannot have a set policy that works for everything because you got so many different types of soil.

We have within the area of the water supply people that we supply water to this loam soil. We have an awful lot of the soil laying some six or eight miles east of here and way down to Weld County that is of a loam soil with twelve to fourteen feet of this loam on top. And down below this probably a shale or hardrock or something. And that loam once saturated pretty good, not to the point where it's gotten too wet, but pretty good, will carry the moisture for a much longer time than lots of other soils. So what one man might farm at one place, maybe a mile or two from there he was to farm a little different.

I pride our company, I pride our people, for being progressive enough to watch their crops, to know when applying water is the proper thing. Of course, we have a handicap. It's just something that comes about because of the variation of things. We have to have the majority of our people wanting
us to furnish water to them. There might be a man in a
certain area that could use water at a time that the majority
of them can't use and he might be a little bit pinched by not
having the proper amount there. Another man in the same
system that while they're turning water out to the rest of
them he might apply too much at one time and it might be
injurious to his crops. I'm not saying that it's injurious
to the system to much extent, but this is natural for any
irrigation company in the United States.

M: You've got to have a question of balance, then don't you?

J: You got to have a question of balance, you got to have a man
that's operating. If he is efficient enough, and if he is
above board and he is watching things, he can get the most
production out of what he's got. But it depends so much
upon that man there. We've had a lot of good people there.
We've had some people that get into a little trouble, of
course, you've got that in anything.

M: What do you do with those people that get in trouble?

J: The finances take care of that. They eliminate themselves
in time.

M: So it's really not a company problem?

J: It's not a company problem because he owns his land, he owns
the water, and what he does with it is not any affair of ours.
Although we might suggest to him we have no voice beyond the
fact we turn him out of what's coming to him.

M: I see. But if he misuses it, that's his problem.
J: It's his problem and his finances will take care of it.

M: Okay, now that covers the area of your system. I need to know where do you get your water? And how do you get it?

J: Okay. Right in line though with what we're saying about where we get our water and how we apply the water--I spend quite a little time in the wintertime in Arizona and California in the southern parts of those states. They have quite a little pride in feeling they can farm the year around and they have so much production. I find in my observation that where they have a big production, what they claim is a production, they harvest so much smaller each time they harvest until their overall production isn't so much greater than ours. The soil has so much to give out each year. And it will give it out so fast to us here that we do it in a short period of time. It may take them a whole year to do it. I find in the Bureau of Reclamation in northern Idaho, Washington and back to Arizona and southern California, they apply an average of five acre feet.

M: That's four times what you use?

J: That's two and a half times what we do. The water becomes very expensive. So we are very fortunate. You ask about where does it come from. Oh, eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is limited. The Rocky Mountains are so situated is that the largest volume of water goes towards the Pacific Ocean to the west. We are limited on this eastern
slopes. These streams coming out and starting in from the Poudre being the north one here in Colorado and we go to the Thomson, the St. Vrain, we go on down to the Arkansas in the southern part of the state. We are limited in the amount of water. We come back to the Poudre which is in our area. The flow of the Poudre is a couple hundred thousand acre feet and they are limited. The appropriation is weak all up and down the river. In the early day there were filings on the river. The river was recognized and those people were allowed water according to the files. The river flow comes early before the crop needs and it comes later in the fall so there are storages. Where they would find a little low place they would build a little dirt bank and they put some storages. This system has ten reservoirs. We go back up to the mountains before the turn of the century. They dammed off a small canyon and started what is now known as Chambers Lake. Chambers Lake has been improved in 1904 to 1906 to a substantial size of storage of 9,000 acre feet.

M: Now this is your company that did this?

J: This is our property we're speaking of.

M: And the stockholders financed this.

J: They financed the building of this all the way down the line. We come on down. We have some smaller lakes shortly below the mouth of the canyon. We have a pretty substantial lake, Rocky Ridge, of 4,000 acre feet of thereabout. We have Number Two and Three below that that stores
another 5,000 acre feet. We have a little lake on the side of that that stores 1,700 or 1,800. We have another, four, that now will store 1,600. We have Curtis Lake above and we have then, Lindenmeier, Number Four, Richards Lake. When we have the extra amount of water, then of course, we have an equalization lake some fifteen miles east of the mouth of the canyon, Black Hollow that will have up to 7,000 acre feet when it's properly filled. This is used as an equalization. We can drop water into there when the lower end may not need it. This is kind of a distribution point.

M: That was all set up to equalize the flow of water through the summer when you need it.

J: Well, hold the water and let it out as we need it.

M: Right.

J: Along in the later 1800's these waters that we have, that I spoke about, were not too ample to give the boys proper irrigation. Some very farsighted people went up and filed on the head of the Colorado River. To my knowledge it's the number one filing on the Colorado River.

M: It flowed the other direction though.

J: It flowed the other direction, across the Continental Divide.

M: They filed on the headwaters of the Colorado. Okay, that's a big problem. The water is going the other way and they are over here.

J: Now they had the foresight is astounding.
M: They must have been thinking about bringing that water over here.

J: Well they were short over here, and they needed some water, and they began reaching out. I can show you pictures where, handshoveling, they made a little canal around the side of the mountain. There's a low place in the Continental Divide in the Poudre Pass at 10,000 feet height. They went around at this 10,000 foot elevation and gained a little elevation until they had taken in about two or three miles of those creeks. They brought it over the Continental Divide and dumped it into the Poudre River with a man and the pick and the shovel and a team of mules and the slip.

M: Now this is that Grand Ditch?

J: This is now termed as the Grand Ditch.

M: And that's the one you can see from Trail Ridge.

J: That is right, across Trail Ridge.

M: It winds around the side of the mountain.

J: Right. Then the old farsighted boys went up and filed on some water going to the Laramie River. They built a three and a half mile ditch around that side taking water from the Laramie River and putting it into Chambers Lake.

M: These are just dirt ditches.

J: Those are dirt ditches.

M: Not reinforced.

