Latham - It is December 3, 1992. An Interview with Doris and Jim Greenacre. Basically we're going to be talking about the North Poudre Irrigation Company. But perhaps we'll start off getting a bit of background from Doris and Jim, and they can tell us.

Doris Greenacre - What kind of background? Our knowledge of North Poudre, or.

Latham - Well, basically I guess to fill out the picture as to why we’re chatting with you. If you could tell us a little bit about your own personal histories -- when you came to town, and maybe your first runins with farming, irrigation, things like that, and then we'll talk more about North Poudre.

Doris Greenacre - Well, we were both born and raised here. We go back three generations. In fact I was born on the east end of Mountain Avenue where stands a filling station now. My grandmother had a piece of property which was much larger then than it is now because they’ve taken so much for the streets. There were two houses there, and my parents lived there. That’s where I was born. So from the standpoint of understanding the town and the community, that’s where we come from. Everybody that grew up in this town had to, at some time or another, come face to face with agriculture and stock raising because it was before you constantly. And that was the main, until the oil boom came, life of the town.

Latham - Was your family directly involved in farming itself, or were you merchants or . . .

Doris Greenacre - My father was a musician, and in later years he was a bookkeeper. He was a time keeper for Great Western. My grandfather, Carl Max Bruce, that was my maternal grandfather, was at CSU when it was the agricultural college in 1886 in the Experiment Station. And through his working at that place, he had occasion to work with the development of the sugar beets. And the family story is, and I have searched and read the records as much as I can find, and there is nothing from the college standpoint regarding this. But the family story is that he sent to Germany to his father to send sugar beet seeds over here, and that’s one of the things he worked with. The house
that they lived in for a time on campus is the little house where Dr. Charney has his house of skulls. And my mother was a baby in that house. Then my grandfather died in 1892 from Typhoid Fever which he has contracted from doing a collection of Colorado grasses which he sent to the World’s Fair in Chicago, and he was supporting the theory that the grasses would support range cattle. And he died not knowing that he received an award for this. And I have the large scroll. My sister took the medal, and I have the scroll, and as far as I know CSU has no record of this at all. So everybody just grew up here knowing agriculture.

Latham - Have you, as a young girl in this town, as you went through the elementary schools and the high schools, did you go on to further education then?

Doris Greenacre - When I graduated from high school, it was during the depression. My father had died in 1928. There was no money, absolutely no money. And it was necessary that I do something, so I -- well, I had my one-year fling. I went to Florida and stayed, spent the winter with an aunt and uncle down there. And I went to the Gremling Art School, took a couple of classes, was all I could afford. And learned at that time, that was in the mid-thirties, that it was a hard row for a woman in the arts field and came home and went to business school and was a legal stenographer. Worked first for Henry Sherman who ran for state attorney general in 1936 and lost. And after he lost the election, that was the year that Landin ran for president. And I’ll never forget he stood at the office window one day looking down on Fort Collins, the streetcar going by and people, and all the troubles that the area, the world, was in at that time, or we were in anyway, and he said "This town is dead. It will never make it." And he moved to Denver and practiced on the public utilities commission. But anyway, before he left then, Fencher Sarche, so for a time I worked for the two men. And then when Sherman left I worked just for Sarche.

Latham - What are your recollections when it comes to the sheep industry and irrigation and agriculture, the sugar beet business. Could you tell me something about that?
Doris Greenacre - My sister and her husband had a farm, and he fed sheep. That would be that he would buy sheep. He would travel to Wyoming or Montana or New Mexico or wherever he needed to go to find sheep. And they would be brought in the early fall. Then they were fed all during the year and fattened, and then sent off to market. And it was not until in school, in geography, when we began to study the various cities and so forth that I found that St. Joe had an addition to that, that it was St. Joseph. Because sheep and cattle were shipped to St. Joe. As a child that's all I knew. I thought that was the name of the town. And when I was 10, my folks made a trip to Florida during the land boom. We were there for about nine months I guess. My father got homesick and we came back home. But that's when I found out that St. Joe was St. Joseph because my mother couldn't read maps and so my father taught me how to read the map. We went in a Model-T car and camped all the way. And that's when I read, here St. Joe was really St. Joseph. And we got as far east as St. Louis, and from St. Louis down to Florida there were no maps at that time, the fall of 1925. So the way we would get from one town to the next, my father would stop and ask someone on the street or at a filling station. "Well, it's about 8 miles down that way." So we would go that way and come to the next town. It took us a month to travel from here to there.

Latham - That's quite an adventure.

Doris Greenacre - It was. And while we were down there, my dad bought a new Ford sedan. And the discussion, I remember clearly between those two about my father and mother and about whether it was safe to get one of those. Because they might be top heavy and we'd turn over on the curbs. It seems ridiculous now, but that's what we went home in. And in the months that we were down there, the winter months, road maps became available, and the campgrounds--no longer did we need to stop at the campground and put up a tent--there were little cabins along the way where you could go in and stay.

Doris Greenacre - Did you wind up taking the same route back then or a different route?
Latham - We took a little bit different route, more of a southern route, but we made it in one week.

So that shows the difference in travel. And that was quite a change.

Latham - So you mentioned your dad was working for Great Western.

Doris Greenacre - Yes, time keeper.

Latham - What, exactly, was that function? Do you know?

Doris Greenacre - Well, as far as I know, he kept the time and the records for the pay. He did that for a period of time. Early on—he and his family came here in 1904, no that’s incorrect, it was his cousin that came then. He and his parents came here in about 1900. I have no idea why they came here. Everybody’s gone, so they came here from Nebraska and settled. He and my mother were married about 1906 I guess. He was a—well, I’ll show you a picture of him—he was very active in any entertainment that was going on in town, vaudevilles and minstrel shows that they used to have.

Latham - Did you maintain his musical...?

Doris Greenacre - Oh yes.

Latham - Even after working for...?

Doris Greenacre - Oh yes. He taught cornet and played in the town band.

Latham - He seems like quite a character, a handsome man.

Doris Greenacre - He was. Small man.

Jim Greenacre - We had a really good town band here. Out at city park in the lake, there used to be a bandstand on the narrow lake, and they had a launch there. In the summertime on Saturday nights they had concerts. And the band would go out on the launch and it was beautiful, it was excellent coming across the water. And big crowds of people up on the hill. They’ve cut that hill down now on the south side, but you could park up on the hill.

