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North Fork Oral History Project Interviews

Interview with Jack Green, 1/12/06
Interviewer: David Rainey

David Rainey Today is January the 12th and Jack Green has graciously agreed to be interviewed for the North Fork Valley Oral History Project. We're going to begin it right now. We're down at his place in Arvada. So we'll begin talking about it. Got a couple of basic questions to ask. Jack, you were telling me that you were born in Denver at St. Joe's Hospital. When was that?

Jack Green I was born April 7th, 1917.

DR You were talking about that first streetcar ride.

JG Well, my grandmother, her name was Hainey, my mother's mother, she and my grandfather lived on West Bayaud south of Broadway down there, just off of Broadway, and my first streetcar ride was from the hospital to her house. And that was probably a week or two after I was born. And soon after that my first railroad ride was, got on the train at _____ (1:32) and rode to Buffalo on the C & S railroad. And this is all put down in a book that my mother made about my early days. And then my first automobile ride was with Corbin Dickinson who lived in Wellington Lake. He was courting my aunt, my dad's sister, Marie and he had probably the first car around Buffalo. He had a 1913 Model T Ford and it was black because that's the only kind they had. So he had come to take my aunt for a ride, he was courting her, so she took me along and so that was my first automobile ride in probably first, second month after I was living in Buffalo.

DR Where do you think you went?

JG He liked to drive up Buffalo Creek and he also went to Pine and went to Crystal Lake. At that time there was a dance hall at Crystal Lake but he wouldn't have been going on right then. But that's two places that they had roads to go on either to Pine and Crystal Lake or up Buffalo Creek. Well, there was a road to up to Phelps, up to where 126 is but it didn't go to Deckers in those days. If you wanted to go to Deckers you had to go to Wellington Lake and that's where they built Cheesman Dam by _____ (3:04) through Wellington Lake. Well, yeah, you could go to Deckers but you couldn't go to Cheesman, the road was too damaged. But that was one very good road. So very likely any rides you went was up Buffalo Creek or to Pine.

DR That was up over Stony Pass and back down towards Goose Creek?

JG Well, yeah. That's the way you went to Cheesman. That's the way they hauled the supplies when they were building Cheesman Dam. What was wrong about the road down there, there's a road to Deckers but there wasn't any road from where it is now from Wigwam Campground up the highway to Cheesman. There wasn't any road there. That road wasn't built until around 1918 when the Denver Water Board bought the Denver Union Water Company, which was of course a private affair. Cheesman and Evans and Moffitt, those people owned the water company in Denver and they're the ones that built Cheesman Dam.

DR Well now, I know that you went to school up there in Buffalo Creek. Did you start in there in the first grade?

JG I started first grade in 1923 and my first teacher was Mildred Stallman. She come from Poplin, Kansas and she boarded with my grandmother. The teachers, before that time had always boarded with my grandmother. She had a big house, plenty of bedrooms and running water, which the other houses didn't have around. So, I got lots of attention from the teachers. I was right next-door to there. I learned to read and stuff like that before I ever went to school because the ladies took time to mess with me whenever they weren't teaching school and so that's when I started school. Now incidentally, there were five other people in the first grade and at the present time there's still three of them alive. Me, Jimmy Purcell, his father Charlie Purcell is buried in the cemetery. He at the time worked for Harts taking care of the water system. They lived up in what was called the lodge, which was a house where the caretakers, just across the road there from the big house _____ (5:39). And so he's alive and another girl whom I'm still in contact with and very good friends, but she happens to live in Canada though. May Probert she was in first grade and she's the only one that was still there when we graduated 8th grade. There was another girl in the first grade, Lucille Higginson who was Harry Higginson's daughter. She was in first grade. And then there was a girl, her father worked on the railroad on the section, they lived in a section house and her name was Ruth Hunt. And of course I've lost track of them, they lived there for a couple more years and then they moved some place else. But Lucille, she just died a little over a year ago. Her brother had died, Cecil, he lived up on 126 and she died before he was buried I guess. She lived in Arkansas. But I had got reacquainted with her then. When she'd come to visit, her brother's future wife, he'd bring her down, we'd visit. But the other girl I visited her several times, May Probert, and most of her relations are buried in the cemetery too including her mother and her father and her grandmother Dickinson. Her mother was Dickinson. Dickinson, he's the one that I went on my first automobile ride with, he lived at Wellington Lake, he had a ranch up there and he

also worked for _____ (7:28) company. He also worked for the Denver Water Company and the Denver Water Board.

DR Well now Jack, who were some of the other kids right from around Buffalo that you might have been in school with up there?

JG Well, that first year Don Tobin and his sister Patricia started the school there. Their mother used to stay up there in the fall and sometimes they'd go to school in September and October and then they'd move back down to Denver again. So, I have a picture of all of these people. And Don Tobin is in it and his sister Patricia and all these other people I've mentioned. The Purcells are in the picture. And of course they're all, except Jimmy Purcell he lives in Poncha Springs, and he's my age. But the rest of them are dead and a lot of them are buried in the cemetery. Buella [?] Purcell she was the oldest one of the Purcell kids. And her brother Roger, I think he's buried in Salida, that's where they'd moved to. But her mother and her father and her mother was a Probert. There are a lot of Proberts buried in the cemetery. The first Probert that came to Buffalo was Richard Probert, he was a blacksmith and he worked for _____ (9:02) there on Cheesman Dam sharpening their steel. He was a blacksmith. He worked for them for many years. And even afterwards, they built a dam, the Pathfinder Dam in Wyoming, and the whole family of Proberts moved up there, and he moved up there and one of the Probert boys, Harry, he was born up in Wyoming where the Pathfinder Dam was. It looks exactly like the Cheesman Dam, except it's not quite as wide, you can't drive across it, and it's not built out of granite, it's built out of sandstone, because that's the local rock there. I had lived near there and was doing some drilling in that area up there so I got a chance to go and see this dam too.

DR Well now talking about building dams and all, you know the story that I've heard around Buffalo Creek is that your grandfather's store was built from granite taken out of a little local quarry around the corner from the store there on the 'S' turn. Is that correct?

JG That's correct. And that quarry was opened by the railroad when it was first coming through, they opened that up. It's Pikes Peak Granite but it has more quartz in it and it has more of a local name, I don't remember what it is, but it's gray granite. And the abutments for the trestle, which was where the train went out of Buffalo toward Pine, you can still see it and there was another bridge in the field up in the Swann [?] Ranch. It was not as high a bridge, it wasn't a trestle, it had a pier in the middle of it. But that's how that quarry got opened up and that's where they got the granite to build the store.

- DR Well now, when we were kids up there, there wasn't any road along that side of the river. We were coming in over by the schoolhouse and where your house is now. Was there a road in there?
- JG There's an old road up on the hill you can see signs of it but it wasn't much of a road, I don't remember it being used. Now you could still drive, what we always called it around the bend, where there was a road around there. And there were signs of a road, you could drive as far as the quarry but then there was too much rock and stuff around there. If you looked close, you can see signs where there's an old road up a little higher from the present road. That road was put in about 1929. The county moved the road from where it was going past where my place is. After that road all laid in the snow and it was a rough road in the winter time and horses rode _____ (12:01) much better place for a road.
- DR Well, that couldn't have been '29, because that road was put in after I went to Texas in '32. So it must have been after '32 that that new road was built during the Depression days. That comes from Swann's [?] barn down to the store.
- JG Yeah, I know. I remember when it was built. And before it was quite finished, my dad one afternoon they had graded clear through around, and he took us all on the road Jack Lewis lived up there then.
- DR Yeah.
- JG And he took us all up there and come down on the new road and somebody worked on the road that night and he was using the road before anybody else got to. He didn't care. But I still think it's around, it was already done by '30.
- DR You think it was?
- JG Yeah.
- DR Well, what I was really interested in was the quarry. There's another book that came out and said some of the rock out of that was taken to the Wellington Lake. Do you think it was?
- JG No. No. No, never was. Wellington Dam is rock and loam, a dirt dam.
- DR Yeah. What about Cheesman? They never took any stone out of that?
- JG No. I have pictures of quarry and stone right on the dam site at Cheesman, right where the dam is there and they had a little railroad. As

the dam got higher, they had tracks and hauled stone back and forth across there from the quarry, it was quarried right on the dam site.

DR Well, that's what I had always heard, yeah.

JG Right.

DR I just wanted to kind of debunk that idea that the dam out of the Green quarry we'll call it, went over to Cheesman. It didn't happen did it?

JG No, absolutely not.

DR Well now after you finished the eighth grade in Buffalo Creek where did you go to school?

JG First year I lived with my grand folks on my mother's side, and went to Byers Junior High School for the ninth grade. And I just went there that one year and then the next year, Bob was ready, that's my brother, to go to ninth grade. And so, my dad wanted us to go to catholic school, so. There'd been a priest from Regis up trying to drum up business for Regis, so it was a boarding school. I don't know how he afforded it in those days, of course it didn't cost as much as it would now. But the both of us, I started at Regis High School as a sophomore and my brother Bob started there as a freshman. I graduated from Regis in 1935. Bob graduated next year in '36. My brother Don, he also went to Regis High School and Don and Bob both went to college there at the college.