J: Not reinforced, they are dirt ditches along the side of a mountain. And this was all done legitimately within the State of Colorado with a compact between the states that
had the right to the water. So it was all done legally.

M: It was also done by hand labor.

J: It was started by hand labor.

M: Sounds like tough work.

J: It was tough work. Those that were able to get out and do it done it and those that didn't fell by the wayside. (Laughter). The old pioneers with the foresight and the constitution were wonderful pioneers. We owe a lot to them.

M: You had this ditch from the headwaters of the Colorado.
You had another one in Laramie.

J: From the Laramie River.

M: From the Laramie River, and you're still short of water?

J: Still short of water because these were little man-made ditches but the foresight of the people was that they filed on more water. But they were only able to bring a small amount over.

M: You mean their files were larger than the amount they could transport?

J: We'll go into that later. Our method of farming began to be progressive and 1902 they built a sugar factory here and they began to move out into a better grade of farming. They began growing sugar beets at that time, I can remember the plant being built there.

M: You mentioned on the other tape you took some water to the workers.

J: Right, right. Well, we became more mechanized and we
increased demands for water. I came into the picture about thirty-seven years ago. We began to be able to do more. They had just before I came in, they had gotten a bond issue of a million and a half to expand the Grand River Ditch. They had hired construction people. Construction people had moved in and started expanding the ditch, this whole fourteen miles that they filed on. The filing was for 524 1/2 second feet of water. We were about four years completing that to Baker Gulch to fourteen miles and improving the quality of the ditch to where we could bring this over close to our filing.

M: What did you have to do to improve the quality of the ditch?

J: Had to widen, go in, and make a ditch with a twelve foot bottom all along the side of the mountain.

M: How wide was the ditch to begin with?

J: Something like three to four feet wide.

M: And how deep?

J: Two or three feet deep. It was man-made and then as we got the mechanization and engineering and widened this and dynamited and made it a larger canal all up the side of that mountain.

M: So you had a twelve-foot bottom then?

J: Twelve-foot bottom and about four and a half to five foot bank that we can drive on, drive vehicles on.

M: So you had a road along side the canal.

J: Yes, a maintenance road on the side of this ditch, the whole
fourteen miles.

M: And it's still a dirt ditch though.

J: Still a dirt ditch though, excepting we have some probably 12,000 feet of steel on the upper end where we had big slides. Where there was less amount of water we could put in five foot pipes. As I say we had twelve foot bottom on the lower two-thirds of it up around where we have smaller creeks. We have sixteen creeks come into this.

M: All right, this may sound kind of silly to you, but what keeps that ditch from eroding? From washing out?

J: At each of the sixteen creeks that come down from the higher range of the mountains that flow into the ditch, directly below where that comes in we have put in a four-foot pipe and then we have a control on this and what the ditch doesn't handle goes on through the old creeks. So we have sixteen different outlets.

This naturally requires supervision and operation all the time. As you might know, the mountains up there have a peak of thaw two or three o'clock in the afternoon. You have a freezing that same night that cuts it down to probably one-third of what the peak was. So we have to have arrangements to take care of the peak as much as we can. Anything over the peak, any storm up there has got to be passed on down in these sixteen different creeks.

M: Does the pipe, the conduit that you have up there, have an overload, so that if there is an overload that goes on that creek bed and the conduit will only take a maximum?
J: Right. We have that regulated. We have to keep men patrolling this all the time to regulate those.

M: But there doesn't have to be a man to adjust each one everyday?

J: A man might drive by every once and awhile and see if one needed adjustment.

M: I see.

J: But we're getting ahead of ourselves too on this particular system you got here. This is up above 10,000 elevation. It's winter up there and the Never-Summer Range may get ten to fifteen feet of snow. We can't wait for this to thaw out to come into the ditch, so back in my time, we used to get as high as seventy-five men in there with pick and a shovel and they dug a trench about two and a half feet wide up along inside of the ditch so that when the water would start to falling and go down it'd naturally fall on the rest of it and open up the ditch. We used to hire those men for two dollars and two and a half a day. And then feed them and all, and put them in boots and goggles so the sun wouldn't burn their eyes and canvas gloves. It was a job. This is what the farmers have gone through.

M: This kind of crew would go up there when?

J: Well, I'll tell you, about the tenth day of April. They'd get at the flowing maybe the tenth day of May. They spent a whole month opening this up. They had a snowshoe in those days too. Camp provisions had to be set up with a lot of groceries there too. I don't know if men would do
that anymore.

M: They lived in tents or what?

J: No, we had camps up there, log cabins. We had at one time seven different camps. We have now machinery that puts a trench up there and starts this thawing in the spring. We consolidated into two camps—days are changing. The operation is changing, but it requires an investment in equipment of several hundred thousand dollars, but this is part of our game.

Okay at about the same time we started developing the Skyline Ditch that we spoke about from the head of the Laramie River into Chambers Lake. We got that up to where it would carry in the state transmountain diversion as much as 10,000 acre feet in one year. There was a company formed in the early 1900's to take more water from the Laramie River below our Skyline Ditch. This company was a farm company to take waters from the Laramie River. They formed the company, sold bonds, and dug a tunnel 13,000 feet, through the Continental Divide from the Laramie River and filed on the waters from the Rain Falls and the lake reservoirs. Then they were to divert that water to an area north of the Water Supply and Storage Ditches. The farmers did not farm there. They owned the land but never made any attempt to farm or put it under irrigation. So for several years the water that they did divert through their tunnel was only leased to other people and they defaulted pretty heavily on their bond issue. Our company
Water Supply and Storage Company, borrowed $250,000 and bought the bonds of the then Poudre Tunnel Irrigation Company. And we diverted that then into the Water Supply and Storage. So we acquired waters making the total amount of water from the Laramie River 19,750 acre feet. Along with the waters of the Grand Ditch, when it's been needed, we've been able to divert something like 40,000 acre feet of transmountain diversion water. This was done by a group of farmers.

