

CAP Oral History

Pam Stevenson (Q):

We're doing an oral history interview for the Central Arizona Project and today is June 21st of 2006 and I am Pam Stevenson doing this interview and Bill Stevenson is our videographer and I would like you to introduce yourself. Why don't you give us your name first?

Dalton Cole (A):

My name is Dalton Cole and I'm a native Arizonan, third generation, been here for a while.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born in Globe, Arizona. My grandmother was born in Safford, up in the Gila River area. We've been in Arizona a long time.

Q: When were you born?

A: February 26, 1935.

Q: Tell me a little bit about your family. Were both sides of your family originally from Arizona?

A: Actually not. My grandfather broke horses for a living up in Colorado, Durango, Colorado. He rode his horse all the way from Durango into the Safford Valley and met my grandmother there in the little lonely community there in Safford. They were married and then they moved to Globe. He worked in the mines, my grandfather did, and my mother was a twin named Mabel. They were born in the Globe/Miami area and lived there. Met my dad, at the time had moved here from Texas, he came to Arizona when he was about 15 years old. And he became

involved in the Miami mortuary business in Globe and Miami. And during the Depression, he worked at Miles Mortuary there.

So I was born in the Globe Hospital in 1935. Then after that, family, my dad decided that he'd leave the Globe/Miami area and moved down to the Tuscan Valley. And he, along with my uncle, they went into the mortuary business in Casa Grande, Florence, and Coolidge in the valley there and operated those. We moved to Coolidge in 1939. And so, I've seen a lot of change there in the valley.

Q: Is that where you grew up?

A: I grew up in Coolidge. I went to kindergarten right across the street from my home in Coolidge and all through high school. I played athletics in high school and that was the way I was able to go to the University of Arizona on a football scholarship. Went to the University of Arizona and graduated there in 1957 and went into the Air Force. I was in the Air Force until '62, I guess.

Q: What did you study at college?

A: My major in college was Business Administration with a minor in Economics. Knew nothing about farming other than the fact I lived in a farming area. After I got out of the Air Force, I decided I would go back to Coolidge. I was married at the time. In fact, we had...how much do you want?

Q: When did you get married?

A: Actually my junior year in college in 1956 and after the Air Force, we came back to Coolidge.

Q: Why did you join the Air Force?

A: It was right at the Korean War and it was time when...it just seemed like the right thing to do. I went through the ROTC program and the Cadet Program and then right in the Air Force for five years. Ended up in the 3rd Bomb Wing in Japan flying in alert with B-57's so we had a lot fun, but decided we would like to come back to Coolidge try my hand at farming. It was a good time to go into farming.

Q: What made you to decide to go into farming if your family hadn't been farmers?

A: That's true. My dad had owned some property there in farming and I told him early on that I wasn't interested in the mortuary business. I told him if I planted something, I'd like to see it grow. Anyway, he said that was fine so he helped me get started in farming and this was in the early 60's in the Tuscan Valley. And so we started buying some farm land down there.

Q: What were you farming back then?

A: Basically, we were cotton farmers. We did some diversification into other areas. We grew alfalfa, wheat, and barley and that sort of thing. But basically cotton was our main crop and I think for the most part it still is probably in the area.

Q: You probably knew the Wuertz's?

A: Yes, Howard and Wilbur and all the whole Wuertz family.

Q: In farming, what were your goals then? You had your college degree and everything.

A: Right. I just felt like it was a great place to raise my family. At the time, like I said I knew very little about farming. I did when I was in high school; I worked for \_\_\_\_\_ (8:38) checking bugs in the fields, you know for entomologists work and that type thing. But I just thought that the future probably would be

good and it was a wonderful lifestyle. It was just something that we pulled together and decided to do as a family.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: I have three. My daughter is the oldest and she is married and lives in Eugene, Oregon and has two beautiful young granddaughters there. And I have a son living in Los Angeles and then I have a son here, Douglas, and they have three grandchildren. In fact, this afternoon we are taking two of the grandboys up to the lake to go waterskiing. They're ten and eight.

Q: When did you first get involved with water issues in Arizona?