Doris Greenacre - On the east side Jim.

Jim Greenacre - On the east side. Anyway, we took an evening meal out there with us, you know,
and kids played in the summertime and go down and swim a little bit, and then have desert, and the band started, and everybody would sit up on the hill and listen to the music.

Latham - I understand another big hot spot seemed to be Lindenmeier Lake. Do I have that right?

Doris Greenacre - That is correct. Now that happened before I was born. That was the early 1900s up to approximately the 1920s when City Park was developed. But before City Park Bandstand where there was a bandstand downtown was right in the middle of Library Park or Lincoln Park.

And when we came back to retire. I had always felt through the years that there should have been some marker or something to identify the times, the good times that people had there. And so I saw a little marker there, I was walking through the park. Went over, and before I read it I thought, boy they really have finally done it, and I looked and it says "Remember the Main." (Laughter) So there really has never been any sort of an identification in this town. And this band played up and down the frontal range, frontier days and everything, you know, they took part. And another interesting thing, when any of the band members died, the band paraded through town with the hearse and so forth. And when my father died, they did this and marched to St. Joseph's Church where the streetcar would pick up the band members and then everybody went to the park.

Jim Greenacre - They used to have parades all the time Armistice Day and Oh let's see. . .

Doris Greenacre - Any day could be used for a parade day.

Jim Greenacre - We had a lot of them. But anyway they also joined forces with the college because they had a big ROTC unit here. I was a student here. And our uniforms were some old World War I uniforms. And I remember one parade, it turned out to be awfully hot. Well, I was lucky because I was in mounted cavalry so we had to pull cannons and caissons. So I got to ride lead horse pulling a caisson. But, my gosh, I got home that day and I was ringing wet with that darn wool uniform on.

Anyway the college had a big band, ROTC band, and the city had their band. It was really. . .

Latham - What did you study when you were in college at CSU?
Jim Greenacre - I went up here two years. I just took general subjects. I thought I'd take some requirements—English and Algebra and Trig and Literature. I'd always wanted to study anthropology, but they didn't have anything here. But they had one course in geology. And I was going to take that. I never did. ?????, she taught the geology class. But I took a course in forestry because I thought, oh heck, maybe I'll be a forest ranger or something. Then I decided I would transfer to the University of New Mexico. But I'll tell you, my father had some hard luck. He lost out in his business here. So I stayed home and worked a job. It didn't pay very good, but it helped out.

Doris Greenacre - It was during the depression.

Jim Greenacre - Then he sort of got a settlement from the guy that cheated him out of his business, and that helped some. So then I went to the University of New Mexico, finished up down there in anthropology. I have a minor in geology. That doesn't make me a geologist, but sometimes I know what they're talking about, but not always.

Latham - So when did you meet Doris? Were you a college student at that. . .?

Jim Greenacre - High school.

Latham - High school, so you left her behind there for a while.

Jim Greenacre - Yes, we started going together, I was a senior and she was a junior.

Doris Greenacre - In our, the two years that we were in high school, I don't know, there are at least, I'd say approximately 20 couples that went together in high school and were married, and are still married. Very unusual.

Jim Greenacre - 54 years. (Laughter)

Latham - Did you have any friends that were farmers in the northern area like by Wellington and where the North Poudre now has irrigation?

Doris Greenacre - Well yes, but you know when they came into high school, now this was hard for those people, all of them, because they came from Wellington High School or from. . . you know,
they were coming to the big city. And they sort of kept to themselves, a great many of them. Future Farmers of America, most of them.

Latham - I was speaking a social kind of thing, were there impressions of people that were farmers or sheep raisers or whatever that you kids in the big city here were, as you mentioned, they kind of kept to themselves, were there. . .

Doris Greenacre - Well, I think we certainly had our clicks and the ones that we ran around with. And I look back now, in fact I commented in this talking about Fort Collins that we were snobbish. And we really were, and I look back on it, and I'm ashamed of how we were about some things.

Jim Greenacre - I had a cousin who lived on a farm just across the river, the old Coy farm down there. It's been made into a golf course now. Bill and I were very close. He was a year ahead of me in school, but we grew up together. I spent a lot of time down on the farm.

Doris Greenacre - I can't seem to think of any of the kids that we. . . Of course then you also had the kids that came from ranches. And the custom at that time, the families handled it two different ways-they would find a place for their child to board and room, or get an apartment for them. And Jim's folks were ranch people early on and left the ranch in 1917-18 time period, sold it. Where the Monroe Ranch is now was the Greenacre Ranch. And one of the few ranches that was a place name on the early maps. But Jim's mother just felt that she couldn't leave Edna, and that she couldn't let her children go in to live alone.

Jim Greenacre - I had two sisters older than I am. They went through the eighth grade up there, or my oldest sister did, but they moved to town before Marla? reached the eighth grade. But she just couldn't see how she could let them come down. They could have stayed with my aunt here. They had a big home out here, and they could have stayed there. They also had friends that told them that they could stay with them. But my mother just couldn't see it. I think that was one reason for selling the ranch. I think the other one was, my uncle Harold lives up there with my father, had a
loony wife, very odd situation, so he took his share of the sale and bought another ranch north of there, part of it Wyoming and part of it in Colorado and ranched up there until a few years before he retired. He was kind of a heavy drinker, and I never knew too much about him. He was a swell guy, but I do know that he drank quite a bit. I remember that happening. Mostly it was his wife that caused it. We’d go to town and come home and all our silverware was gone. So Dad would go over next door and it was all over there in their drawers. So he’d go over and bring it back home. Stuff like that.

Latham - Some of the research I’ve done suggested your family did have a ranch up there. Tell me more about perhaps the size of the ranch, what types of products, whether it be things that you grew or you raised, and some of the, getting back to the water kinds of things, what creeks or ditches. Do you have any specific memories of . . .

Jim Greenacre - When they first went up they raised work horses, some cattle and sheep. But somewhere along the line early in the 1900s I think the cattle business sort of wasn’t paying too good, and they started raising more sheep. And we had summer range up on the Mummy Range. And we eventually had between 4 and 6 thousand lambs to sell Peters. Obviously the horse business kind of died out. People began to use tractors. We took water from Boxelder Creek and diverted it. Most of our ??? was making hay. We raised a big garden, of course, up there and some corn. But mostly it was just for irrigation of hay fields because we needed that for the stock, you know.