But to tie into this now, as we increased the flow from the Grand Ditch from the head of the Colorado River, this instigated storage in the high mountains of that water. So in the '30's, we had built what is known as Long Draw Reservoir. It had a capacity of 4,480 acre feet. We had acquired a tremendous indebtedness in developing the Grand Ditch, and other sources of correcting some of the lakes. We had New York money costing us eight and a half to twelve percent. The Denver banks had enough confidence in us to offer to loan us that money for two and a half percent. We paid them off in the twenty years that we were supposed to and some fourteen years ago we completely owned the whole system, paid off.

M: Without debt?
J: Without debt. We'd been forced to borrow a few thousand dollars in the middle of a season to carry us until the next assessment.
M: But you are a non-profit organization.
J: Non-profit organization.
M: Does that mean that the price of water drops for the users once you got out of debt?

J: It meant that we didn't have to assess them quite as much.

M: I see.

J: But then the fact we have the inflation and the extra cost until we're back to our other assessment. Anyhow, we have not been able to use some of the transmountain diversion through the period of a year when there would be an excessive amount of water in the Poudre. Our storage would be taken care of. We'd have plenty of water on the side. So we have been doing some research and found out that we could improve the size of the Long Draw Reservoir. I might tell you it's been quite a job to meet with the environmental groups and to get what we have accomplished. A year ago we had accomplished a loan from the Small Loans Department of the Water Facilities, a million and three hundred thousand dollars for fifty years without interest, and a grant from the Wildlife and Game and Fish for $350,000 to increase the size of Long Draw Reservoir to 11,000 acre feet, making it possible to bring more across and hold it at the time when we had an excessive amount of water here.

M: You said that was difficult to do, that is to get the permission to expand. You mentioned the environmentalists. What's the difficulty?

J: Oh, you've got a dozen different things. First place, the west slope says you can't take more water over. Our company filed on it in the 1880's with ditches laid into the
national park. We had to get an act of congress to remove the lake out of the national park. The environmentalists said we were destroying some natural habitation for speckled trout, we were destroying some of the meadows that the deer and the elk might be using, and we were destroying some of the possibilities of the bighorn sheep. We have the agreement with Game and Fish that they can use this for recreation. We have campsights. Then again, your Colorado Conservancy District from the western slopes and a hundred ways that we were going to injure the community by diverting the water and if you don't think it's a problem you just tackle it.

M: You had to answer all these?

J: Answer everything. It delayed us one year in answering all of these things and then finally after all this it had to go to Washington and delay there for some sixty days for anybody to attack it back there.

M: How did you answer the environmentalists? They say you're going to hurt the habitat of the bighorn sheep. How can you answer them?

J: The bighorn sheep were ranging above this.

M: Okay.

J: They didn't range in the draws at all because of certain elements that they have up there. They don't live down in the valley because they can't live with the elements that are down there. They have to have certain places. And again, everybody knows that a nice reservoir in the
mountains for everybody and all is the thing. We got 300 farmers to participate in it. We were producing crops for millions of people. You have to take all of that into consideration. So we had all of these to answer, and the Bureau of Reclamation did a wonderful job working with us. But we're not under the bureau, we only do this under their specifications. The grants, the loans, and all is to us, but we have to do it under their specifications. So it's been a problem. We have spent one year of development and we think we have it fifty-five percent developed. It will be completed in the next year.

M: How did you answer the people on the western slope? Now they have been increasingly edgy about water coming to the east. What do you tell them? Now you've got the prior claims to be sure, but still they are going to argue.

J: Right. Well, to go back, and I can't give you the exact figures, but there was a compact made back in before the turn of the century. The state of Colorado was entitled to some 550,000 acre feet. Utah, Arizona and California and New Mexico were entitled to so much. This is a compact, international compact. Our filings on this water were only a small part of this compact, and it was of such a date that we were entitled to it. And then they had such little things that came up, say well, there are game and fish and we have to have a puddle of 600 acre feet there so that the fish won't freeze up. Now, you're filing your grants from the federal government all for irrigation purposes
only and you can't store fish. So we had to show them that we were storing that amount of water from this side of the slope. Then they tried to attack us that we were a scar on the side of the mountain. Sure, we're a scar on the side of the mountain, but it's uninhabited. They are a scar on the side of the mountain in all the roads and all the trails. Everything they do is a scar there. To get the progress, we've got to feed the people, we've got to do our duty. We fully convinced them in their mind but we didn't drive them down. Washington approved our answers and gave us the grant.

M: And this grant, this expansion, will give you how much more water?

J: It will increase our storage from 4,400 to 11,000 acre feet. This is not only that extension of 6,000 acre feet, but with the storage ample at the time, we might fill and re-fill and use it. We might double that amount because we store it away when we don't need it here and then we pull it out real fast when we do need it. We need room to put in some more because the law is such with our transmountain diversion, we do as we please after we bring it over here with control over anybody with the water on this side.

M: Okay, now you've got a system of reservoirs and you're going to expand them and you want to store water up there, but someplace along the line somebody has got to decide how much water is going to go in there, how much you're going to let flow on down the streams, how much you're going to bring from the western slope. Isn't there a point of
decision that you have to make in which you predict how much the farmers are going to need, and what the snowfall has been, what the levels of your reservoirs are going to be, or is this more or less taken care of automatically?

J: Well, you have a reservoir that has a filing on this reservoir to hold so much.

M: You try to keep it at capacity then?

J: No, no, you can do it at your own free will inbetween this peak. But they're under inspection. You got a condition in them that you can go up to this peak. There is nothing saying to anybody what you might go below this. You can use it up, that's your own, but all the filings on the river here is you put so much in. After you take that out that year, you can't put more back in there. With the transmountain diversion we can do as we please. But of course, we have a water commissioner here that tells you when you can take out of the river. He can't tell you where to store it. That's our business where we can store it. But the control of that water coming across is controlled by weather mostly. Now we have a filing of 524 second feet. And that's doubled in acre feet for every twenty-four hours. Now we can't bring that over here and dump it into the river. We have to use that water over here. And if we're not able to use it we got to let it go back over there. So it's all controlled under an automatic system. Does that answer your question?