DR Did they take the full four years?

JG Well Don took the full four years. Bob, he didn't. He just went off and on, but he didn't go the full time, no. Don did and then Don went in the army. Bob was gone to the army too, but when he came back, he didn't want school anymore. At the time I thought I wanted to be a forest ranger. So I went to school up in Fort Collins, because they were a forestry school. But I just didn't hit it off so good up there. One of the teachers I had was an atheist. And he was the English professor. And he spent more time trying to convince everybody that there wasn't any God, and of course I was fresh out of Regis, and I'd been going to school with the Jesuits' for three years, and boy I gave him an argument. And I wanted to prove to him the other way around. Well, we didn't get along at all. Well, to make a long story short, amongst other things, the only thing that I really passed in up there, and I got an 'A' grade in, was they had an ROTC unit there. And of course everybody had to take ROTC. And it was a horse-drawn field artillery unit. And of course they had the horses there. They had to pull the caissons and the canons. And of course I never owned a horse, but I grew up riding horses. I always had found somebody to have a

horse to ride. My dad didn't want to be feeding horses anymore, so they'd gotten rid of their horses a long time before that. But I always liked riding horses. So of course when it came time to learn how to ride a horse, I could show them something about riding horses. So I got along good with the Sergeant there. He had me helping him with some of the kids from New York and I don't know where all. They'd never saw a horse before. And so I got along pretty good in the other part of the artillery part of it and school part of it of the ROTC. I got an 'A' in that. That's the only thing I passed in. Well, I decided that all I was doing was messing around up there and spending the old man's money so, I said I believe I'll come back and he said he thought it was a good idea if I go back to work for him, which I did, but I wasn't crazy about it, but I had to do something. That was better than going to school, I was not getting anywhere with that.

DR Was Wilma teaching up at Buffalo about that time?

JG She came in the fall of 1937 and started teaching September 1937. And I hadn't ever gotten acquainted with her though. She lived up with Lewises up on the ranch, that's where she boarded. They had two kids come to school. In bad weather, why Doug he would haul her kids down to school, so she always had a ride to school. And if it were bad in the evening why he'd haul them back.

DR By the way, did he use one of those sleds? We used to use sleds in the hay field there at Lewis'.

JG No. He had an automobile. He had a Dodge sedan and he had an old Dodge, three-quarter ton Dodge truck. But the only person I ever saw use the sled around Buffalo with a team of horses was Harry Higginson. He used to come there with a sled, a big old bobsled to get his supplies and stuff. He lived where the _____ (10:46) house is, that was his ranch, 160 acres. That's the only time I ever saw a sled around Buffalo being pulled by a team on the road was Harry Higginson doing it. But yeah, Wilma, yeah she taught there and I never had gotten acquainted with her, as long as we're on that story, I'll just talk some more about it. When ice-cutting time came at Crystal Lake, I'd already worked on cutting ice at Pando, which is over near Leadville. Henry _____ (20:28) asked me one time if I'd like to go on the ice harvest over at Pando and I says, yeah, I'll give that a try. D&RG railroad had a big icehouse at Pando. Later on Pando became Camp Hale and the 10th army division had a camp there. But, so I was there, the main part of cutting the ice there on that _____ (20:56). That was a big job. It was a big lake there and they hauled that ice out of there. Some to Grand Junction, some of it just put in the icehouse there. It mainly was used for ice in their refrigerator cars on the railroad. That was the main idea for that ice there. But then,

along about the first of January they'd start cutting ice at Crystal Lake. Same crew that had been up at Pando, they just moved around.

DR About how thick was that ice in those days?

JG About three feet.

DR Three feet?

JG Yeah. Weighed about six hundred pounds per cake. Cut big cakes there. And I've got a story about that, that I've already got in print. And, I lost my train of thought there.

DR You were telling us about cutting ice at Crystal.

JG The school had hired, should I put his name down, he hired a young fellow in Buffalo to build a fire in the, the old school house there at that time had a furnace in it. And they'd hired him to build a fire in there, so the school would be warm and he'd been doing that all fall. He didn't have anything else to do. And so that morning, when Wilma got to school it was pretty cold and Doug had hauled the kids to school and her. And they got to school, man, it was hot in the school. So, she immediately went down to the basement and that furnace where you take the ashes out, that door was standing wide open and the furnace was just really going. And, had never been froze up and it was really drawing. And so she closed it up and went back upstairs again and it was still pretty warm in there. And so, school had just taken up. The school had more than one room in it. It had the main schoolroom there and then coming in it had a hallway from the main door coming to that room and off of that on one side was a coatroom for the boys and on the opposite side there was a coatroom for the girls. And then there was another little room you kept extra books and stuff in, like a little library room there that had bookcases in it. So these walls that had the heat, I never understood, when they built that school, they had the heat registers up near the ceiling and they were high ceilings and the return was down near the floor for the cold air return. So it was always hotter up near the ceiling than it was down near the floor. Anyway, on that wall, where the heat registers were, there was blackboards. And the one blackboard in front of the boy's coatroom all of a sudden it split open and fire jumped out. So she immediately, nothing else to do, she had pretty good size school, I could probably figure out how many kids, but there must have been probably ten or twelve and she told them to take the stuff out of their desks, get their coats and march out the front door and just take whatever they could out of their desks, books and whatever they had in their desks and get their coats and get out. And she did the same thing. So, she sent one of the kids to the store to let them know about it. There wasn't any water at the school there except they had

a little crock there with drinking water in it that somebody would fill up everyday. But that's the only water there. No electricity or anything like that, so. And she sent one of the other students over to the ranger station, which had just been newly built, but still had a crew over there, a WPA crew or a PWA crew. They were building a rock wall behind the ranger station and doing things over there. The ranger station was brand new then. So she sent one of the kids there and one to the store. Well, there wasn't anything they could do, except they got over there right away but they didn't have anything to put the fire out and they said, well, is there anything maybe, before it got too bad they could get out of the school? And she started telling them about the piano and they brought that down. And she said, well, she'd like to have her desk and the chair that went with her desk and all the school records were in that desk. It was a regular office desk for school and so they got that out. And one of the kids started running back up there and she had to grab that one. And so she got on to them and said they had to stay right there with her and they couldn't be running back up to the school. So, the inside of the school burned out and down to a pile of ashes inside. The walls were brick so they stood there. And it didn't particularly hurt them. And I was working on the ice with Windeckers hauling ice. If we come to somebody's icehouse someplace, they needed help stacking the ice well, I go up in there and stack the ice. And we'd just been to haul a load of ice down to Foxton, old Roach was still there, J.O. Roach, the guy who started Foxton. He had an icehouse there, and of course he had a lot of cabins, so he had a big icehouse. So I helped get the ice in the icehouse and there wasn't any road from Foxton to Buffalo. The railroad wasn't running then, but the tracks were still there, they hadn't pulled them out yet. So we drove up the railroad tracks with the truck, coming home. We went to Foxton with a load down the highway, but coming back up empty, we came up the railroad track until we got to Ferndale. At Ferndale there was a road along the side all the way to Buffalo. It'd been put in a few years before and of course there'd always been a road to Riverview. So we got on the road, and as we come over the hill there, just above the section house, I glimpsed over there, and I said, well the schoolhouse is gone. And I looked again, I could see fire and I said, well it burned down, and I said I could see fire coming out of the middle of it. So we stopped at the store to see what had happened and Wilma was in there and incidentally it was her birthday. She was 21 years old that day. Incidentally that was yesterday, if she was still alive, she would have been 89 years old yesterday. So anyway, she was in there and she had kind of been crying about the whole thing. And I still didn't talk to her, but I knew who she was. I'd seen her come and get her mail and so forth. So, that school business was quite well off. They had lots of money coming in from there, G-Bar-Do [?] ranch, property taxes from there and then just different places, where they got taxes from. Cheesman was in the Buffalo school district. So any taxes they got out of that, I don't know about the Denver

Water Board paying taxes, probably didn't. But this district was good, they always had a lot of money. So immediately they said, well, they had a little meeting at the store, we'll get started right away. So, at that time there was quite a few houses over where the Catholic church is now on that property. And it belonged to the Purcells. They'd moved to Salida, but their houses were still there and so my Dad had charge of any town _____(29:25). For many years, that had been the ranger station until they got the new one built, after the ranger station moved after Fred _____(29:33) died up at Redskin ranger station. The forest service rented that place. There was two good buildings there, one to live in and the other one was a good building for an office. And so that's where the forest service was until 1937 when they moved into their new place. So the school board rented that place for school and immediately they started buying desks. And we had an old potbelly stove that we weren't using and Dad says well we can set that up over there. So the next day I was doing that. And she was over there then and I was setting up the stove. I got acquainted with her then. And I said well, since this is our stove and it's close by, I says, I'll be the one to build the fire in the morning. And I was. I got over there and built a fire in the stove but I didn't make a hot fire like the other boy had done. He just built a big fire and went off and left it. The school board hired me to clean the ashes out of the basement down there. The coal shoot had five ton of coal, it had just been put in there. And so it was still burning, but I could just get a wheelbarrow and a board and start hauling stuff out.