Latham - Boxelder Creek. I guess my limited knowledge is that it gets pretty dry come July, August, September.

Jim Greenacre - It’s a peculiar creek. You’ll go along and here is a fairly good little stream of water, and it goes underground. Come down another quarter of a mile, maybe a half mile, and it surfaces again. I’ll tell you why I think there has been so many floods on that plain, that the sill there is several feet deep, and when the water is really low, it soaks it all up, but what’s left over goes on
down and comes out farther down where it's washed out again, you know. They had a dam up farther where they collected water and stored. That was so that when it got really dry, they had some water coming that way.

Latham - Where is that dam located, do you know?

Jim Greenacre - No, I don't remember exactly. It was on up north there.

Doris Greenacre - Now are you speaking of the dam that was built within the last few years?

Jim Greenacre - No, an early one. You know where that spring is where we looked?

Doris Greenacre - Yes.

Jim Greenacre - It was right along in there. What happened, I think it was after we left, a cloudburst came, and the darn thing broke and that was it. I guess Monroes never did put it back.

Latham - Monroes ultimately wound up owning part of the property?

Jim Greenacre - Yes.

Doris Greenacre - They bought it.

Jim Greenacre - There were about 14,000 acres.

Doris Greenacre - Monroe, of course, they increased it tremendously.

Latham - So your family sold the ranch. What year was that again?

Jim Greenacre - In 1917. I guess all the paperwork and everything, that was moved in town in 1918.

Latham - What did your folks do for. . .

Jim Greenacre - Well, my father bought into what was called the Old Jackson Mercantile Company. They sold farm machinery, hay, grain, coal.

Doris Greenacre - It's where the Alden Hill Building is downtown, that corner.

Jim Greenacre - After--this is sort of a private matter. . .

Doris Greenacre - Well, now don't take this down. (machine shut off)

Doris Greenacre - . . .able to save the house. And then when Jim's father died, his mother sold the
Jim Greenacre - See, they had the John Deere franchise here. And John Deere knew about this, and they took it away and set up their own store here.

Latham - Ultimately, now they’re on Mulberry now, where John Deere is now?

Jim Greenacre - They’ve moved out somewhere, yes. Now I don’t remember whether that’s John Deere Company itself or whether this is what it used to be, a franchise. But, no, they wouldn’t stand for it, they took it away from him. And my dad did work for John Deere now and then, particularly in the spring when they took inventory because he knew the parts upside down you know for all kinds of machinery. He used to help out every once in a while when they needed some help.

Latham - So what made you come back to Colorado after a two-year stint down in New Mexico?

Jim Greenacre - Well, just before graduation I got a telegram from the University of Kentucky asking me if I would take a job in field archaeology.

Doris Greenacre - This was when nobody was getting any work at all.

Jim Greenacre - So I got this telegram. They wanted me there in late March. This was when I was a senior. So I got this telegram, and I went in to Dr. Bran? who was head of the department and said "Read this." He said, "My God, look, Jim’s got a job. Dr. Hill, Dr. Hill, come, Jim’s got a job." And I said, look I wouldn’t even be here for the final exams. He said, "With your grades, don’t worry, we’ll take care of it. You’ve got good grades, I know, I’ve seen them, I teach you, you’re too good." So I went to the University of Kentucky, and I was down there until World War II got started. In certain areas, particularly the ones I was in, taking measure of the WPA labels.? And so those men are darn good on excavating work. They all made a living using their hands. In eastern Kentucky they were coal miners using their hands, and they’re darn good on the type of work they had up there. Went to Western Kentucky, and I had farmers that had been used to using their hands, and they were excellent. I had a few colored people over in Western Kentucky who were excellent.
It all worked out, but then, of course, when the funds dried up, I had to think of something else. First of all I went into the timber business for awhile, down on the Tennessee River, where they were going to put the Kentucky Dam in there. They cut all that timber down. So you could get a burning contract, but you also were entitled to saw anything that was usable. So the man who had been sheriff up in Butler County where we lived for awhile (Doris will tell you about a farm we lived on there), he was related to that woman, he'd been sheriff. And another man that he knew had a saw mill, portable mill. So I also had two lawyers who were interested in putting up the money and starting, but old Mrs. Annis where we lived, she said, "Oh, this would be wonderful for you." So I thought, well, I don't have to put up much money, I guess it will be alright. So we started out that way. And the other guy did have a mill. It was adequate. We had to buy a bigger blade because we were cutting 7 foot diameter Cypress down there, and some awful big oak and stuff like that. Well, anyway, Dewey and this guy got to horsing around with 15-16 year-old girls. Then he cut a load of very expensive wood in Chicago and sold it. We got around $4000 for it. But we only got home with a little over $2000. He'd gone on a big drunk somewhere in Indiana, and only came home with about half of what he started out with, and I backed out. I told him I was through. But in the meantime, I got a call from a friend of mine who wanted to know what I was doing. I said, "Well, I don't know now, I'm about to go out of my timber business." He said, "Well, we're looking for people like you to do some mapping work for the army, map service." They were setting up an office here in Louisville. And he said, "I know from past experience that you archaeologists know what to do about making maps." And that was true, you spend more time mapping than anything else. So I went up for an interview, it sounded good, so we moved to Louisville. And I stayed -- first I was in charge of compilation there. Then I was transferred up to Cincinnati. I had trouble with the manager up there. His big business was he put on girly shows. So anyway I stayed up there for several, well, we were up there for about a year, weren't we, maybe a little longer.
Doris Greenacre - In Cincinnati? We were up there just a few months, Jim.

Jim Greenacre - Well, anyway, I recommended that they close the office because the people really weren't up to the work. There were some of them, yes. In fact I took some of them with me back to Louisville because they sent me back to Louisville. In the meantime the manager there got drafted into the army and I became manager of the Louisville office.

Doris Greenacre - We were there two years, and then to Cleveland.

Jim Greenacre - Then I had to go to Cleveland because they were having problems up there. So actually I was managing two offices until they got a way fixed to take care of Louisville. And when the war ended, we were living in Cleveland. Then I went on to Washington D.C. Actually the Map Service was in Maryland. So we eventually ended up buying a house and stayed in Maryland for 8 years.