M: Yeah, I think so. During the 1950's about '54, '55, there were a series of dry years, about three of them how did
that affect your system? In your reservoirs, were you able to keep your supply up?

J: Yes, we were affected, maybe fifteen percent. But not enough to curtail our production.

M: And I would assume with your expansion of your reservoirs such a threat would not be as great in the future.

J: To go back to the years that you spoke about, I've got to be honest all the way down the line. We could have been affected a great deal more. About that time they completed the Big T. That water was available to take care of a pinch at the time. It took us over a rough place and we have been very fortunate. We were not affected heavy in those droughts. Now your Horsetooth water here, the Big T Diversion, they are so set up that someone will want so much water diverted over. They carry a supply all the time and if they think there's plenty of water here, they only allow maybe fifty-sixty percent to be used that year. Then if you get the dry year they can go up to the hundred percent. With our systems of storage, increasing the storage, and with that we feel pretty well taken care of.

M: Well, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District then could help you out?

J: They do help us out.

M: And they would do this by diverting some of their water into the Poudre and you would draw on it, or what?

J: Well, let's go back a little farther, when they were set up they contracted so many units of that to different ones.
And then we had at the time about 20,000 units come into our system owned by the individual farmer that came into our system. Since that as water has gotten very high, almost half of that has been sold to cities. And a lot of our ground around Fort Collins has been occupied by people. It seems they're changing. We're in a very changing world. And I don't know what the future does hold for us.

M: That raises a question too.

J: Right.

M: If this out here right outside your window was once irrigated farmland, under your system, and now you have a bunch of houses out there, or some other use for the land, other than farming, what happened to the water?

J: Well, when I went into the city administration, in '62, I went in as a mayor, and I was forced in, not by my wishes, but because I was forced in. They were in trouble with water, they were rationing water. As the city took in a piece of ground, then the farmer, the developer, he took and cashed in on the water and the city had a limited amount of water, expanding the usage until they ran themselves real short. So there were six lawyers who said, "We're going to put you in there. You're going to have to straighten up the water thing." So I went in as a dumb farmer, might get himself into boxes.

The first thing I did was organize a water board. In fact, I have a meeting this morning with the water board. Then I started a program of purchasing Big T water. The
council was very cooperative because they were in trouble. I started a program that any annexation of any piece of land, any development of any piece of land, before they could have water on that they had to turn over two-acre feet of water off that farm to the city. We figured on ample water to take care of the development of three and a half homes on an acre of land. Same thing today. You've got your apartments, and duplexes, so now we're going to three and a half acre feet.

M: And I assume that water usage has gone up.

J: It's going up. So to go back to your question. As these lands are developing, they are forced to turn this water to the city.

M: Okay, that means that some of your water from your company goes to the city of Fort Collins?

J: Some of the water becomes their property. We are keeping our company as of this time on a basis where all our water stays in the system. But we're paying them some waters we have in reservoirs for their usage. Yes, it's doing just like you say though, it's going to city usage. And it must do that.

M: Sure, the land is changing. It's becoming urbanized.

J: Right. And that water should go to the city. Now we have dogooders, and they just burn me up, saying we're going to build up on this dry land, we're going to build up here in the mountains. We're going to save this good land. If they build up there, they are going to take the water, and
they make dry land out of your farm down here. It's so foolish. You just might as well build on the good land if you're going to take the water, cause you're limited in the amount of water.

M: Okay, but that's a dilemma.

J: Okay, you've faced it. Nationally, they're two million acres a year. Some day some of your boys are going to go hungry and it might be you and I.

M: Because we put houses on the . . . .

J: And highways.

M: Sure.

J: Turnpikes. You're facing something sometime because we're all out of getting at our balance now with prices and commodities. I sold beans for two and a half, three and a half, four dollars last year, seven and a half. They're twenty-five dollars a hundred today.

M: Well, your company though is exhibiting, showing a flexibility.

J: Have to.

M: It would seem to be slowly changing from a company to supply the farmers to supplying an urbanized area.

J: I stayed in there for four years to change all this water thing and you see where I'm at now? (Laughter). We're meeting this afternoon so that we can acquire water. And I started a program of acquiring water beyond the needs, fifteen to twenty-five percent beyond, now maybe up to forty percent of what our needs are today. But expansion
is coming here and we have to have it.

M: Okay, the price of water has been going up too. Why is it so much more today?

J: Demand.

M: You mean there are just so many people demanding the water. And I suppose business too.

J: Well, you have the City of Fort Collins. Before I went in they said we won't serve anybody beyond a certain point. We met with the city, asked them to bring a pipeline out here to serve a group that we were developing here on East Hulberry. These people are not just shoved into a corner and cowtowed with little things like that. Here pipeline companies developed to give water to these people. We have five of them around the City of Fort Collins now.

M: These are all water districts?

J: All water districts. You drive east of here and you see homes all over this country that are furnished water. You have the Kodak people, big outfit, I don't know that they're too good for us, but they are acquiring an awful lot of water and putting a lot of people to work. Fine and dandy probably, but it's made an artificial price that's boosted up. In 1934 I bought Water Supply and Storage stock for about $2,400 a share. It has been transferred up to $33,000. This is what demand is making. Of course, we've developed from the time I bought the first, we increased it many times. Demand, I go back and say, demand.
M: There's another aspect to this. You've diverted water from the west slope, but obviously in this last expansion of your reservoir, the Long Draw Reservoir, there has been resistance, increasing resistance. This would imply that there is sort of an upper limit to what you can do.

J: Right.

M: Not only because of the amount of water there, but because of all these groups that are resisting you.

J: Right, and another thing you're facing there now is that we have to have fuel. We're going to develop those shale lands over on the other side, that demands a lot of water. They have got to cool that, evaporate a lot. So they're going to pressure harder now. I'm sure glad we've got what we have got. I think in the neighborhood of 175,000 acre feet is in the national compact, and the compact with the states. They could change that. Now Denver has been a diverter of water, you know. And it's costing billions of dollars and it looks like there is going to come a time to put kind of a stop to that. What Denver or any other town would pay for what we have and diversion here into our system, it is in the billions if they go after it.