DR You were talking about the cleaning up of the fire. You had come up from Foxton.

JG Right, yeah. So Fred Searway, he decided we could put steel beams in there to put the floor on, put in a cement floor in there. And so he hired me right away to work with him and between the two of us, we chopped holes in the floor of the school. He drew a design and scaled up what he wanted there and he got an order to some _____(00:45) outfit in Denver for I-beams to put in the floor and also a separate I-beam to go around where the stairway went. So, anyway, I got to hand chisel, cut holes in the building to the west on the side of the school building. And so Windecker hauled the I-beams up and he got right up in front of the place was and we'd already built a place inside on the floor. I had a bunch of the stuff all shoveled out and there was scaffolding there. We put pipe on it to roll these beams across and we had two niches cut on the opposite wall for two beams. And we got the beams in there between us and Windecker. We got the beams in there just roll them right off his truck. And had it built up inside so that they just roll right across. And then we placed a fastener on another beam around where the stairway went, to go upstairs and that always easy enough to do. Anyway, after we got that all in, why, the school board, there was always a lot of friction on the school

boards in Buffalo, and Tex Brogoitti was on the school board. And I can't think who else it was. Anyway, Fred, he resigned from the school board, so that he could do this work on the schoolhouse. He'd already resigned. They didn't say anything. So, I guess they had a school board election and I forget who else they hired, I can't remember. Maybe Mrs. Harbisen [?]. In any case, as soon as they got the school board organized again, they fired Fred. They didn't want him working on the schoolhouse after he got the beams all in. That was a good job we did on that. But they all had a friend up in Sphinx Park, Fred Heisel [?], he was a carpenter and a builder and he built a lot of those houses up in Sphinx Park. He homesteaded that Sphinx Park when he come out of World War I. And anyway, he homesteaded that and made quite a resort up there. But he was quite friends with Tex Brogoitti and Lewis. They might have put him on the school board. I don't know. But any case, they gave him the job of rebuilding the schoolhouse. And, when the schoolhouse burnt down, it had a huge big bell on it, a really nice sounding bell. And of course it crashed down when the roof came in, but it wasn't hurt any. And I got it out of there. Me and somebody else, we got it out of there. Got it hauled up and set outside. But where the schoolhouse got built again they built it without a place to put the bell and the bell disappeared and I know where the bell went. Fred Heisel got it. I don't know what he did with it, but he got it. Anyway, he built the schoolhouse, _____ (4:34) who was related to _____ (4:35). He was a flasher and a bricklayer. There'd been a few bricks fall out of the top and around on one side. They hired him to replace the bricks. And I guess he did some plastering in there because he still was doing plastering _____ (4:55) wall like they do today. They were still using plaster then. So he did any plastering. And the school took up again the next year. They got it going quick. So school only lasted in the town of Buffalo for one year, for that one term and then the next year. Well, how I really got acquainted with Wilma then, I got acquainted with her over there. So I had, this old Model T sedan I used to drive around. Belonged to my folks, but nobody drove it any more, but me. And so I'd drive it over there to the school when I was feeling things out. They still had me work over there. And I'd watch over there when the time for school to be out. I'd take a look and I'd see her. It was nice weather, why, she'd walk where the railroad was still in there. The rails were all still in, they hadn't taken those out yet. And so she'd start walking, so I'd get in the old Model T, I'd just quit working right about then. And I'd go over and I'd park where the schoolyard was, over on this side, and then I'd walk with her up to Lewis's. And we'd walk across the bridge and through the cut and across the next bridge and then we'd cut down through the field, no we didn't go across the next bridge. Soon as we got across that bridge, before we crossed the next bridge, we walked across the field to the road. And wherever we went across, assuming we didn't have to cross any river. Anyway, we walked through the field to the road, and on down that road to the house. So, I did that every night. We

got pretty well acquainted. Pretty soon I was going up there to visit her after dark and that's how we got acquainted. And so, we were very young. We decided it was meant for us to get married. We'd go to dances around, different places. Down at Deckers, they had Deckers dances down there at _____ (7:16) and Deckers and any place that there was a dance. But the first place I danced with her was Valentines Day dance in Schaffer's [?] Crossing schoolhouse. It's burned down. But they had a nice room in there big enough to dance in. And I didn't have to take her, she came with Dresses. Everybody would go up there to dance _____ (7:44). At the time he was working for Hart's, taking care of the water. And he lived up there at the old house that they called the lodge house. So he and his family would go up there, so they just asked her to go along. And so I got up there on my own. I think I was driving my mother's car. It was a '33 Ford, pretty nice sedan. I think I was driving it that night. Of course she didn't drive it anyway. But anyway, so I started dancing with her over there and she was a good dancer. She was quite a bit shorter than me, but we just danced good together. And so I said well, about time to go home, I could take her home. And she, well, she came with Dresses maybe she better go home with them. So for our music that night had been a piano and a mandolin and a guitar. Mrs. Heisel played the guitar. Mrs. Shiner played the mandolin. And I forgot the gal's name that played the piano. But that was the music for dancing and we did pretty good. Anyway, we started going together pretty regular then. So, we decided we weren't going to get married like other people do, because we thought we'd better elope. I figured my dad, he would object to me marrying a non-Catholic that had never had any instructions and so forth. In fact, most of my family, my Grandmother Green, she was the original Catholic in the family, German Catholic. And she married my grandfather, he was probably Methodist, his middle name was Wesley, John Wesley and he come from down in Virginia. And I think that he probably was a Methodist. But we didn't have any trouble with him. And my Grandmother, she didn't care whether we became Catholic or not. Didn't press that at all. But then my dad come along. He's a little bit narrow minded about things like that. And so when he got acquainted with my mother, when they were going to get married, she had to become a Catholic before he'd marry her. Of course, they were married in the cathedral, downtown Denver. It was pretty new then, 1916. It was a pretty new place, just been finished. But I knew that it wouldn't go over very big, if I were to marry a non-Catholic, just off the top of my head like that. And her folks, they didn't much care for Catholics either. Now, her folks moved around a lot and they were farmers, and her dad was a carpenter and a house builder and a farmer. For a while they had a farm up around Platteville. And they had some friends up there, Germans, they were Catholics and they liked them and got along fine. And Wilma had been to church with this girl, they were the same age. She'd been to mass, Catholic church or whatever. She thought it was better than where she'd been going to church. She

thought it was a good place to go to church to her. So, we just decided we're going to elope. Not going to tell her side or my side. And we had a Model A Ford. Wilma did most the paying for it because she had the only steady job. I didn't make too much working for my dad in the store. At least what I made for working for other people. Fred Searway, whoever. And so we decided we were going to get all loaded up and all the stuff loaded up at the ranch the night before, this was on a Friday night. And I'd been down and got a marriage license in Golden. And then I got to thinking, I know there's a lot of people around Buffalo that got the Jefferson County legal paper there, I forget what it was called, it might still be around. And they publish all those things in that paper. Somebody would see in there where I'd got a marriage license to marry Wilma Barnes. And so the next day, I turned right around and went back over to Golden and I told them that the marriage is all off. I brought the marriage license back. Got my \$10 back and they said well, too bad. It never got published. So we left early on Saturday morning and I had a friend, well he lived around Buffalo, and he'd been promoting us getting married for a long time. He was related to the Van de Marks. His wife was a Van de Mark. His name was Davis. He was a physical education teacher in Kansas. I guess he taught some other subjects too, history or something. But he was going to Boulder to get his masters degree so that he'd make more money teaching school. And so I said, well, we're getting married up in Boulder. So we'll go around through Black Hawk and Central City and get our marriage license. The only way to get up there was you had to go to Idaho Springs and up that, Oh My God road, they called it. Up Virginia Canyon to Central City. And the courthouse was open Saturday morning. And I have pictures, I'll show them to Dave here after a while. It was in the Saturday Evening Post and I've even got a plate and I've got a lot of pictures showing a couple getting married and the date on it is June 11th. The date in this old courthouse is June 11th. And that's when this was, was June 11th. And there's a man and a woman, tall guy, and a girl, getting their marriage license. And, I think an old guy sitting there behind the desk. So anyway we got it. And then we drove from there on over to Boulder, through Rollinsville and over that way. So, as soon as we got to Boulder to this guy's house, we'd been up there to visit him a couple times before, I went over where the Catholic church was and contacted the priest. Well, he and a bunch of other priests were all dressed up coming out of the rectory. And so he says, man, he says, you can't, you can't get married today. Says, you got to get dispensation from the archbishop. He says, you never get anything done like that today, he says, just forget it. And he says, there's no way, you got to start all over again. He says, anyway, I'm busy. And he says, maybe if I wasn't busy, he says, we couldn't get any dispensation from the archbishop for you to marry a non-catholic on such short notice. So I went back to Denny Davis' house. At that time Buffalo was a mission out of Golden. I didn't know the priest over there. Never been over there. They'd never been over to