Doris Greenacre - Jim came home one day and said "I've had it." He said, "We're going home."

Latham - I was going to ask you. Did you have it by all that moving all those years.

Doris Greenacre - In this house, this is about in 54 years, we have moved 31 times.

Jim Greenacre - Then we came back and I got a job as a geological survey in Denver.

Latham - When did you come back here? What year?

Doris Greenacre - It would have been . . . Let me think. We went to St. Louis in 56 because we came out here and we wanted to get away from everything, traffic and so forth. We went up Bear Creek Canyon, and we had been there just a very short. . . We had a daughter who was bout 13, maybe 11 at that time. And I was not feeling too well, so I went to the doctor, and lo and behold I was pregnant. So we had our first son, and 22 months later, we had our second son. And the funny thing about it was that at the time our second son was born, our family doctor in Evergreen was laughing because they were having some sort of a gathering in the Rocky Mountain Area of doctors from high altitude areas that were doing some sort of research on women becoming pregnant etc. So
he had an actual situation to work with. Jimmy, our oldest son, had a physical problem and there was this specialist in St. Louis, and so at the same time Jim had an opportunity to go back and work with aeronautical charts in the information center, Air Force, and so that’s why we left.

Jim Greenacre - Yes, because it was expensive going . . . we flew back a little bit, but you know, I wasn’t making big money. It was pretty good, it would be considered, at that time it was a great job, but then when you buy airplane tickets and we rode the train some, that got expensive. And so this job came up and that settled that problem. I took him right to St. Louis, and he’s still going, got 8 kids.

Latham - Well, great!

Doris Greenacre - He’s a minister, a missionary minister.

Jim Greenacre - It turned out very interesting there. In 1961 Nasa asked the Air Force to go to Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona and start mapping the moon for them. And the reason they wanted the Air Force to do it was because Nasa’s people were pilots, you know, and so all the maps that they’re used to reading, north was up, whereas astronomers, they use a different telescope, a reflection, so everything is reversed. And so they felt astronomers didn’t want moon maps upside down for their flyers. So I went out there. I applied for it. Nobody there had ever had any experience mapping the moon. I had taken a course in Geodesy which helped a little bit. This all came up in a hurry, and you had to get your resume in to the Colonel at noon, so I wrote out how long I’d been in mapping etc. And then the last one said, “All I know about the moon, I wooed and won my wife under the moon.” And the Colonel that read that said, “Hire him, hire him.” So we went to Flagstaff for 8 years.

Latham - My impression, I’ve never been, somewhat like this town? Mountains, plains, things like that, dry.

Doris Greenacre - Oh yes, and it reminded us when we were there, oh started in the early 60’s, it
reminded us the way Fort Collins had been when we were in school here growing up. And it was that kind of a place. But now it's like everywhere else.

Jim Greenacre - Oh, it's changed. The college there was a teacher's college, Normal College. Now it's Northern Arizona University.

Doris Greenacre - But it was a most fascinating time period. We met most interesting people. People who were doing things. And I've always felt that we sort of sat on the edge of history, sort of like, the things that we did, and the people that we were with, and the work that Jim did.

Jim Greenacre - I had to travel quite a bit too. I had to go to Houston where they had all the Nasa headquarters. And back to Virginia to the air base there and to Washington. I traveled quite a bit for ??? Map to come to think about it.

Doris Greenacre - I think an interesting thing that we have found. Jim retired in 1972, and we came through here to stop and visit. And while we were here, his mother was 95 years old in a nursing home, and none of the family lived here. And everybody had gathered for a birthday party. And Jim and I had just stopped here briefly, and we were on our way to Arizona where we had a piece of property. So after this party, we got home and were talking about it, and got back to the house. Jim said, you know, I think we ought to stay and I agreed with him.

Jim Greenacre - My mother lived to be 100.

Doris Greenacre - So that was why we stayed. The only other place . . . Flagstaff was a most fascinating town because of the kinds of people, as I said, that we met. We were active in an historical aspect as we are here. . .

Latham - I was going to ask you about that. . .

Doris Greenacre - But I fell into a job I never intended to work, you know, women of my generation, you didn’t work, you’re job was to be in the home. I had gone to get some art supplies at an office supply store, and he didn’t have what I wanted, and it was a very simple thing that anybody should
have that sold art supplies, and so I complained. And this college boy that waited on me said, "You know, we're building a new store. Why don't you apply for the job of taking over the art department." And I was in complete amazement. And I said, "Oh gosh, I wouldn't have any idea, I've got two boys in school." So I went home and talked with Jim, and we talked about it, and so then I got curious, so I went on and applied for it, and they hired me. And the only that I would go to work was that I would not be at work until 8:30 in the morning where I could get my kids off to school, and I would leave at 3:30 in the afternoon when they would be home from school.

*Latham* - What was the name of that business?

*Doris Greenacre* - PPSW. It was a chain store in Arizona. They no longer exist, but anyway, he hired me on that basis, and because of the way I was hired, I was only a part-time employee, which was not good for the work that I did and the money I got for it. But I absolutely loved what I was doing. The college did not have a book store of any kind, so all of the art students would come down. So I started out with just a few supplies and built that thing up until we had a large fine arts collection and a large drafting department and the whole thing. I just took it one step at a time, and made a point that if anyone came in asking a question, I'd make every opportunity to answer it. And if I couldn't answer it or we didn't have the supply material, I would try to send them where they could get it. And had a good relationship with the college art department. This was fascinating. But then the salesman from the store would travel up through the reservation. So the Indian artists would come down to trade at the store. So I had that group. And then people like Joe Beeler, who is now an outstanding southwestern artist, and Bill Owens, and different ones like this, were just starting out and others that lived and worked in Sadona, and Sadona was just a little village then. And I had all these people. And it was just a fascinating time of being around creative people like this.

*Latham* - When did your--being somewhat here in Fort Collins noted as one of historians--when did that perk for you, when did that fit?
Doris Greenacre - When we moved to town from Livermore, we were angry when every time we went anywhere. . .

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

START OF SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

Doris Greenacre - . . . to go to Scott’s Sunday School Class that he had for Coach Scott’s boys, but it had always been there. And I cried. I mean this was terrible. That was provoking. And then one day I said to Jim, ”Thank God they’ve saved the Avery House.” And that turned us around, and we got busy.