M: If there is an upper limit to the amount of water, what's this area going to do when more people move in?

J: From my full observation, and I can't see very far, but last year I spent some time in Idaho and Washington state; I was in New York, Boston, Baltimore; I've been in Arizona within this last year. And all are talking about northern
Colorado. In California the population of the state has been increasing but southern is dropping. A lot of people from California are coming in here. The average year here is pretty desirable. It's a nice place to live. They are going to be coming in. I've seen Nevada, Arizona, and all of those places develop. Phoenix right now is just kind of busted. They've just grown so fast there it seems like financially now they are in trouble. They've gone to the extreme development of the water, their gases and all, and then it's just gone dead. Just right now. I was just there about a month ago.

But they are looking at us. They are going to be coming here and witnessing booms like Las Vegas, Phoenix and those places. And you put a million and a half people up here and they are going to consume the water. They are going to cut out the production—the tap feeding of cattle right here, in this area. And sugar production, now you take an add that one of the states. And I don't think it's good. It's going there and if you can see a town, a worthless good for nothing area develop like Las Vegas, I've seen Phoenix grow from a smaller town in seventy years than Denver, in and out of there. And this thing looks like it's right on that same trend. Now one of the things that Phoenix is trying to do is, one of the most astounding things you'll probably see, the Havasu and the Colorado River. And Phoenix is getting all lined up the State of Arizona. They will spend a billion and a half dollars to
bring water back to Phoenix. Now this country comes to that time they are going to spend a billion dollars and go and tap some of that stuff up north. But the good old days were here when I drove the horse and buggy down here and drove on the left side of the road if I wanted to and everything was pretty and went into a little town up here, 10,000 people, and I knew everybody there and said hello to everybody as you went down the streets. And it was a pleasant place, it's no more, and it's going to get just like Chicago.

M: But the water will have to come from the northwest?

J: You'll have to there, because they used everything coming this way.

M: And that's pretty expensive I would think.

J: Yeah, that's right. But that's where you're headed for if it keeps on. Of course, the population is not increasing as much as it has lately, but the foreigners are coming in and if they move out of the other places into here--of course, I don't have a hundred years to live yet.

M: Is there an increasing demand for water among the agricultural people?

J: There is a development of hybrids, more efficient farming. As prices go up it's going to increase that much more and they're going to demand certain crops, certain things, demand more, intensified, more efficient uses.

M: The history of your company indicates almost a continual effort to expand the supply of water. Now part of that
demand obviously is going to be the growth of places like Fort Collins. But it also seems that the agricultural regions were increasing.

J: Yes it is. Before they farmed around a place that didn't produce well. A man had a quarter section out here, eight or ten acres on the side that wasn't producing, he put it on dry land, he didn't take very good care of it. Now every foot of he is trying because he needs it, he can get that production. He can do a better job. Expense had gone up and he just had to have a little better crop.

M: So you got water for them?

J: Got water for them. We had to have better water for them.

M: Well did these people come to you and in effect say I'll buy into your company so I can get more water. Was that possible?

J: You see, we don't have any stocks. It's all owned by the individual. So they come and say, "Where is somebody who would sell me some?" And we have a list of some that want to buy some. So this is the way it's operated.

M: So it would be the individual farmer dealing with the stockholder.

J: Right.

M: And they would make a deal and swap for it.

J: All we would do is point to the man that might have it.

M: But was there any expansion of the stock?

J: No, we've never issued new stock; it always goes back to all over the present stockholders because they are the
ones we assess for the money to operate.

M: Did you increase over time the amount of water that the stockholders could get?

J: As much as three times.

M: Three times. So that there was, in effect, an expansion of the water you were supplying to the agricultural region?

J: Right, yes, right. To the individuals, and he's paying the bill for it.

M: Right, I see. Okay, I think that takes care of the question about where you could get your water and also the question about the price of water and why it's gone up. And where it's going. You mentioned increasing urban use of water, so that kind of indicates where the trend of water flow. Do you see at this time an expansion, any further expansion in your company? You're going to expand your reservoir, the Long Draw Reservoir, which you just got permission to do. Are you going to do any more of this kind of thing?

J: Well, I'm afraid up to this point we won't make ends meet with the water. I'll show you what we have. We've been talking about the diversion water. The diversion water is about a third of the total amount of water that we have. So I think for your information we should state something about our decrees on the Poudre itself. Is that right?

M: Good. That's the next area I was going to go to.

J: Okay, the system is made up with different decrees that they might have. Way back the early fellows filed up here, and as they acquired farms they acquired certain decrees.
And some of the filings that they had were small, but we have about a dozen of them that makes up something like forty-seven second feet of water, a constant flow all the time. Okay, then there are some filings that you have to get up to about 2,500 feet on the river that we've come in pretty heavy. But those filings are not there at the time of need. They just have the flush in the spring. But they do have some very good filings of reservoirs. Now the filings they have on the reservoirs of the fall flow after the irrigation water might go back and say we have an irrigation season. An irrigation season would be say from the first of May until the fifteenth of September. And the waters between that time that might be in the river can go to storage in our reservoirs. We have capacities in the lakes and the valleys and all about 45,000 acre feet. So we get a storage in there from various times into certain reservoirs as they have decreed on the river to store. So this making up our eighty-five thousand acre feet average flow that we're getting. That has to come into the picture, see. We talked about diversion but we still have the river supplies here that takes care of about sixty percent of this.

M: Are there changes and shifts of those decrees?