Buffalo. But that's what it was. It was a mission out of Golden. So I got his phone number somehow and I called him up in Golden. And I told him what my problem was. And I kind of fibbed a little bit. I said, I got a job over at Leadville I want to get on with. And I says, and I want to get married before I go over there. Well, and I told him about my wife and I says, she been baptized? I says, she thinks she has, but she doesn't know for sure, but she thinks she has. She's gone to church all her life. He says, well, probably she has. And he says, where were you baptized? And I said, St. Joseph's Hospital. He says, can you get your baptism certificate by tomorrow, tomorrow being Sunday. I says, yeah, I suppose I could. Hospital is open all the time. And he says, well, I'll get this started going right now, he says. And he says, you get down here this evening, he says, we could probably get married this evening. So we drove, it rained most the way going down to Golden. But we drove down there and so he gave Wilma about 15, 20 minutes instruction, what it was all about. And we got married in the rectory. Of course couldn't get marriage _____ (17:04) or anything like that, but that wouldn't bother me a bit. But I always figured he probably thought, we might go off up to Leadville without getting married so he'd go to get this done the right way. That was always my theory. Anyway, of course the marriage license got the witnesses was Denny Davis and Vivian, his wife. And of course, later on when my dad found out all about this and saw the marriage license, and he said, well he's a mason. And I said well, what difference does that make? We had time there for a while. Anyway, we spent our honeymoon in the Westcourt Hotel, in Denver. I tried to pick a hotel that people from Buffalo didn't go to. A lot of people from Buffalo went to the Auditorium Hotel, including my Grandfolks. Every time they went to Denver, they'd stay at the Auditorium. And I'd stayed there. And they knew us. We'd come in the door and knew who we were. And I'd seen other people there, not from this country. And so I wasn't going to stay there. So I chose the Westcourt. Who should I see, I didn't let her see me, but when I come in the hotel, she's sitting there talking to somebody, was Burt Dick's wife. He ran the store and post office in Pine. Her name was _____ (18:29), had been. Anyway, I didn't let her see me. And she didn't. So anyway, we stayed the night in the Westcourt Hotel. It was a pretty nice hotel. First time I had ever been in it but it was a pretty nice hotel. But sure enough there's somebody from my country. So the next day I took her to Wheat Ridge, because she lived out in Wheat Ridge and unloaded her stuff. And didn't tell her folks anything about it.

DR Jack, just hold a minute here. Okay. Now you can go ahead again. You got married at the Westcourt.

JG Yeah. So anyway, the next Sunday I go on out to St. Joseph's and got my birth certificate. No problem there. And, of course they're always open, and that's where I was baptized. So I mailed it to him right away. He just

gave me an envelope and he says just mail it to me. And so I took her home. Well, I ran the wheels off that Model A Ford there. Right then I was working in the store for the old man. And my Granddad he decided I should get some pay. He didn't know all this went on. But every once in a while, other times he'd slip me a \$20 bill, you know. But Dad, he figured he's putting me through school and so forth. And I know it cost him money to go to school. But well we come to an arrangement where he paid me so much a week then. I was getting a regular whatever salary. And so I don't know for years I had been sleeping in my Grandfolks house because that was a small little house, getting too big for three boys, for five of us living and I always liked my Grandmother's house anyway, it was white house. And I had my own room there and so forth. So, so they were going to go down and visit my aunt and uncle in Littleton. And so I said well, I'll have Wilma up here and we'll just take over the bedroom. And so I invited her up, which was all right and I said she could sleep in the room and so forth. So we were out, I don't know, we might have been over to the hall dancing that night, the community hall. Anyway, I come home, and I don't know, I was a little suspicious coming in. I had my own key to that place. And we just come up the front stairs and I heard my Dad up there wanting to know, who's coming? I said, uh-oh. He's here. He's going to see we don't sleep together. Well of course, they've got enough beds there for people to have their own room anyway. So the next day I took her back to town. Well I don't know how it got out, but Mrs. Brogoitti somehow, I suppose I was saying something somewhere or something to somebody but she found out I was married. And she's in the store there one morning, and he was working the _____ (22:12) back there, and she was giving me a bad time, are you going to bring that girl up here. She said you can't leave her down there. And afterwards my dad wanted to know. My mother knew I was married and my brothers, 'cause I don't know how it'd come up, but I went and showed them the marriage license. Don, he couldn't believe it. But I had showed them the marriage license. So, _____ (22:47), over there at my house. _____ (22:50). Anyway, so then my dad wanted to know what was going on and I thought well, it's about time I tell him what it's all about. Oh man, he got upset! I thought he was going to break down and cry or something. He really got upset about the whole thing. How could you do this to me? I said, I didn't do anything to you. And he wouldn't speak to me for a while. My Grandmother, she was never narrow-minded about things and she's the only one that could control his goings on. So she took him in hand and said, now you can't, she says, they're married, she says, and they're going to get along fine, you just got to get used to it. And I've already spoken to his Grandfather about giving him that house over next door. And we'll get it all cleaned up. And she'll just move up and they can just live over in that house over there. It was an old two-story house. In fact, it was the house my dad was born in. Hadn't been lived in for years. They hired some old guy over there at the ranger station,

working around over there. He scrubbed it out clean as could be. We moved in but, me and my grandmother, she said, well you bring her up here and you just stay right here in your own room here until your house is ready. So, that's the way that all turned out. And there wasn't any more trouble. My dad finally got used to it. And her family, it was a while before they got used to it. And when we left to move her up, she just left a note for them. And I moved her out at night in that same Model A Ford out of the house there in Wheat Ridge and didn't wake anybody up. She had a lot of stuff already outside there in the garage of her stuff. And she'd been packing it out there a little bit at a time, nobody had paid any attention to it I guess. And so we moved down here without anybody knowing it, but left a note that she'd married me and was moving to Buffalo to stay to live with me up there. Of course she already had a job for next year. She was already hired teaching next year. And of course, somebody's going to get fired for that because they had a rule that two schoolteachers couldn't get married. And she knew that. I said, whoever is on the school board then, I said, I get along with them all right, they ain't going to object to it too much. Mrs. Harbisen [?] was on the school board. Monroe Hall, and I forget who the third one was. But I says, they ain't going to. And so, I went up and talked with Mrs. Harbisen [?] with her, and she says, well, she wasn't supposed to get married but I guess it's all right. I says, you know it's all right. So, that's how we got moved in to Buffalo.

DR How the two of you got together. How long did you stay in and around Buffalo then? You went into the rock-drilling business pretty close there, didn't you?

JG Well, when the war started, not quite yet. When the war started I had been working for Jefferson County.

DR I remember that. You were working on the county roads, weren't you?

JG Yeah, I was. There was just a couple of us working there. And I learned to run a bulldozer and all that stuff. I could run all the graders and equipment there. But by that time I had three little kids and I just couldn't see myself going on. So, Doc Sams, he's the one that brought my kids in the world he had a cabin at Buffalo Creek. He was a house doctor for the Arms Plant out there. He talked to me about it. He says, why don't you put an application to go to work down there. He says, I'll see you get a job. And so I did and I got a job right away on that road gang, loading, unloading boxcars. And so I moved into Wheat Ridge into one of the houses that was on the same property where Wilma had been since she was in 8th grade. There had been a big chicken house back there and he got tired of raising chickens and he made the chicken house into two apartments with a garage in the middle and one apartment was empty, so we just moved in there. Moved what we needed down there. Didn't move the piano

because apartments weren't big enough for all that stuff. But we moved what we needed, moved in there, and I went to work out at the Arms Plant. Well, things kind of drawn down and I got into a hassle out there. We had gangs, five in a gang and a _____ (28:18) gang and a leader. Well we had some blacks in there. That didn't bother me. There was one real nice guy was in our gang and I never had any trouble with black people, never in my life. I liked them all right. I never lived around them but of course my Granddad came from down south and my dad lived around them. He worked for a while down south, before we took over the store. And he used to tell me about them and how if they liked you how they'd treat you really good, do anything for you. And how not to abuse them or anything. Just treat them like they were your friend. But we had one guy in there that he was always cold. And the _____ (29:15) gang and working in the wintertime outside unloading boxcars it's kind of a cold job. So, we were unloading empty ammunition boxes and you throw it from one person to another and stack them. And you got to be alert with what you're doing. He wouldn't, we didn't care, he wasn't any good anyway, he'd go back in the warehouse some place especially on night shift, where there's a hot water radiator and steam radiator and keep warm. So it had come time to punch out, of course we worked two shifts there, come time to punch out second shift, our time clock was in a warehouse, there wasn't anything going on there at nighttime. And there wasn't any steam radiator close by. And everybody would just sit around and wait, it wasn't all that cold, but he'd go back some place where there was a radiator and keep himself warm and then he'd come back. And it got some guys, I never lined up in front of the time clock, I always said it doesn't take that long to punch out. But there were always a bunch of them lined up and he come and get in the line about one or two down from the clock. And they all complained about it, but they wouldn't say nothing to him. They just complained on the side, but they wouldn't say anything to him about it. So one night, he come in and he pushed in and approached the clock and I was sitting there on a bin of rope and I said, hey boy, get back on the end of the line. Boy his eyes popped open, what do you mean, calling me boy? Sounds like you come from south of the line.