Latham - What year was that when you said they saved it? What was the Avery House facing?

Doris Greenacre - Well, they were in the process of restoring it. It was certainly not in the position it’s in now, but they were working on it. Anyway when we moved to town from the hills, I’ve always read history, and I grew up with history. Ansua Watress was my step-grandfather and lived with us. And the more you work with history, the more the names come back and the more things you remember. So when Karen McWilliams came in--well I worked with Charlene Treasner when she was here, and she’s the person who developed the local history department at the library--then when Karen McWilliams came in, we got along pretty well together, and she would call me and say, ”Do you know this name or that name?” And so that’s how this all started. And every so often we get calls from the museum. And it just developed one step after another, and I was president of the Fort Collins Historical Society for two years, and the longer we stayed, the more we put into it, and the deeper our roots went. And now I have to fight myself to keep from being so protective that I make a bore of myself. Really, I

Latham - It’s probably good, I mean, well, consider the fact that your energy is there, and I wouldn’t hold back, I guess.

Doris Greenacre - Well, I sometimes speak out too plainly.
Jim Greenacre - I would like to add something to that too. We were eating at ????? one day and found out the city had purchased a big ranch up north of here, Meadow Springs Ranch. I told Doris that I think that's the old Lindenmeier ranch where I worked with Smithsonian one summer on the Lindenmeier-Folsom dig. Well, it turned out we were right. So I said, My gosh, there are some laws, I wonder if they know about what they've got to do on the land they're going to spread sludge over some of it. I didn't know how much at the time. So I got in touch with ??? Smith who is head of the water department here, an awfully nice man to work with. He's the one that helped us, as I mentioned, on the old Water Works. And told him about it. He gave me the name of the young man who has charge of the sludge program, Tom Gallert. He's turned out to be just a dandy guy to work with. Anyway, I called him and asked him if he knew about some of the federal and state laws in regard to historical archaeological surveys. He said, "Well, we're not going to put up any buildings." I said, "You don't have to, you're going to gain on the land." He said, "I didn't know that." And I told him, "Well, I'd like to suggest that you call the Anthropology Department at the college and talk to Cal Jennings, Head of the Department and tell him that you understand from me that there has to be some kind of a survey done in archaeology." And so that day I called up Cal later in the day and I told him what I'd done. He said, "He's already called me Jim, it's great!" He said, you don't know what this could amount to. All the detail ??????. Doris and I got busy on it. We got some volunteers from the museum, from the Archaeological Society here and got CSU interested and started finding out the new techniques they use now. So far they discovered quite a few new tepee rings and fire pits and one huge stone ring, 24 feet in diameter. And also we know where there is a lot more. I used to walk all over that country up there, and I've told Cal the farther north you work the more you're going to find. BUT, here's the important thing, the same formation where the Folsom material was found extends all along that northern area. It's the same deposits left there by receding glaciers. I do know that other geologists and archaeologists over the years have thought that
wouldn’t necessarily be the only place where they butchered a few bison. But it’s never been found there in the ground. So that’s very interesting. The first thing you do is make our surface collections, get that out of the way. And all the material that’s found after CSU’s through with their studies will go to the Fort Collins Museum. And CSU hasn’t got a museum anyway. So that makes the museum feel kind of good, and it makes CSU feel good because they haven’t got anyplace to put it either.

Latham - I understand that as perhaps a matter of timing or PR that maybe it’s the Folsom Point and not the Lindenmeier Point? Am I right there?

Jim Greenacre - Well, yes Folsom Point has a fantastic history but the one that was found here.

Latham - Is it a little older perhaps or found first?

Jim Greenacre - Oh, well, when it was started, there was a man named Collins, I think he’s from Loveland or Longmont--used to hunt arrowheads up through there like a lot of us did--and he picked up this point one day. He’d never seen anything like it. So he brought it in to show to the Coffins here who collected arrowheads all over the country. They’d never seen anything like it, so they asked Dr. Fagans down at the Denver Museum. He’d never seen anything like it. But it wasn’t but just a short time after that that Dr. Fagans got a call from some people down at Folsom, New Mexico, that they had found a very peculiar point sticking out of a bank of a creek or something running through there. And they thought there were some bones above, and so he went down and looked at it, and it was the same thing they found up here. So then they looked up and here were some bones sticking out so they got up and started doing some work. And sure enough, here were bones of the bison where some of these artifacts were. So then Dr. Fagans finally got Smithsonian interested in it, and they sent people out to investigate. And they went to Folsom and did quite a little excavating along with the Denver Museum. ???? they had their campsite there, you know, butcher. Then they decided they’d come up here and do a little work, and sure enough, down about
6 feet from the surface, they began to run into Folsom material. And we found ??? bison, it’s an extinct bison. They also had camel. There were still some camels around—a breed or type that extinct. And that time there was no carbon dating you see. They just knew it was old. How old they didn’t know. There are various estimates—20,000 years ago, 5,000 years ago—nobody knew. But in the mid 40’s I guess the first results from carbon dating began to be approved, and they realized what it amounted to. And they got some charcoal down there, and they had a few pieces here. Like when we were excavating out there, you had an old fire pit, and yes, there were burned bones, you know, little chunks of charcoal still there. We didn’t save any charcoal. We had no idea. . . Same thing when I was working in Kentucky. Of course that stuff wasn’t near as old, the Adena mounds have been dated since, and they run from around up until about 800 years ago back to 1200 years ago. That’s about the duration of that time period. Then when I was going to the University of New Mexico, a man ???? told the department about Sandia Cave. So we began to look into that. And we found some material buried under about ??? ??????. . . It was a terrible place to work. You had to crawl on your belly part of the way. Wear a mask over your face on account of that Okra you know. And we found the bones of the extinct giant Slolus??? And no points of any kind. We just found hand tools. Since then the carbon dating and the carbon dates on it, some people just aren’t satisfied. The carbon dates are 14 thousand and one was 27. But they don’t feel that the association of that with man-made material was good enough to say it was 20 thousand. But in other areas, strange as it may seem, clear down in Peru and Chile they have positive carbon dates from sites that are 20,000 years old according to ???. Well, then since then they’ve even come down to the east coast and even came down through Michigan. They’ve found sites that are dating 11 thousand. So these people not only came down this way through Arizona, the Pacific side, but must have gone across the continent and come down the other way too. People say, “Well, how could they have gotten clear down in Chili that long ago?” And I said, well, you know you can walk a long way in
20,000 years, raise I don’t know how many families along your way.