J: All the time, every twenty-four hours maybe. We as a company have installed equipment up the river to electrically give information. The water commissioner has a filing there of all of this stuff on the river and today and a certain man
comes in and another man comes in and need so many feet, you see. All of our men at their headgates, have constant contact with them and they have brought this flow into the canals and lakes and whatever we might be using. Each day has a change on it. We have a man that's the superintendent up here, we have air communications, and each morning he knows which is going where. And then our water commissioner here sends this information into the state so the state knows everyday just what we're doing. It's a very technical setup but it is working good. Now another thing that is very advantageous to us. It was started up here in northern Colorado. We were criticized pretty severely for it but the whole state and other states are now involved, are approving and doing it. We might set out here with a reservoir with quite a little extra water and another fellow is in trouble over here. We let him pull from our reservoirs until he might have another flow come in and pay us back. We change back and forth. The North Poudre needed so much of water and we have this mountain water up here. They can't get some of their water in the lower lakes out to some of their men. They might turn to us because we are a lower ditch and we can get it in there. Pull them out of the upper mountain water if they take to their upper storage. So we have an exchange going on all the time.

M: There's cooperation then?

J: Cooperation. It's been perfect in the northern Colorado and we've done it. We were accused of being illegal--that you
had to put water in and use the water just where it was, but we've done this several years, and the state has recognized it and now they approve it. And it's been wonderful for the area, to cooperate and interchange and keep everybody in the best usage. That goes right along with the requirements of best usage.

M: Otherwise, you might have an excess of water and they wouldn't have enough.

J: Right. But if we can exchange and meet some of their needs and they give us something to fit our needs, we do that with the city. We exchange water with them. I set up all of this when I was in there. The exchanging. Now I've had four years and I got out. But I'm still setting in. I think every man should do what he can for his community.

M: Did this company ever consider the generation of electricity? Power generation with the system and the reservoirs?

J: Well we don't have any setup where we would be in a position to do much generating. Now there was a big study and I acted as secretary to a group for four years with the Bureau of Reclamation which spent about $400,000 in a study of the Poudre. They had a power plant pretty well devised to where we would spill that water 1,100 feet above the turbine and make a good power plant. But right at the time, this had been seven or eight years ago, when we got both completed in the plans and Washington said, "Well it doesn't look like we're going to need that one at all." They didn't approve the money. We had a $1,850,000 project up at the
the Poudre to harness this and make it. It has fallen through.

Now they need it so bad and it was curtailed. Down here they built up the Poudre and you couldn't move the people out of there now to build those reservoirs and so we lost that. No we don't have any places where we might build up. You see, the waters that come there are so reasonable, unless you've got a big place to put it so that they could feed it through there, your power plants won't work. That's our handicap.

M: I would assume, but I don't know for certain, that water purity is no problem for you.

J: No, no, we're so close up here to the natural sources of melting snow and the most perfect water in the world. Now years ago you could lay down on your stomach in the river and have pure water. And some eight, ten years ago, we had these little areas up there where they had camp sites and the water service went in and put a little pump and they pumped the clean water out. Seven or eight years ago they had to close all them because they were contaminated because there were people going up there everywhere and going behind bushes and everything. They found all that contaminated. But the big flow down the river with filter plant up here, it's just pretty good even yet. Of course, they have it treated now, so much more than they were used to.

M: For agricultural uses that's no problem?
J: Sweet water, real sweet water.

M: And I suppose not too high a mineral content?

J: Yeah that's right. There's quite a little mineral content in some of the wells that they've got here, where it's leached into that. It will run minerals in it, but it's mostly salts.

M: You mentioned right at the first when we started this morning about research. Now we touched on a lot of those points. Are there some other areas of research that we haven't touched on?

J: One of the things that I've often thought about. I think we would be very well helped if there was some research for this man out here on a certain type of a soil. If he knew from some research just the best amount of moisture to apply to that particular ground for the best production, I think as we get more deeper into a need for this stuff, we're going to have to go more into scientific production. I think there's a big field for research for the best that you can get out of a certain type of soil. You can't take off forty miles from here and find very much of it alike. It changes tremendously.

M: So what you're suggesting is a very close look at small portions of land.

J: I think it's going to have to come. If we want to produce for these people and they are going to build on this land, and we get a shorter amount of land, we'd better know more above what we're doing, each one.
M: Okay, I need to ask you some questions about your personal life. You mentioned all this work with this company. All this time you remained on the board I assume, and you are now a member of the board. Is this your position?

J: I'm a member and president of the board. I've been constant on the board since '36.

M: This has been a constant job for you except for this period of mayorship, I suppose?

J: Well no, I didn't change it. I still held the same position here when I was mayor and I still farmed a good many years. But it took a lot of thought. Of course, in the early years, we had presidents, but being a younger man they pushed me into all of these activities that I spoke of. And I've had the activities. I have not been president of the company too many years, but I was executive vice-president and I was still railroaded for all those jobs all down the line. When I was a younger man, you see.

M: Is this a paying job? Do they pay you to do this?

J: It's not a big salary.

M: But there is some compensation.

J: Five and a half a month, yes. But they couldn't hire an inexperienced man for $25,000 a year to do this because he wouldn't know.

M: Well, all this time though, you are still working your farm?

J: I lease the farm out. I own an equipment business up here. I own property that I have under lease to people. This is just one little corner of my activities.
M: Yes, when did you get into the equipment business?

J: Well, in '44 I was on the farm. The younger boy wasn't able to do much on the farm, the older boy was taken into college. And they went to war and I was state secretary of the Colorado Farm Bureau and I've always been tangled up in this and always been into other activities of the government. I went into town and they had me at all the meetings and they had me secretary to the War Food Administration locally here. I was in a lot of things and all the meetings and I just get fed up with that, fat and lazy, and had to do something so I took out a real estate license. I sold a lot of houses here in town. These Allis-Chalmers people came along. They had a house over in Greeley and I had loaned some money to a man who was there. So he brought the firm out from Milwaukee and they said they needed an agency over in Fort Collins and would I set up an agency of Allis-Chalmers farm machinery. Well, the boy who was gone he had gotten back from the war, and he was going to get out of school. I had a son-in-law that was up in Wyoming taking care of a filling station and he wasn't doing very much, so I said, "Oh, I guess I'll do that." So I built a place uptown and they took the agency of Allis Chalmers. Now we have Allis-Chalmers, the Oliver, and the New Holland, and the Farm Hand and about a dozen different ones. I weathered that through all the hard times since '46, and I have my son-in-law operating it now.