DR This is a continuation of the January 12th 2006 interview with Jack Green. We'll get started all over again. Trying to figure out if we can remember where we left off. Okay, Jack, you had just gotten married and moved up to Buffalo and finally settled things up with your dad and your grandad. And I guess at that particular point you just kind of worked around Buffalo for a while, is that right?

JG I was talking about how I got mixed up working out at the arms plant.

DR Yeah. That's right.

JG

I went down there Doc Sams had given me a job. Anyway, what I was talking about was I got in a hassle with this colored guy because he kept pushing and shoving in the line. And so of course he turned me in to the officials around there. So they called me in and said, I got nothing against black people. I said, there's another one there. I says, I'm eating my lunch with him just the same as anybody else. It makes no difference to me. I said, but he acts just like the rest of us. This one acts like he's maybe a little better than the rest of us and he won't go out there and work with the rest of us, because it's too cold, he can't stand the cold. And I said, if he wants to stand in front of that time clock, he ought to get up there and get in line to start with, instead of pushing and shoving. Well, you can't talk to those people like that. Well, I said, they ought to act a little bit different then. So, he said, all right, but he says, about that time Mrs. Roosevelt had told them all what they could do _____ (1:59) So, he says, well we'll move him out of there someplace else. I said, do what you want to with him. I says, I don't care. So I didn't have any more problems there. So, I found out that the Bureau of Reclamation had a crew core drilling there on the dam site of South Platte on the Two Forks Dam. And I didn't know anything about core drilling but I'd worked around machinery a lot. So one weekend I spent a couple days up in Buffalo, stayed with my dad up there. So I went down to South Platte, drove down there on a Saturday, they were working. And I talked to the foreman down there. In those days they were still setting their own bits by hand. Setting pretty good-sized diamonds in them. I didn't have the slightest idea what it was about at the time. But he had a little shack down there, they pulled it down the railroad tracks. There's about a mile or so below South Platte, where the dam site was and he was in there setting diamonds in a bit. And of course, these are black stones. They don't look like diamonds, but they're mighty hard. And so he was doing it by hand and so I talked to him. I said I'd like to get a job down there. I told him where I was working, I said, but, I said, I'm getting tired of working down there. I says, I own a place up there in Buffalo. My folks own that store up there. Oh, yeah, he says, I've been there. And he says, well, he says, you work around machinery? I said, oh yeah, I said, I've worked for the county for years. I said, I've operated snowplows, bulldozers, road graders, jackhammers. I said, I've done a lot of jackhammer work and I can do blasting. I've done all that for Jefferson County. On my own, ran a compressor, drill a hole with the jackhammer and then load them up and blast them and move your rock out with the bulldozer. It's all right, I know how to do all that. Well, he said I think you'll be all right here. He says, we don't have anything about that heavy to do. He says, but you'll have to see the head cheese. He has an office in Denver and you'll have to see him. He's the one does the hiring for the reclamation jobs here. And he said, especially since you're working at the arms place there might be some questions. So he told me where to find him. So first chance I got, just that next week, I went in to

see him. I think I took a day off. Or maybe I was on second shift and could take the day off, didn't need time off, and went in to see him. So my in-laws knew him. He owned the apple orchards, he and his family, right out in front of where their place was in Wheat Ridge. And he was a big democrat there at that time. And I got acquainted with him and his family. But, he said, well, yeah, he says, you can go to work there, he says, but you've got to get a pink slip from the arms plant, otherwise we can't hire you. I says, well, okay. I'll see about that. So I went to the same supervisor that had called me in about the harsh words to the black guy, and I said, I've got a chance for another job, outside work up by my home where I come from. And I said, could I get released? Oh, you betcha. He wrote me out a slip right away. He said, you can leave anytime you want to. So, I said, okay. So I did. And so I got Windeckers to move me back up to Buffalo and I had acquired some more furniture while I was living in Wheat Ridge. Dining room set, a real nice one, it was secondhand, but it was a really nice dining room set. Old one. Good material, well built. So, we moved up. And so I went to work at South Platte and worked there the rest of winter. Before that I'd raised chickens. I never mentioned that. But I had gotten rid of them. I had about 50 for eggs. And we got to where everybody else had chickens, so I couldn't sell the eggs anymore. So I got rid of them. And I had a cow, a milk cow.

DR Is that at Buffalo?

JG Yeah, at Buffalo. I had a milk cow and I farmed her out. Well, I had two of them and I farmed both of them out. I got a guy that was on the Johnson Ranch over toward Cheesman that I knew pretty well and he was raising cattle. And he said he'd take them _____(7:12) for the milk. One of them was a jersey and the other was a mix. She was part Holstein part shorthorn, mean old cow. But she'd give out the milk. And the jersey would come in and kiss you if you'd leave the door open. She was like a pet. She'd been raised by _____(7:35). She was a jersey cow, nice little cow. You could milk her anywhere you found her. Even Wilma had learned how to milk her. So anyway, I sold the one cow and got the jersey back, because still had kids, they still liked milk. So I had her back. We lived out at the place the rest of that winter and come summer they quit the drilling for a while and they was going to come back again and drill there during the wintertime, of all places. But they wanted to go up and drill on the dam site of Dillon. The Dillon Dam. And they _____(8:22) Seems like they had some kind of a deal, the reclamation with the city of Denver for doing their core drilling. And of course, they liked the idea of a dam at Dillon because that's a good place to build a dam anyway. So we moved up there to Dillon. And I even moved the cow up there. I borrowed a horse trailer from one of the guys that was working on the drills, he had a horse and he hauled that horse around. He was from Boulder. And he says, well, he says, use my trailer and haul that cow up to Dillon. He

says, that's all right. So I did, in between hauling drill equipment up there, I got the cow up there. And I just fixed a rope corral for her down on the Blue river, just not too far from town, where there was a lot of grass down in there. She spent the night down in there and I'd milk her in the morning and I'd just turn her loose. She'd wander up and down the river and go wherever she wanted. Sometimes I had to chase her almost to Breckenridge to get her back. She'd really graze around. Anyway, we lived in a little log cabin there. It was part of a motel but it was the only one they had and it was a nice little place in Dillon. And so, we were there all summer. So when we were going to move back to Buffalo after working at Two Forks that winter. So when it come time for canning season, why, Wilma always liked to can peaches and stuff so, I moved her and the kids back to Buffalo. There was a sort of hotel there in Dillon and I got a room in the hotel and they also served meals. There wasn't many people staying there, just me and maybe one or two others. And I got pretty well acquainted with those people. So I moved the cow. Before we ever moved up there, I'd taken her up to Bryn Mawr to Taub's [?]. He had a bull. She was needing a bull. I took her up there to _____ (10:55). He said she was all taken care of, so I brought her back. So we moved her, but I saw her with other, when I was out looking for her at times, why, I saw her with some range cattle. And I said well maybe she's one of those sort of cows that wouldn't take.

DR Okay. We had a little interruption there and Jack's going to take off again. Here we go.

JG So, we moved the cow to Dillon, and oh, I saw that cow looking for a bull again. And I says, well, so I milked her, she's getting not milked so much anymore. So I just quit looking for her. I said well, I just let her run, can't make her move back to Buffalo. So I knew I was going to start moving back to Buffalo to drill and I told people around there I had this milk cow on the river some place and I'd sell her for \$50. And so, some guy said, well he'd buy it. And so I says, well, if you can get her. So, I got to where I could run faster than she could. I'd chase her and get her separated from the rest of the cows, range cattle. And I got her started up the road. She was clear down at Blue River, quite a ways away. But I got her separated and got her started back and I was following her with the car. And she knew where she was going. She just went on ahead and so she went right to where I kept her. I had her there in that rope corral. So Monroe Hall, of course who was raised on a ranch, he was working there too. He'd been working for the water board as a guard at Cheesman but they wanted him to learn how to be a diamond driver because they were thinking they'd get their own driver drill. And so he and I started helping the same time on the same drill at South Platte. So he was in the same motel with his wife when we were up there. I of course had my kids with me. He had his with him too. And so he says, well, he says, let's go down