Latham - So it’s probably nice for you just to have the Lindenmeier site somewhat nearby. I mean just for the sake of . . .

Jim Greenacre - And another thing that adds to the historical factor out here. We’re talking about 10,000 years of history in Larimer County. Ten thousand years go right up until today. Was it Mark Twain, no it was Will Rogers who said, "If you don’t know your past, you won’t know your future."

Latham - Preservationists I guess use that thinking in reference to continuity. So when you. . .

Jim Greenacre - It’s funny how some of those things will work out. I used to do a lot of stereo work and doggone it here sometime back choked on some corn flakes one morning. Then I changed breakfasts. Couple hours later something was wrong with my eyesight, and I realized that I couldn’t see out of my right eye. So boy I got in touch with the ophthalmologist and discovered that I’d lost the sight in it. And went over to the hospital, had an ultrasound of the arteries that run up, and they’re all clear except the one on the right showed, which isn’t unusual I guess, a couple of little lesions. And they finally decided what happened is a little flake in the summer got into the artery that goes to the eye. Well, that artery they’re talking about isn’t as big around as a pencil lead. So there is no surgery. In fact they don’t have any way of even seeing with their equipment. They just know that it’s blocked. But I had some vision restarted, and the ophthalmologist is absolutely amazed that I can see anything. The only thing is I don’t see it in color. You would be one in millions. And he said, "If you get so you can see, are we going to have a party."

Latham - So the two of you wound up coming back here in approximately 1972?

Doris Greenacre - Correct.

Latham - And you moved to Livermore? Where did you find up?

Jim Greenacre - Well, when we first came we rented an apartment right down the street here. Then
after a year I went to work for Pleasant Valley. And then this woman. . .

Doris Greenacre - Well, Jim, we were looking for a house. . .

Jim Greenacre - Oh yes, we were looking for a house, that’s right, and there was a house for sale up near where her sister lived.

Latham - Pleasant Valley - go back to that if you would for a second. Tell me about your job with Pleasant Valley again.

Jim Greenacre - Well, the part of the ditch that I took care of was approximately from LaPorte on to Fossil Creek. And I don’t remember how many gates, lots of gates.

Doris Greenacre - That land has all been cut up into sub-divisions etc.

Jim Greenacre - But anyway, it was mostly just you don’t really ride the ditch, you walk it. There is a part of it that, yes, you do drive because there isn’t really any other way. One of them is when it swings around through the campus back over here and then it comes back out again. Since they didn’t have any gates over there, I just rode through there maybe twice a month to see. Once in a while if we had some hard rains and there were some logs or something. But just ordinary ditch riding, measuring water and letting it out.

Latham - Do you know what the nature of the ownership of that company is?

Jim Greenacre - Well, they’re an old company. In fact they are the oldest ditch company I think.

Doris Greenacre - Well, I don’t know about that. 1982 when the water works was put up, Larimer County, they had the two ditches going across at that time—Mercer Ditch, I think maybe Mercer was older. But timewise I don’t. . .and that takes digging, because I don’t think any of these companies have ever had any feel for history.

Latham - Yes, I’ve bumped into some records from some of the other smaller ditch companies in Wellington that North Poudre has had an association with, so I’ve seen some of their annual reports or some of their Board of Directors. . . but they are sketchy. And some of them I think just don’t. . .
I suppose the folks get together and have a chat every now and then and that’s it.

Doris Greenacre - Well, and I think this includes the history of the town too. I think they had the feeling that things will always be as they are. And who wants to know about that, you know. They don’t look to the future at all.

Latham - Doris, when I spoke to you on the phone, you mentioned you were going to tell me the oldest ditch or something like that, so tell me about that.

Doris Greenacre - Yes, as far as I know, the oldest ditch would have been dug by a man named Martin Calloway. . .

Latham - Calloway Hill is it perhaps?

Doris Greenacre - Well, his brother, William Calloway, that Calloway Hill was named for him. But to give you the background quickly on that before I talk about. . . William Calloway came out here early in the 1860s. And he trapped and traveled all over the area. And I have not established yet whether he just lived for awhile on the old Greenacre place or whether he had a homestead. I have not gone back that far. But he was there for a short time. And when his younger brother, Martin, came out of the Civil War, Martin was looking, he wanted to do something, you know, and he was newly married. He had a baby, a 17 year-old wife, and a 4 month old baby. And he came west. And whether he purchased whatever holdings William had up there, it’s not clear. Anyway, he homesteaded and there was evidently a cabin already there. And where it was I do not know. But it says that he dug the first ditches. So that’s 1869. And that would have been someplace on the Greenacre Ranch.

Latham - Okay, so pretty far north then.

Doris Greenacre - And to establish a little bit more the picture of that area. If you know where the Boxelder comes through the hills and out to the plains, about. . . well, if you go directly north from here you hit the Buckeye area, and along in there--I can’t think, it’s Franz I think that have that
place, but I’m not sure--but there is an area right along on the river, a flat area in there, and E.W. Whitcomb and Whitcomb Street was named after E.W. Whitcomb. And in the 1870 time period he builds a house up there that was, the records say it was a room that 60 feet long. He had an Indian wife. And one of the first dances that was held in this whole area, Whitcomb would hold them in his house. And the records say there is a man named Claron Wood whose letter is in the history books of the Larimer County Stock Growers Association book. Have you met that book yet.

Latham - Yes I have.

Doris Greenacre - That’s something. And it tells about that dance that people came for 40 miles around, so that would indicate to me knowing the way the country was at that time, that encompassed a great deal. And it tells how Wood was playing one of the instruments, and how they played all night long, and they had a jug, and . . .

Latham - Sounds like they had a great time.