M: And so you got into the selling of all kinds of agricultural
machinery. Is it all farming equipment?

J: Yes, farming equipment although we had some industrial. It got so big that we just couldn't be bothered with that. We started in selling tractors for $650. The boy sold a tractor this week for $16,700. So there's been a little change in that. 180 horsepower and the others had about twenty-four horsepower. That's the change in farming.

M: That makes farming an expensive business.

J: If I was about forty years younger I'd like to go back and just use that machinery. (Laughter).

M: So you had the equipment business, and you were in real estate, and you were working here.

J: And still operating the farm with the livestock and I've had lambs on feedlots since 1921. I've had from 1,000 to 4,000 lambs and this is the first year since 1920, the corral hasn't been full of lambs for the winter. I've had cattle feeders about 150 of the 500 head of cattle every winter. And last spring when I came home from Arizona I sold out, I didn't restock. I'm buying a hundred head of cattle now right away. I operate the livestock myself and the tenant does the farmwork.

M: Why is the feeding of lambs dropping? You say you don't have it full this year.

J: Way back here in the beginning of the farming this country was adapted to alfalfa and barley. It couldn't have much of a market. It was worth two to four dollars a ton. They got the idea of bringing down into here several million
heads of lambs to put into corrals and to feed this alfalfa and barley. As this began to operate they put that pulp into them. One time this was the greatest lamb feeding area in the United States.

M: What happened?

J: In '21 I got into that and fed them every year. I used to go out on the range and buy as high as 20,000 for the bank here to sell it to the customers. I dropped out about five years ago. This is the first fall that I haven't filled up the corral with lambs due to finish out since 1921.

M: But since this was once one of the largest lamb feeding areas in the country, what's happened to them. It doesn't seem to be that way anymore.

J: Well, yes. Back in the operations that I went through, two-thirds of the quarter sections out here had a little corral to feed 300 to 10,000. It's a constant job. I used to carry the grain out, hitch up the hay, and carry the grain out in twice a day into bunks as they came out. And as the other generations come along here, they were inclined to feed cattle, they could feed them once a day and go off to town and go to something else. And it's become a cattle feeding country. I couldn't tell you the millions of heads we had in here. Then they dropped it to a small amount, only about five percent of them now are feeding lambs. It's been a change in the operators that made the change in livestock.

M: What about the market?
J: The lambs, yes. Market on the lambs, well, it's going down through the line. In the '30's there they came out with synthetics, and the wool went down from a dollar a pound to ten, fifteen cents a pound. That was a big change. And so I fed the cattle all during this time and a lot of times I did cattle, the lambs had to pay the bill. So that made a great attraction for me for lambs.

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M: The tape is now going and this is a third session with Mr. Harvey Johnson. I'm again at his office at the Water Supply and Storage Company. The date is January 18, 1974. It's 9:00 in the morning and my name is David McComb. One of the categories I wanted to ask you about was when you were mayor of Fort Collins. It was mentioned last time that some of your friends got together and said that you had to be mayor. Now why was that?

J: Well, two or three different reasons. I being a farm boy and not too particularly interested in politics, I was a little shocked when they approached me and said that they expected that I should be made a councilman and a mayor in Fort Collins because of problems. The number one problem was that the City of Fort Collins over a long period of years had not acquired any additional water. It had growth going on but it had not particularly paid much attention to the filtrations of the water coming into the city. They were so limited that two years proceeding this the city had been on a rationing of water for lawns. They let one side water one day and this side of the street another day. And it was quite dissatisfying.

Secondly, they had a manager who had been very contrary to the promotions or developments of water. They had not allowed anybody to tap water outside of the city. The council had discharged this manager when he was on a vacation and hired another inexperienced man in his place. He, in turn, had hired a chief of police who had connections
in Kansas City. My friends expressed themselves that I was picked as one man may be with a determination enough that might clean this thing up. Big order. But they placed it on me. And I said, well, I didn't particularly want to get into politics at all. I had been very busy. This committee consisting of lawyers, bankers and several of them in the city said, "We'll do all the campaigning and pay all the money." So I found myself elected to the council and the council in turn then elected a mayor. I found myself mayor in the City of Fort Collins.

M: You had problems then, I guess with water. What did you do to solve that?

J: There had been no acquisitions of water in any type. And the city had begun to annex some additional lands around the town. The city made no effort to acquire additional water. So the farmer that sold this land to a developer kept the water and sold it down the ditch to some other users. And there was water offered at a very nominal price to the City of Fort Collins for a good many years—the Big T water. No effort was made to acquire any water. Immediately, having the experience of developing water, I had conversed with other cities that had had similar problems, and I set up a water board. And there had never been anyone outside of the manager who had ever heard anything about the water. Prior to this a few years, the city was governed by a commission. A three man commission—one man was a utility man, one of the commissioners had
public works, another one had the general overall.

We had a situation where we needed development. The council was very cooperative, the expression had been given of the need of the town, and there was at that time elected three new members with me. They were very receptive to my suggestions. I suggested that we proceed to purchase available Big T water and any other waters that could be diverted to the use of the City of Fort Collins. And we immediately adopted a policy whereby anyone annexing the city, into the city with land, had to furnish the amount of water that had been on that farm that was equal to two acre feet per acre to the city.