and take a look at it. So he went down there, and he says she looks kind of fat. So he got up next to her side and started bumping her with his legs and his hands. Says, hey, she's got a big calf inside of her. I says, she has? He says, yeah. Probably won't be too long till she drops a calf. And I said, well, I can't go sell her then. I'll get my horse trailer back over here and haul her down to Buffalo. So the guy come to look at the cow. I says, well, I've decided not to sell her, I says, I need the price to go all the way up. So I hauled her back down to Buffalo and I just turned her loose on the hill behind the house there, just anywhere she wanted to go. And she'd go in the yard or out of the yard, wherever she wanted to go. I didn't try to fence her up. So one day I come back from South Platte, and I hear her balling up on the hill behind the house there, up toward wherever, Christmas Hill. And so I went up to take a look and there she had a calf up there. She'd had the calf on the side of the hill. I guess she needed somebody to come around. And so, some cows are pretty much, they know their calves but the other cows I'd had, when I bought her she had a calf when I bought her and I had to separate her from the calf, so the calf wouldn't be nursing on her. And so I built a separate little pen to put the calf in. And every time I'd get near that calf, why she'd start after me. So I finally just picked up the calf and when she come balling toward me, I just turned the head of the calf between me and her and then I turned around and put her inside this other pen and it was all right because she wasn't going to hit the calf. So anyway, we always called this old jersey Daisy Duke, named her Daisy Duke. I don't know why, but that's what we named her. So she didn't object at all when I picked up the calf, carried the calf down to the house to where I had the other pen and where I had the hay and stuff down there. And she didn't object a bit. And I had a place down there where I milked and I'd feed the calf milk, I got her weaned off the cow right away. And so I'd just take care of the calf separate and milk her, boy she gave us some good yellow milk. I bought a cream separator before and I still had that. And man I'd separate that milk and cream. And I also had a pig or two. One of the pigs had a bunch of little ones. So I'd mix up stuff to feed the pig and put the milk that had gone through the separator, mix that up good and feed the pigs. Anyway, we drilled there all winter and I frosted my feet, standing up on the cold hillside there. Where we were drilling the sun never show and it was all icy up there. You had to drill with water. We had a pump down on the river and it had a big heater on the water line so the water wouldn't freeze getting up to the drill. But that did keep my feet warm. And I frost them there. And that's the reason I figure the nerve damage I had to my feet is from frosting. I had frosted them over the years in different places I lived. One place was Leadville. I really frosted them there. But anyway, we finished our drilling at South Platte and then we made a couple little moves. We moved first to Buena Vista. And there's two lakes, the twin lakes up near Vista there and they wanted to see about making it all one lake instead of having two. They were natural lakes, but they had a raise

where all the water could be one lake and get bigger. So they wanted to drill there and see about the bedrock. Well we never did find bedrock with the core drills. We mostly drove pipe and we got down where all the stuff was _____ (18:38). And it was all glacial til, boulders the size of gravel. So I had to keep driving pipe and wash water down through _____ (18:47). We got down around 200 feet, still no bedrock. So we had to quit. And he said, well I'll have to bring in a churn drill if they want to find bedrock here but we can't find it without _____ (19:04). So we had to move from Buena Vista to Gunnison to drill on that project. Of course it ended up being Blue Mesa Reservoir.

DR Yeah, Blue Mesa.

JG And, so we drove around different places. They always drilled at a lot of different places. We did some drilling up at Crested Butte. I didn't ever know just why we were drilling up there on some stream, but we did. And so we drilled there all summer. I was still a helper and Monroe he was still there. And he was supposed to be made a driller. I was ready to drill any time they wanted to ask me if I wanted to give it a try but they asked Monroe first. No, he was afraid. He didn't want to, no, he didn't want to drill. And bedrock, bedrock. So they _____ (20:06) and says, he's supposed to learn how to drill I don't know what he is afraid of. So one day he says to me he says, here you ought to drill. You want to drill around today? So, I said, yeah, I'll get right at it. So, I did put the hard roll, route the hole, did the drilling, pulled it out again, pulled the core and I drilled that day and never tore up any bits. So, we finished out that job there. And we were drilling there on VJ day. And we'd been drilling down the river someplace for something, I don't know why. But it wasn't just on a _____ (20:47) it was on a side place. And why we were drilling, I don't know what for. Maybe for some kind of material to use for building a dam. I don't know what we were drilling for, he didn't say, but we just drilled wherever you put a stake in the ground. And so we were coming home and I was riding with the foreman, his name was Pale [?] and I was riding in the pickup with him. We met these people coming out of Gunnison throwing whiskey bottles out of their car and just raising heck. And his name was Vic, Victor. And I says, I wonder what's going on. He said everybody's celebrating. I said maybe the war is over or something. He says, well maybe it is. Soon as we got into Gunnison, sure enough, they declared the war was over and done with and so we could throw away our gas ration stamps and buy new tires if you could find them or whatever else you wanted to do. So that night in town every place that had a dance hall had a dance going, celebrating. And one of the drillers that wasn't married, he didn't do any drilling, he was an older fellow and I don't know. But he looked after the kids while we were out dancing my wife and I. And of course I got more to drink than I really needed, but. Then we all went to somebody's house after the dances quit to have

supper and that just about did it. I just about got sick. So we went back to the place we had rented there. And we already had word through, I guess the next day, well we already had word we were going to move to Wyoming. And I already had been told that I had been promoted to driller. And that we were going to move to Glendell, Wyoming to drill on a dam site there that had never been drilled on. So we loaded the stuff up. We're still renting places to live in. So I bought a pretty good-sized little trailer just to haul our supplies around in. All our clothes, everything we needed to live on because mostly you had to have your pots and pans to move into some of these places. They weren't furnished or anything even to cook in. So, all they had was a house and a bed and we supplied everything else. So we took off with our trailer load of stuff and went to Glendell. And we drilled with an old drill that I was used to using, it was an old type drill. And we drilled on that quite a while with that. So we'd been drilling down on the ice in the middle of the dam. You had to drill out on the ice. It was pretty thick ice. And you could drive _____ (24:20). And put a deck in there ten feet off the ground _____ (24:29). So we moved up on the side of the dam site and found a flat ground. All sandstone on that side. And they brought down a brand-new drill. Hydraulic operated. Without getting into all kinds of mechanics, it was what was called a scoop feed, it was a different kind of thing. This was operated with the _____ (25:00) with hydraulic. Pretty nice hydraulic drill. And so I got to be a pretty good driller there. There was another guy _____ (25:25), he'd been around. He'd been a helper longer than I had. And he just made driller same time as me, but he was mad because they made me driller same time as him, and I hadn't been working that long. Anyway, he thought how good he was. So, I said to myself, we had two helpers. Reclamation used to hire two. Instead of one helper they hired two. And so I had a couple of good helpers. And I said, well, we're going to just see how much we can drill with this new machine. And so we'd been drilling like 15, 20 foot a shift, which was pretty average. So one night I says, well, to myself, we're going to drill more than 15, 20 feet. Well, we drilled 50 feet that night on second shift. We drilled 50 feet. And by this time we were using besides the handset bits, we were having manufactured bits. They had a different way of putting stones in, it was all different and you could cut with it fast, you didn't have to be so careful with it. They didn't cost as much money because of little bitty old solid stones in them. And so I drilled 50 feet and the next day that other driller, he was so mad he didn't know what to do. He says, what are you going to do when you can't drill 50 feet? I says, well I'll just drill what I can. He says, nobody expects anybody to drill that kind. He says, _____ (27:04). I says, you ask the foreman there. The guy that'd been our driller, the one that broke me in, he was made foreman. He drilled on the Hoover Dam. He'd been a driller for years. And he was from up in Utah. But he was oh, passed 60 years old. He was a really good driller. Knew what he was doing. Big drinker, but he never come down to

drill drunk. But he'd come with some pretty good hangovers. It didn't bother him a bit. He'd drill whatever he could, didn't let it bother him. But he didn't want to turn somebody's nose sideways, so he didn't overdrill. But I didn't care. And he didn't either. We was on our own new crew and he just really got a big bang out of it when he found out the next day that I drilled 50 feet. And then when this other guy, his name was Dave Masters, he says, well let him holler, he says, let's see what he can do. Anyway, we drilled there at Glendell on that dam site on both sides. One side was the _____ (28:14) and one side was sandstone. And we were down river. We drove to work in our own cars. We had a little place on the river where we kept our equipment. But it was a piece of an old farm there and an alfalfa field. It was maybe about 5, 10 miles out of town. Maybe not quite 10 but it was just 5 miles out of town. So when summer came, why, they decided to go drill on another dam site. So we went over in Nebraska and drilled on a dam site in Nebraska, just across the line from _____ (28:55) Wyoming. Limon, Nebraska was the name of the place. And we were there for a while and did some drilling there. It was a cold windy place. And after we got done there we moved back to Glendell. So then all of a sudden why, they weren't ready to do any more drilling at Glendell. They wanted to go up and drill on another dam on the Platte River, up in Wyoming. Oh, and we had to go through Casper. There was a dam above it called Seminole Dam, already there. And this was called the _____ (29:45) Dam. And it was in the process of being built. And it was a cement block dam. It wasn't a dirt filled dam. It was in an air cave. But they wanted to do some drilling, it was about so far along. And they wanted to do some drilling there and put in some holes to put in some instruments to test if there was any movement or anything going wrong with the dam as it was going up and after it got built. So we spent all summer. We lived at a place called _____ (30:30). And that's near where this Pathfinder Dam was I was talking about. And _____ (20:25) had a dam there. It was a _____ (30:38) dam. And we had a little place there. There had been a CC camp there at one time. And there was filling station and a grocery store there. And we had a cabin rented from this guy _____ (30:53). And so we drilled there for a while, then they were ready to do some more drilling down at Wyoming. So we moved around different cabins down there and there was mice in _____ (31:13). So I was making a little bit of money then.