Doris Greenacre - They must have. But Martin Calloway, I mean that was the picture for that area, and so when he settled, there were other people in the area. Martin Calloway brought his wife out here, and they came by train to Cheyenne, then had a wagon, or somebody brought them down. And Mary Calloway, his wife, when she was an old lady, told about how they came down, and the wagon was evidently real high, because it took two of them to push her up on it. And she sat up there, and they rattled and rolled over the prairie to go down to this little log house where they lived. She had one friend, and Indian woman, and she couldn’t understand Mary and Mary couldn’t understand her, but Mary would make clothing for this Indian woman’s children, and the Indian woman would make gloves and moccasins for her. And Mary Calloway, they evidently lived right near the Boxelder because she had a dog that had been trained by the Indians, and her husband, Martin, raised vegetables etc., and he would transport them to Cheyenne where there was a railhead. And that was a custom in those early years that the farmers and ranchers from, and not only from the northern part
of Fort Collins, north of there, but also the Livermore area. They would transport vegetables to Cheyenne to sell. They could get more for them than they could here. Well, anyway, while he was gone, she was there alone in this house, and the dog was the only guard that she had. And she would watch to see. . . evidently they were near a trail because she could see people passing by, and she would watch whether it was Indians or Mexicans. And she would run and hide down along the river in the willows.

Latham - Scary times.

Doris Greenacre - Yes. So that’s where I based this. It said that he had this garden somewhere and raised crops and dug a ditch. So it would have had to have come from the Boxelder somewhere.

Latham - So an intermittent type of thing. Tell me if you would, a little bit earlier about this, but when Jim got the job somewhat associated with Poudre and the Livermore House at the north fork of the Poudre. Tell me about that.

Doris Greenacre - Well, let me tell you. We have lived in everything due to the times. You see the warriors changed a great deal. And we came from the depression years. So you accept what you have and try to make the best of it. And here we were in this old shack. So we had been fortunate. Someone that Jim knew had an old wood-coal range they wanted to sell, and we bought it for $25. It was beautiful. Sold it for $300. But we put that in the room that when you entered that house, you walk into the kitchen, and it was the room on the right. And we had it in there, and it kept that room warm and cozy. And the porch on the east where they put the new room, there was just a porch there. And it had been filled in. So we decided we’d sleep out there. When I say it had been filled in, I mean it had been North Poudre’s way of closing it in. So we bought some cheap carpeting, and we just made do with what we had. And we slept out there. And we had two twin beds we had head to head along one side to take up less room because it was just about 8 feet wide. But where my feet came on the front side of the building, the boards were beginning to come loose and away from the
nails on the side of the house, and I had complained once or twice. And funny thing, nobody thought anything about it. So one day the board was up there. They would come every so often to look over everything and see how we were doing, and it was a day similar as this. They had come up, and they were all standing out there in the mud and the slush and the snow discussing about different things, and so I thought, by gosh, I've had it and Harlan was out there with them. So I walked out there and I said, "I want to tell you guys something." They stopped talking and listened. And I said, "I wish you would repair this house." And, "Well, what's wrong with it?" So I said, "Where my feet come, there is a break in the boards." They laughed. They thought that was the funniest thing there ever was. Well, when Jim was in the hospital, this would have been a couple of years later, and they didn't fix anything, a couple of years later, when Jim was in the hospital, his heart just stopped, it wasn't an attack. So he was there and the kids had come and the son with all the children was visiting, and at that time I think he had about 4 children. And here we were, I was trying to run back and forth to the hospital, and Jimmy was helping me go up and read Halligan and the ditch, and also feed all of this group, and the pump went out. So I called down and told them. Well, they'd get around to it, they'd fix it.

**Latham** - Who was the manager at that time?

**Doris Greenacre** - Ben Dumber. And it's a funny thing, I have a theory that people very often get to be like their names.

**Latham** - We'll leave it with that perhaps. [Laughter]

**Doris Greenacre** - That's as far as I'll go. Anyway, there we were without water, so we were hauling water from the springs that are across from the forks. And there was a baby involved, so there were at least 2 children in diapers. And it was a problem. So this one evening I said, "Well, we're going to go to the Forks and eat, I can't handle a meal tonight." And my daughter-in-law said she would just have to wash her hair. And I said, "Dee, it's just us folks down there, don't worry."
Well, anyway, that night I got to worrying about it, and I got madder and madder, and by 10 o’clock I was really steamed up, and I called Harlan. And I didn’t mince many words, and some of my words were not the proper ones to use before grandchildren. So anyway he said, "Doris, I’ll see that somebody comes up, Roger Sinden, get him up there to take care of it."

Latham - Now Harlan is related to you?

Doris Greenacre - He’s a cousin, second cousin. His grandfather and my grandfather were brothers. Anyway before I went to bed that night after I had sounded off, and the little kids heard me, my son who was a missionary minister at that time, he said, "Mother, I want to talk to you." And I said, "What in the world." Here it was 11 o’clock at night and I was bushed, and we sat down at this table and he said, "You’re just getting to be an awful speaking old woman, you just have got to watch yourself." And talking this way before the grandchildren. And so I told him I was the way I was and that was all there was to it. So in the morning I lined these 2 little kids that could understand, about 4 and 3, and I told them "I want you kids to know this is the only grandmother you’re going to get out of me, I’m not going to change my ways, this is just it." Anyway, they did come up and repair the pump. And from that time on Roger Sinden was absolutely wonderful. He really was, and he realized the situation we were in and Jim in the hospital...

Latham - Were there other repairs made to the home up there?

Doris Greenacre - Oh, that was interesting. Directly after we left they put an addition onto that house. But the people they had in there, we had built a little house for storage out of plywood, and so we went up to take it down, get the material out and move it etc. And I asked to go in and use the facilities, and she showed me the new addition, and they had a cat family with little kittens, and she took me in this room, and I was absolutely appalled. The cats had done their thing everywhere, and I went into the bathroom that we had painted and cleaned and worked with, and it was in a pretty bad way. I could have sounded off again, but there was no point in it, you know.
Jim Greenacre - When, we first went up there, that bathroom didn’t have a shade on the window. Doris, when she went to use the bathroom, there was a deer standing there looking in at her. "We’ve got to get a shade on that window, I don’t want deer watching me in the bathroom."

Latham - So you two, I take it, have walked most of that ditch up in there on the river?