A: Well, being a farmer in Pinal County, the water was on your mind a lot; water and power. And it's hard to separate those two. I can remember in 1960...we were all on pumps down there; I was not in the irrigation district, which is the San Carlos Irrigation District. They had some deliveries off Coolidge Dam but all mine was pump land and this was in the early '60's and we could tell then that our water level was not doing too well in a lot of areas, and it was starting to recede because it had been highly pumped and that sort of thing. And we knew that probably our salvation was the Central Arizona Project and we felt that we needed to bring in surface water to do that. So I became involved early on. I can remember in 1968 when they passed the bill authorizing the CAP how excited we were. As you know, there were a lot of bumps in the road between the actual authorization and when we started construction. In the early '70's, I with Wilbur Wuertz, you had interviewed, and Tom Carlton who was a farmer in the Casa Grande area and myself, we got together and we formed the Hohokam Irrigation District. And we, the District, were to receive CAP water in central Pinal County there. We engaged in the formation of the district and got ready to receive the water. Of course, the water didn't come until about '85, so we had a lot of time to get prepared and do our bonding and engage engineers to build the water system to deliver it into the farms.

Incidentally, one of the things that really happened I guess during that period when we we're trying to get the CAP online and receive it for agricultural and that sort of thing, the CAP was on the "hit list" by Jimmy Carter. Cecil Andrus kind of came in and helped persuade, I guess Governor Babbitt at the time, or Governor Babbitt helped persuade him, I don't know which, that we should have some control of our groundwater. And the Groundwater Management Act of 1980 and I think that was one of the greatest things that happened to our area. I mean a lot of farmers were fighting about the concept and a lot of us didn't understand, but it has helped up preserve the underground water down there quite well. And I think it's one of the better things we've done.

Q: Did you get involved politically early on when the bill got approved?

A: Yes I did. I was on the Groundwater Management Committee, Governor Babbitt appointed me to that and helped with that and the groundwater. As far as the Central Arizona Project was concerned, I was on the CAP Association for a number of years. They were sort of the political arm that was trying to engage activities in Washington to get funding and legislation and start building the system.

Q: Were you involved in the '60s to help get it?

A: Actually no, I started farming in the early '60s. So I was in college and the Air Force. I just remember in after '68 with the passage of the project act that I got involved at that point in time.

Q: You weren't involved in helping get that passed?

A: No ma'am. Actually, one of our local attorneys I guess, Charlie Reed, was really involved in working on the U.S. versus California issue in the final determination of the water compact.

Q: Really the whole idea of the CAP started with farmers?

A: Yes. It was supposedly going to be...well actually, it was always a municipal and industrial project in a sense. The farmers were engaged to help bring the water off the river and hold it for a period of time until the areas developed. And then basically it was to transfer over to more urban uses at that point in time. And as you well know in the early years of the CAP, there was a lot of waters left on the river and people just weren't using it probably like they should. And we in the irrigation districts, like Hohokam, we had take or pay contracts. And at the time, we didn't know whether we could afford water either because we were able to pump water much cheaper than to take it off the river through the CAP. And that was a real dilemma because we were under the Groundwater Management Act and we had the CAP under construction and we had obligated on lands for bonding in order to build the system but there were still a lot of farmers saying maybe we can't afford this water. And so consequently, the CAP Board made adjustments and at the time and made it much more affordable for the farmers to take the water. Our main concern was to be sure that we used our allocation off the river and not let it go to California because they were using a lot of water at the time. So that's why I think the pricing mechanism that the CAP did in order to encourage farmers to use it was a good thing.

Q: You mentioned that the farmers bonded their land and put their land up so they could build. Explain to me how this happened.

A: When they first started the Central Arizona Project, the act, we thought that the government was going to be much more helpful in a sense in building the system and it turned out that they needed up front funding from the districts in order to help. It was, I can't recall now, twenty or thirty percent that we had to put up in order to engage on a long-term pay back contract. And so what we would do is, we actually had to go to the bond market. The lands did. And obligate our lands for, to sell the bonds in order to pay the upfront costs in order to start the construction on the system. And then they were paid back over a period of time

by the land owners. It worked out to be, I think, the best way to do it. It was somewhat scary at the time to obligate the property and the lands in order to do it, but we felt that the goal was so important. The water was so necessary. It was interesting trying to persuade a lot of the farmers in the area to go along with it. In fact, we had some dropouts. We had a number of them that decided that they didn't want to do it. In our district, we had the opportunity to let them out at that time. And I think at this point of time, they're sorry that they aren't part of the system, you know, part of the project.

Q: You guess at that point, your business degree would've been helpful to understand all of that.