DR

Second side of tape number two. We're going to continue. But I think now Jack, we ought to get off a little bit of the drilling time we had and see if there's some more stories about Buffalo and the valley over there. So, let's see if we can't pick up some idea of what happened around Buffalo Creek after you and Wilma got back there from your adventures all over the world.

- JG Well, what I was going to say there, we bought a house there to live in Wyoming and from then on we lived in house trailers instead of renting places. And I pulled that house trailer all over the United States from Idaho to Mexico and California to Virginia.
- DR When you left the core drilling work there, what was that? That was about in the sixties, wasn't it?
- JG No. In '61 I got an offer to go work in the Philippines. I was living near Nashville and I was the branch manager for this drilling company I worked for. I had opened an office near Nashville there, because we had a lot of work going on then. But in August, '61, I moved to the Philippines and Wilma and the two girls, they finished high school there in Tennessee. And so they went with me. Well, they came three months afterwards. I went over there first and I located with a big drill company. There was a big copper mine there. And so anyway, we lived _____(1:55) headquarters there, no matter where else we worked. My headquarters were on the island of _____(2:00) in the Philippines and our main office for the place was in Manila. I moved back to the states in March of 1970. I had been off of social security for all those years, eight and a half, nine years. I'd been putting plenty into the Philippines social security, but nothing in the United States, since I was working over there and so I knew I had to get back, over here and I was ready to leave the Philippines anyway. So, I resigned over there and moved to Montrose, well I moved first just to Buffalo. Come back there and got myself located and did some visiting around. As soon as I put out some feelers that I had to go to work. So I had put out some feelers around at different mining companies. I even got myself established as a drilling consultant and had some stationary made and cards, which made me out as a drilling consultant. Nobody ever heard of one before, all kinds of concerns. But then they were always curious to see what I did out of that. But I already knew a lot of places to go. Anyway I got a job eventually in Montrose where a guy had wanted me to go into business with him but I didn't want to go into the drilling business, too many dangers of losing money. But he had and he'd gotten in with Newmont and Newmont had their own drills and he superintended their drilling but he got a lot of work that way. He formed his own company and he got all of Newmont's drilling plus he drilled for other people. He had his offices in Montrose, so he wanted me to come to work there as assistant manager. He was trying to sell his drilling company to a Canadian outfit and he wanted somebody else who knew something about that. And all his equipment was Canadian and of course I was really familiar with that, because in between jobs, I'd worked for Newmont with their equipment and so I understood the whole business. So I went to work for him. And they wanted somebody in this outfit _____(4:46), up in Canada. So anyway, I went to work for him, and I worked for three years. And he's about to sell the place, well, I can't

remember the year now. And so I retired from the drilling in '73 and I'd already decided to do this. I made a deal with my dad to take over his 40 acres that my Granddaddy had bought in the 1800's just across from the store. And about half of it was meadowlands and the other half was timber. And so I told him, I says, I'll probably inherit this some day anyway. I says, I don't want that property across the river over by your place anymore. I says, can't we arrange some way you take that back and I take? He says, yeah, he says, and he knew how to do all those kind of things. He had a lot of friends over there in Jefferson County in those days. He got some deeds from the stationary store. And so we filled out the deeds and he deeded the 40 acres over to me for \$10. And I deeded my lots and my house over on his side of the river to him for \$10. I took them over and filed them and the gal at the county clerks office wanted to know if any money changed hands? And I says, oh yeah, \$10 this way, \$10 the other way. So I'd already decided on this then, before I moved over there. And I had a garage built on the place. And I'd arranged with a fellow in Pine there to build a garage. He was the minister at the church at Pine at the time. I forget his name. But he was also a carpenter.

DR

I remember him.

JG

Good carpenter. And so I made a deal with him to build this garage and where to build it. I had everything all laid out. And I said, now I want that garage built good and tight. And I says, I'm probably going to live in it while I build my house there. So it all got done, he got the garage built and he got the windows in the way I wanted them. In fact in the meantime, I says, put bolts in the casings there where the windows go, until I get over here and then you can bolt planks over the windows. So people won't throw rocks and so forth. So that's the way it was and I came over and I stayed at my dad's house for a while until I got things located in the garage the way I wanted it. I bought wall-to-wall indoor-outdoor rug to put on the floor in there. And I bought a bunch of insulation. And the ceiling of the garage was regular trusses for holding up the ceiling. I went over to my old house that I'd lived in before and I asked my dad first about it. He says, why don't you just tear that house down and use whatever you want for it. So I had put plywood on the walls of that house that I'd been living in. So I tore a bunch of the plywood off and moved it over to the garage and put it up and put insulation above it, so I had the ceiling insulated. I put a little gas heater in the garage door. Where the garage door was I put a hole through it and put a pipe to it, _____ (8:38). I had a coal range in the house that I'd bought when we'd first gotten married, a good range, that could burn coal or wood in it. And I'd had a pipe put in there that would withstand that kind of _____ (9:00). And had a _____ (9:02) my kitchen stove up in there. And I moved some of the furniture. I rented myself a U-haul truck, and moved the furniture out of the house. And I used the piano for a sort



of division between where I put the bed and the front room in the house. And then I had some of the other furniture on the side there to make it big enough for another room. And I took some _____ (9:31) stuff and on one wall on the side there, I built a place for a toilet room. And I got a portable toilet to put chemicals in it and then you put chemicals in there and then you just take it outside and empty it. There was an old mine prospect pit on my property there about a ways from the house. It was nothing to it just went out of sight and you never saw it again. And I

_____ (10:08) with a door. I said that's the confessional. And then all my kids and all them got a big kick out of that. The first Christmas we were in the garage, my son, he was over in Montrose. I'd got him over there to be my mechanic while I was working there. He was living in Georgia and looking for something better to do and he's a good mechanic. So he was working over there in Montrose. So he came over and the girls, they were living in Littleton in a trailer house that I had bought for them while I was in the Philippines that I bought for Alice and Edith she was living in Hawaii at the time. But they were all there for Christmas and so we had Christmas in that little old garage and my son and his wife and his little boy slept there on cots. And their little kid he kept falling off the cot during the night. But I had a rollaway bed for the other two to sleep on. But we got by. You know, we'd lived like that before. So we had our first Christmas in the garage there. That was in 1973, Christmas because we'd just come over there in October, '73. So we got busy running the other house. Windeckers come over then. That snow was bout four feet deep where I wanted to start building. And they come over here with a big tractor and started moving the snow out of there and all in the winter. And John, he was alive then, and he and Jerry got the place all cleaned out, so they could start to put in the footings and stuff, which we did. And I'd already learned how to lay block, so I got the block there. Any warm day where I could lay block without freezing, why, I would start building up the basement because there was going to be a basement and a first floor and that was it. And I was going to finish the basement off. So we worked on the house good days, when it didn't snow. And I had help with the house, Fredericks, what was his name? He and Wilma didn't get along too good. We'd already made plans how we were going to have this house and we did a lot of that in the Philippines. We'd drawn up plans and she knew how big all this furniture was. She had it all measured in her head. And she knew where she'd put _____ (13:13) and so forth. So then in the garage there, I'd spend my nights drawing plans up on a big sheet of paper that had quarter squares on it. That was my scale. And after I got it all laid out and it was so detailed how I was going to do this and how I was going to do that. What was our friend's name that was a carpenter there in Buffalo that worked for the water company? Swede?

DR

It misses me right now. I can't think of his name.

- JG No, no. He lived up there, the last house up the draw and he took care of the water company for years.
- DR Oh. Ray Anderson.
- JG Ray Anderson. I knew he was a carpenter too and so I'd ask him things. He said well, he says, well, he says, I'll show what my plans here, about the details that it showed. And so I went ahead and put this down. And then I got some paper like you make blue prints on and I transferred this all, I put it all on that paper that you draw with the little blocks, so the blocks didn't show and I got me a _____(14:38), so I could trace.
- DR Trace it on.
- JG Trace it on out there. And I got the thing all done the way I wanted it. And I took it down to a place in Lakewood and had several prints made of it, enough for everybody. So of course the septic was already in too, because Windecker had put that in for me two or three years before. That's one of the first things I had him do and put the water line in from the old Brogoitti house, had that put in right after _____(15:13), and the septic was all in. I'd come over from Montrose with some hand operated sampler tools. And I'd made these myself. I took out dirt cores out and I had them all boxed up for the people that wanted them, the geologists were coming to look at there, for the septic tank. And he passed on everything, so there was no problem about putting the septic tank in. So that was already in. So while I was framing, of course I needed help for that. And I had the different plan in my mind for how I wanted the house to look. I had it where the Gambel roof, like the barn up on the ranch. And Ray said, boy, he says, you'll have trouble with that. And I wanted to have a circular staircase in it with an open balcony at one end of the house. He says, you'll have trouble getting permits for that. He says, they don't like circular staircases. He says, they've got to be a certain size and so big. And he says, you'll have to have somebody engineer that roof. They won't take what you've drawn up, because you're not an engineer. And I says, I've built one like that once before for somebody. He said, well, I don't care, he says, they won't pass on it. So I decided I wanted a tress roof because that's how I planned, and that's what I put in my plan. And I showed everything, I took it over to Golden and they okayed it, they didn't see anything wrong with that. And where I was going to put my light switches, _____(17:05). And he said, you going to do all your own work? I said, yeah. And they said, well that's fine as long as it passes the inspectors. I said, well, it'll pass inspectors. Of course I did my own plumbing, but I didn't do all my wiring too much, because I was putting in electric heat and that was 220. And I'd have to have that go up to thermostats and that takes a thermostat for each room.