It was a little touchy at the time, but we put a price on the water at that time. There was a new thing coming about and your developer and everything resisted, but we paid for the water at a very nominal price. And then as we developed farther, we requested the developer to give to the city that water that equaled so much. And if there was not enough water on that farm they went out and acquired it or else paid cash into the city treasury. We had a rough idea of what was on that farm with two acre feet. If three houses were put on that acre there would be ample water to supply them. Since then with so many apartments and larger developments in areas we've had to go to a three acre feet requirement for each acre. But now it's next to the city. Those were this was probably the biggest move that we made.
It was a period of time that agriculture was a little tight on funds and it was very easy to put out the information that we would buy water. And a good amount of available water was offered to the city. We started in buying Horsetooth water at $105 a unit. We picked up several thousand units and kept graduating up in price until now it's $350 an acre. We purchased some North Poudre water at $200 a unit. Several hundred units of that and now the city has something like 1,000 units of that. It has elevated in price up to $2,000 a unit. We have acquired several shares of the Arthur Ditch, several shares of the Mercer, several shares of the Number Two. The city has acquired eight shares of the Water Supply and Storage. They have acquired something like 15,000 units of Horsetooth and it sounds like quite a lot of water but with the growth of the business in many years we would be out again unless we kept a persistent effort to keep picking up water all the time. We are developing very fast, seemingly more fast than any other city at the present time in northern Colorado.

So then we had other problems in the city as I had mentioned. This manager had the ill will of so many people, and he was a very, well, he made so much trouble, we requested his resignation. He refused. We had a hearing and in the hearing we discharged the manager, his assistant, the chief of police and the chief of police assistant. One after another. There was an awful lot of uproar in the
whole town. We appointed then a man by the name of Bill Widows who was with the electric department in the City of Fort Collins and had been with the city for a good many years and had been a good stable man. We appointed him as manager. We had an assistant in the police department named Joe Buck. We made him chief of police and the city quieted down and operated for eight months. We had 180 applications for manager before we finally settled on a man from Laramie, Wyoming. Things smoothed down and it was a lovely experience to have some wonderful cooperation from the greatest people that ever lived, the people of Fort Collins. They were behind every move that we went out for.

M: So the people then really didn't object to your cleaning house.

J: We had a little element in the hearing sixty, seventy people there, and there were sixteen people that tried to make a disturbance. That's all. It was a marvelous result that we got out of.

M: How did you get along with Colorado State at that time?

J: Colorado State has always been cooperative. We found that Colorado State was receiving water at nine cents a thousand gallons and electricity below the cost. We made changes. Bill Morgan, then president of the college, was very cooperative. We had the responsibility of showing them and proving to them our conditions and we had very fine cooperation with them.

M: So there was no great division between the town and the university.
J: No, no. It's been wonderful. I got probably the closest a man ever got to the president of the college on these operations and he supported me in everything that I attempted to do.

M: Did it bother you while you were mayor that the city was spreading into some of the good farm land of the area?

J: This is always a problem that we had before us then and now. Nationally, I wouldn't attempt to quote the exact figures, but they're something like a million and a half acres of farm land being covered each year by developers. We look at the local situation and people will say, well, let's build on the area but that way and save the good farm land. It's not possible to do such as that because the people are going to demand and have to have so much water. We have a limited amount of water. And if they build in the mountains or off of our irrigated land, they would take the water off of the land, and then we will have dry land. This is being done to quite an extent in the northern part of the county, right now. Waters that we have purchased in the city, the pipeline's that we've purchased are off of farmland in the north Poudre. As of today the city is not using all the water that they have. They are running back to the farmers. But as the city grows more, they will take the water and there will be more dry land around the city of Fort Collins. So the development of the country that we live in here will take water away from agriculture. And still agriculture is the leading
commodity in Colorado and more so northern Colorado is up top with any in the United States.

M: Not just taking the land, but the water.

J: They take the water, they have taken production of the land. And somewhere someday not too far hence, somebody has got to go hungry if we don't get a change. That's my prediction.

M: Okay, you were mayor for what, one term?

J: I was mayor for two terms. And then I requested that I not be nominated again because I had other interests and felt that I had done what I went in for.

M: Okay, and that was to get the water situation straightened out and the police and the city manager.

J: Yes.

M: Another category of questions I need to ask you, I think we can clean up pretty quickly, this has to do with your family, your children and your grandchildren. Now you married and you had how many children?

J: We had three children, two boys and one daughter. During the time I was mayor, I lost the mother of these children after forty-nine years. And later I married the sister of the mother of the children. She has a son with a family, with grandchildren and a couple of great-grandchildren. My older daughter raised four children. Three are married, and I have four great-grandchildren in that family. My son, the second one, in Greeley, has two children, both in college. He is manufacturing in Greeley, a large irrigation
sprinkling job. The younger son is married and has four children. The youngest son has been out at United Airlines for seventeen years. He has farms and raises pure-bred cattle. My son-in-law is managing my equipment business now, so the family is around me. The two boys living in Greeley and the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren are strung from Alaska to Pittsburgh.

M: Well, we've covered a lot of things about your life. Your coming to Colorado, your childhood, your work here, going back to Detroit, irrigation, water storage that you are involved with, and what we've done today. Is there anything else that we should get into?

J: Well, it's been a very interesting period of life. I have at the same time I have carried on various other activities. In '36 I acted as State Secretary of the Colorado Farm Bureau and developed the Colorado Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. Those were some of the activities and all through the time on the farm I was active in development of all the agricultural programs. When I moved into town in '44 the county agent and various others called on me for programs and during the Second World War we had a War Food Administration where sugar was a must. Help was tightened up. So we imported from Mexico, from Jamaica, from Texas, various field workers. I served as secretary to the what's been called the Farm Improvement Association. It had to be an improvement association to contract with the war foods to supply these.
I acted as secretary also with the state manager of the
distribution of wheat and meats to the labor camps through­
out the State of Colorado. So I served nearly four years
in that capacity and then as the war began to turn down I
started up the equipment business.

M: You've been doing a lot of things.

J: During this time, of course, I've always fed quite a group
of livestock, and in '44 I had a brother who was killed
by a tractor. I was appointed administrator of his estate.
I have operated the farm. I sold the farm the last few
years and have distributed the money among his five heirs.
I'm still a trustee of his widow's funds. I have been
trustee of several funds since that of other parties. So
activities on the side have been a great deal more probably
than the water.

M: Yes, you've got a lot to do.

J: Quite a lot to keep a fellow busy, yes.

M: Well you've got another appointment. Thank you very much.