A: I hope so. Of course, I don't know the Hohokam Irrigation District, I think, at this point in time is in good financial situation and they've paid their bonds back. And from what I understand, things are going rather smoothly there now.

Q: How long of terms of bonds were they?

A: They were all different terms as I recall. I think they went from six, to eight, to ten years, to further out, just depending on how they were retained. That's been a number of years ago and my memory isn't as good as it used to be. I just remember that they're all paid back and the credit reliability and the credit standing of the district is in good shape.

Q: So you said after the CAP was approved is when you got more involved?

A: Right.

Q: How did you first get involved?

A: Actually, other than being involved with the Hohokam Irrigation District and then I was involved with the Central Arizona Project Association which was the lobbying

arm of the district, I served on that board for a number of years. And then Governor Symington, in what would it be 1995 or so, there was an opening on the Central Arizona Project Board and he asked me if I would serve on the Board at that point in time. And that's when I came on board with the Central Arizona Project about '95 or '96.

Q: But you've been involved in the water issues?

A: Right before that, and power too. During that period of time also, I was on the Board of Directors of the Electrical District Number Two. Electrical District Number Two supplied electrical power to all the pumps in the area down there then and also to some of the municipal accounts and that sort of thing at that time. And then I served on that board at the same time I was serving on the Hohokam Board. So I was involved in both the water side of it and the power side of the water.

Q: You don't think about the cities.

A: Right.

Q: But I guess in the rural areas, as farmers, it's different.

A: Well, the farmers...we have access to rather low-cost power actually from the Arizona Power Authority and hydropower from the dam. And the power was such an important issue in our area because we use so much of it to pump the water for irrigation and that sort of thing. And that's why I became involved in it to gain knowledge of the power operation, but also to help ensure that we could have a reasonably good source of long-term power to run our irrigation wells. That was my motivation to be a part of that. It's just hard to separate water and power, they just sort of work together. After I came on the CAP Board, we realized how important the power issues are too because we run those 15 or 20 large pumping plants that lift the water 2,000 feet from Lake Havasu down to the Tucson area. So

it requires a lot of power. Of course, still involved in that through the Arizona Power Authority, I'm a commissioner there, and we're still working with...CAWCD is our biggest customer now. So it's been fun to be a part on both sides of that.

Q: When did CAP water first get delivered to the Coolidge area?

A: About 1985, '85 was just about the time...actually, at that point in time was when I sold my farming operation in '85 just as the water was being delivered there but we had everything in place and they began taking at that point in time. As I understand, they didn't take their full allocation but they took a large part of it and kept trying to put it to beneficial use which was what the intention of the whole act was.

Q: You said everything was in place. What had to be in place to be able to use the water?

A: We had the financing done. We had the engineering done. We had most of the construction done; the right-a-ways were all gotten in order to build the canals and that sort of thing and construction in place. We had set up an organization. We had hired a really capable manager and staff and bought buildings and just got into business actually. And they turned the spigots on and water started coming down the ditch. It was a great occasion.

Q: So you were still farming at that time?

A: No, I actually left just as the water was coming.

Q: Was there any difference in that water then the groundwater that had been used up until then?

A: There was a great variety...you're talking quality water in the area?

Q: Yes.

A: There was a great variety of quality of water in our area depending on how deep you were pumping from with your wells and that sort of thing. And salt content varied from well to well actually. But the well water that we were using was mostly of good quality. I don't believe we noticed any difference or anybody noticed at the time when we started bringing the Central Arizona Project water in. In fact, a lot of the farmers, as I recall, thought that probably it was better quality CAP water coming in then they were having to pump from similar salty wells and that sort of thing.

Q: Not the problems they were having in Tucson?

A: Right. That was one issue that was most unfortunate in a sense because at the time, we really needed to take water off the river and put it to beneficial use. And we were hoping that Tucson would be a big user of it and of course, I guess, of some problems in composition of their water there and the old pipes and things, that when they put the CAP water into the system there was kind of a muddy, off-colored looking stuff that was coming out. And I understand the way the people were quite upset about it and it did set back water deliveries in the Tucson area for a number years. But I understand now things are moving along much better and they changed their method of operation and how they dealt with the water there.

Q: No problems like that in Coolidge then?

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: Does water also get delivered for residential landowners in Coolidge?