So I hired a guy that was out there at _____ (17:35) out there, I forget his name now. He worked for Foothills Electric or somebody. He was a good electrician. But he got to smoking marijuana and they fired him. So he was out there anyway, so I contacted him. They didn't care who I hired to do this. I paid him as far as they knew, they didn't know who put it in, as long as it passed. So, he did all the wiring. And I know a couple times he came to work and his eyes were _____ (18:12). He just didn't look just right. He says, hey, I better go home. I said, I think you better go home too. So he goes home. He was a real big smoker, pot. And so, he knew he shouldn't be doing what he's doing. So he come back when he was all right. And he did the whole thing and it all passed. So as soon as I got it to where I could live in it, had the windows in and the doors on Leo, Lloyd Leo.

DR Lloyd Leo. That's right.

JG That's the guy that was helping me plan it. He was up in Pine.

DR He was the preacher there at the church.

JG That's right. But he and Wilma didn't get along. He kept telling her how it ought to be. She says, I know how it ought to be. She said, my dad built a lot of houses in Denver. He was a house builder and carpenter. And I says, and I've seen his work, and I know how it ought to be. And I know it can be that way. Well, he says, it doesn't look real good. She says, you're not going to look at it, I'm going to look at it. So, when we got things framed up, why, Bill, he says, I think you could finish this up. He says, I got a lot of other work to do. He says, I don't think you need any more help with this. Anyway, I knew and he had told me once before that he didn't like to work for Wilma. And I knew, because she told me, they went round and round about hallways in the front room into the bedroom and so forth. And I don't know what it was, he says, you can't do it that way. And she says, well I know I can. Anyway, I'm sure we did. And there wasn't anything wrong with it. It's still all right. But he just argued with her about it. Anyway, so I finished all the frame myself. She helped me on a lot of stuff that she could, like holding something up. I didn't know anything about sheet rocking, not a thing. And Bill, my son, by that time he'd moved over, he didn't like it over in Montrose without me over there anyway. He didn't get along with _____ (20:23) after I left. And so he moved over to Denver, lived in Lakewood. He worked different places. He'd been in the Air Force for five years—a lot of time I was in the Philippines in fact. And he went to school to learn how to be a machinist. But he couldn't get a good job to support anybody, he had to join the union. Anybody that works as a machinist in any little shop's got to be union. And he couldn't make enough money just as a machinist's helper, so he didn't pursue that too far. So, anyway, he'd come up when he

wasn't doing something else and help me with doing this and doing that around the house. He was good help. He didn't like getting up high, but there wasn't much getting up high to do. But he helped me put up the siding. He even put up the ceiling in the front room. I got a thing on wheels to get up there and work on it. So he helped me out with that. So come time to do the sheet rocking. And Dave Hopper [?], he's a sheet-rocker you know. And he'd been doing quite a bit. So I says, now, I'm going to watch you do this and I'm going to help you, because, I says, if I'd known how to do it, I says, I'd probably take over. He says, that's all right with me. He says, I don't care. So, of course he walked on stilts doing it. It didn't bother him any. And while he was doing it he'd be on short stilts. I don't know. Just so he could reach the ceiling. So, I saw how this was done and I helped him put it up, and I saw how it was done, and how to tape it. And we did some pretty big sheets then. So I said, I think I can handle it. So, I did it. I finished doing the whole thing then and tape it. It took me a while to learn how to do. I never did get it real good. But I got good enough that, by the time I got ready to move into the house

_____ (23:02) out there, he knew what I was doing. And he decided he wanted to enlarge his house and so he hired Bill to do some work up there but he also hired me to work with him. And so I finally took over there. And I finished taping all that new work he put in up there. And I got it taped so that they could put wallpaper on it and it was smooth.

DR Good.

JG Because you know _____ (23:27).

DR Oh, yeah.

JG It takes a lot of elbow grease.

DR I don't get it right. I hide it.

JG Yeah, well I got to where I didn't mind doing it.

DR Did you work for the forest service at any time during that time?

JG Well, yeah. While I was building the house, Al Flynn who lived in the ranger station over there and he was one of the last people that got a job like that in the forest service without being a college man. He'd come from the Salida area, he was raised on a ranch. But he'd been in World War II and when he come out of the army and when it was over with, why, I guess he'd worked off and on for the forest service. Anyway, he got a job with the forest service and he was working over at Monument in the sign shop making signs. Using a router, making signs and painting them, and all that kind of stuff. And he was a good worker, you know, and he could

work with other people and he could lead other people. So he worked around the whole dag-gum place everywhere and moved around. And was even on Devil's Head some summers, he and his wife would be up there. And he lived in the station at Bailey. But he lived in the one in Buffalo. And he was going to be 65 and he was going to retire, come that next January. And I'd got acquainted with him. And I was helping people with cutting down oak trees. There were a lot of oak trees then. And I got a few pointers from him. He said, I've got this stuff to spray it with, he says, even if you cut them down, you ought to spray them, cover them over and kill those bugs. He says, they're still in the tree. He showed me how to mix it. It's pretty rough stuff that they had in those days. I mean you didn't want to get it on you and you didn't want to have that much on the rubber gloves. And you mix it with diesel fuel. I forget what it was called now. I did know. But anyway, so, I worked with him there for quite a bit and doing things like that. Just, not with him, just go over and ask him questions. He'd come over when I was building the house, doing this, that and the other. And he answered a lot of questions about what all I'd done. So when I got the house all built, I moved into it on Mothers Day, 1975. And my kids come up and Bill came up and moved everything out of the garage and got everything located in the house. And so, it wasn't too long after that, one time we did some kind of a chili supper or something up at Taub's [?], not [Taub's], who was running that place then?

DR Geesey [?] took it over.

JG The guy that did the stuff with me, he was with the fire department too.

DR Yeah. Fire department and...

JG And he lived up there, you know where Cecil Hayes had lived.

DR Yeah.

JG What was his name?

DR Geesey.

JG Anyway, so we went up there to this chili supper or something up there.

DR Your machine stopped.

JG I'm ready.

DR We interrupted a little bit there. We'll try again.

JG

So he asked me, if I'd be interested in going to work for the forest service part time. And he said, they were just starting a new program for older people, just could work. Says, they only paid minimum wage. He says, you'll work every day. He says, probably 40 hours a week. Anyway, he says, you'll work every day at least part time. So I says, well, yeah, I might be interested. I'm not caring about how much I'm making. I says, I've pretty well gotten my retirement figured out. But I need something to do. I don't want to just sit around. And I says, minimum wage, that'll pay for my gas or something like that. So, I says, yeah. He says, well you see Steve _____ (28:24). He's the one that's going to do the hiring for this. And he says, he'll be up at the Bailey office. Go up and talk to him. So I did, and so I'd already said something to Al _____ (28:43) about, I could weld. And he says, that's what we need around here, somebody who can weld. He says every time they need something fixed, why they've got to hire a welder. He says, that's costly. So, I got hired right away, when they found out I could weld. And I had nothing to do. So, yeah, I got hired. And it was in September of '75 I went to work for the forest service. And I worked for the recreation department. And of course, any welding they had to do, whether what department it was, I did their welding from then on. And of course, I understood how to take care of their water systems and pull their pumps out of their wells, that was right down my line. And fixed the pumps and pull them and no matter, I even got them out if it was 200 feet deep. I just put myself up a tripod and put up a chain hoist and pull them out of there. I didn't have any problem with that. So I did that and painting. And that was my work. And I worked for the forest service from 1975 for almost 28 years, 2003. This program was started by the Labor Department. And they stopped it in a lot of places, early on, in 2003. A lot of places were stopped _____ (30:12) for the forest service. There are some places that DLM still has those kinds of people working. But the forest service, I guess at least in Colorado doesn't have anybody working on that program. And of course, the program was made for older people. You had to be 50 years old and it was people that got fired or lost their job because of their age to maybe teach them another trade or find something else for them to do. And like one of them told me, he says, we're not teaching you how to do anything you're teaching us how to do a lot of things. So, I never had any problem working for the forest service. Got along with all of them fine. And they never bothered me. They said something they wanted done and I knew how to do it and go to do it and that's how it was and it just got done. I worked for the drilling those 30 years and I worked for the forest service 28 years. And before I quit my time there, I found out I'd been working for the forest service longer than the ranger.