Jim Greenacre - Oh yes, I walked from Halligan down to the canyon many a time. See, you used to have to come from Halligan. You know where the diversion is there where they take the water through the long tunnel? The easiest way to get there is go to Halligan and walk down because there is a lot of flat ground to come in on. But sometimes I had to go the other way, and I tell you, you could hardly get through there, the stuff growing there, willows and everything. But Cooks did run some cattle, and they went up through there, and if you knew just where to go, you could find out where they had gone through to make it. But, my gosh, that was a job. So I finally started coming another way. You go up the Cherokee Park road and cut back across the hill there, and you can’t drive down the hill, but you could walk down the hill and come out just right opposite the diversion. There were (I guess it’s still there) the remains of a cabin they had there at one time to store equipment in. And then sometimes what I would do is, if I walked down from Halligan to the diversion, instead of fighting my way back through all the thickets, I’d climb the hill and walk the hills clear down to where you come out down at the house.

Doris Greenacre - But, you know, when you stop to think of the early development that was done up there, and the method with which they worked. . .

Latham - Incredible!

Doris Greenacre - It really is. When I walked through the tunnel with Jim for the first time, this was the second time for me to go through, and the other time I had been carried through by my father. He and his buddies would go back up in there fishing. And I knew, I could remember this, the dark and the pinpoint of light, you know, then I could remember the wooden flumes that were around, that
curb that you first see when you come out of the tunnel. Well, when Jim and I walked through there, and I have no idea how my father got my mother to go through it because she was afraid of everything, and anyway we made it through, and we came out and here were still what was left of those wooden flumes. Our lives, Wayne, have been a series of circles. And in Fort Collins it’s an amazing thing how many circles we’ve completed in work, in projects and in experiences, like Jim being back up north. And he had the opportunity, one day in Livermore, he had a phone call from a man in Missouri who was with the university, and well I guess it was from Washington University, they were going back to Kentucky to complete or work again on a mound that he had worked on back there. So he’s had that experience. It’s absolutely fascinating.

Jim Greenacre - That turned out to be an interesting thing. This was in the 70’s when the University of Missouri went over there. This was the shell men?, the people that lived there at the time didn’t know how to make pottery, but they used the atletel?, which is a stick to use to give additional force. We found the hooks and some of the beautiful little weights they put on the atletel? to give it a little extra boost I guess. This time they carbon dated, and so the carbon dates on the sites show that the upper level dates from 5800, and as you go down to where the shell men first started, the dates down there are 8000 years ago. So that pushing things back. I know my dating on it is way off. We knew it had something to do with the lower Mississippi culture which we knew was old, but everybody at the time thought oh 2 or 3 thousand, something like that, at the most. So I figured, well this one is probably about 2500 years old is all.

Latham - Little details.

Jim Greenacre - Doris worked with me on that site a lot. They had lots of burials. The people buried in [tape dwindles off]

Latham - . . . about some of the people. We mentioned Stella Newell, and in all my readings I’ve been enticed by Stella because she seems to be a mystery. She comes to work for them for a long
time. She was a single girl I assume?

Doris Greenacre - She was what we called years ago an old maid. She and her sister, Flora Newell, I do not know, I just grew up knowing Stella, and she was always a very special person, and she was included in our family a great deal. Stella had had tuberculosis. I imagine that's why she came out. And at one point she had worked in Colemont up in the Walden area. I would assume that's probably before she worked for North Poudre. I remember Mother had said one time that, you know in those days for tuberculosis, you lived outside as much as possible, and that was one of the reasons she went up there. She was a fairly chunky woman, but just such a pleasant person, and I cannot tell you the year that she died, but she was still living by the time I was in my late teens I believe because I used to go. . . I tell you she, I don't know when she quit work for North Poudre, but then she worked, I guess, for L.C. Moore. And I'm not sure about that, but I associate that name. And she worked right behind, well the Kissock block, behind the Columbia Savings, behind to the east. There was an office in there, and she worked in there. And Mother and I would go in an visit with her etc.

Latham - Do you 2 know L.C. Moore by chance?

Doris Greenacre - We remember him, both of us. But he was a wheeler-dealer. He really was. He had a name in the years we were growing up similar to what Everett has here now amongst the older people in town.

Latham - Tell me a little bit, if you would, about, I guess my readings, because you're proximity there for awhile with Halligan and those folks that looked like they were trying to develop that area, Carl Judson.

Doris Greenacre - Oh, Judsons? Interesting, very interesting people.

Latham - Did you -- the inclination I had or the thought, it seemed like a land development thing. Did you 2 feel comfortable with that or. . .
Doris Greenacre - No, and in fact--how far is this tape going to go, or to what extent are you using it.

Latham - Oh, it won't leave North Poudre. [tape off]

Jim Greenacre - Oh boy, David and I are old boyhood buddies.

Doris Greenacre - You know about North Poudre and Evan.

Jim Greenacre - You've heard that one haven't you?

Latham - Yes, I've spent a lot of time reading about, and I'm asking questions about it. I'm going to try to interview those folks.

Jim Greenacre - Well, of course our ranch joined part of the Roberts Ranch, so Evan is a little bit older than I am, but one of the tales that goes with him is his mother would come over to our place to visit and bring Evan along. You know in the old ranch days you had a bucket of water in the kitchen to drink out of and there was a wash basin nearby to wash your hands. Well, as soon as my mother would be seated down in the front room talking and visiting, he'd slip out there and turn the water bucket over. Every time. Obviously, my mother got pretty tired of it. Didn't seem there was much she could do about it. And we knew Evan when he was growing up here in town going to school. He was pretty wild. In fact he got so wild they finally sent him to a military institute back east.

Doris Greenacre - That was what was done in those years. There need to be more military schools.

Jim Greenacre - They straightened him out. He did alright. But he was an ornery son of a gun. But I want to tell you, he is the most gracious and likeable person today that you ever saw. He never forgets a friend. If he knows you're in the hospital, both he and his wife, I don't know how many times they're bound to go see somebody that's been sick that's an old friend, you know. Doris can't believe sometimes that that's Evan.

Doris Greenacre - Evan Roberts without a doubt is the most loyal person I have ever known. And
now we have known an awful lot of people of all nationalities. And Evan is, well, once you’re a friend, you’re a friend. And I saw something the other evening. The Historical Society had their annual Christmas dinner. . . before I say this I should say I remember when Evan and his uncles and his father would come up to Sarshe’s office. And Evan then was, I can remember one time particularly, now he would have been, I would have been in . . . [tape runs out]