A: No, not at this time. None of the Central Arizona Project...they're under the franchise, I think, with Arizona Water Company that's in Casa Grande, Coolidge,

and Florence. They have a CAP allocation. I'm not up to date on what's happening with their water issues now but most of their water was groundwater that they pumped and used for municipal and industrial use there in the Coolidge/Casa Grande area.

Q: So when you sold your farm, what did you do then?

A: I moved here to Scottsdale and just focused my life on other things. I served on the State Community College Board. I did that for five, six, seven years. I don't recall. That was an interesting job. I enjoyed that. The State Board dealt with all the community college districts in the state and all the colleges. I was really happy to be able to serve on that Board because I thought the community college system per say and the education that it gave people that needed to have the access to these schools was very important to our state and important to the lives of all these young people and older people that use the community colleges. So I did that. And I served on the Central Arizona Project Board and then went to the Arizona Power Authority. So I've tried to keep my hand in public service for both water and power and education issues.

Q: Talking about the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board, so you were appointed by Symington. How did that come about? How come he choose you?

A: Well, I think it was part of my involvement in the water issues down in Pinal County and serving on the Hohokam Irrigation District and the Electrical District Number 2 Board and being somewhat active in water issues. I was on...let's see at that point in time, I think I just had served on the Water Advisory Committee too for Pinal County that was established by the Groundwater Management Act of 1980. And when asked, I thought this was another opportunity and I certainly enjoyed my time on the Board. It was a wonderful experience. It's a well-managed Board and the diversity of the members of the Board was very interesting. It was one of the better experiences of my life.

Q: What were the issues that they were dealing with at the time?

A: Well, basically at that time as I mentioned earlier, we were...the full allocation was not coming off the river and being used beneficially. We were concerned that California, they were using more than they should. We didn't want to give up any of our long-term allocation because we knew it would eventually be used. So we got into issues of pricing the water so it would be better accepted by the farmers. We got into some recharge operations, taking the water off the river and recharging it in some basins and establishing some of those basins and getting them going. And then we sort of got into a disagreement with Federal Government over the payback of the project. They thought we owed a lot more money than we thought we owed. So that was a legal issue that went to the courts and consequently that turned out quite well for the District.

Q: Tell me what happened with that?

A: Well, you will have to forgive me if I don't have all the figures on exactly what happened. But they thought that we owed, I don't know, there was a difference of about at the time...I don't recall exactly. It was like, they thought we owed four billion dollars for the project and we thought we only owed two point something as I recall. And as it was, we went through a lot of litigation with them and it was a long process and we finally prevailed in a sense that they agreed with us in what we thought we owed. But it got implicated into a lot of Indian allocation issues as far as the CAP water. The CAP is the last water hole in Arizona. I mean coming off the Colorado River and the Salt River Project had already been established. And any water that was available for settlement with the Indians had to come from the CAP and there were a lot of issues there in that we've lawed from the lawsuit that we had. And I think a lot of them are being settled to the best for everyone concerned. It looks like to me that the Indian Tribes are being treated quite fairly and we have good use of the water off the river now. And we have a great source for municipal and industrial water.

Q: You're talking that the initial dispute was over the amount of money that was owed. How could that get so far out of line? You would think from the beginning how much was paid and how much was owed.

A: Right. Well, sometimes government contracts are the way...there was some disagreement on how it was managed and there were a lot of costs that were incurred that they felt should not have been incurred for the project. Like I said, this has been a number of years ago and my memory is a little fuzzy on it right now. But it was a difference of opinion on what costs should be to the project and the government thought they should be more than what the Central Arizona Project Board thought they should be. So unfortunately, we had to settle it in court and it was settled, I thought, that was very beneficial to the CAP.

Q: Indian water rights were involved in that whole...?

A: Right, because the Central Arizona Project and the Colorado River, there were no other water rights available really. I mean they just weren't here. The Salt River Project was used up and they just weren't there. So the only way that the government could settle with the Indian water rights would be the Central Arizona Project water and that's the way it turned out basically.

Q: So the water that they lost was from the Salt River and the Gila River primarily the Indians, but it's being paid back with...

A: Right. Their issues came up on the Salt and also through the Gila River and in order to satisfy those claims, they in effect transferred Colorado River water.

Q: And initially, they wanted the CAP, when they designed it, because they needed water, but you mentioned it a couple of times, once it started to be delivered they weren't using all the allocation. Did you ever suspect that? Was that a surprise?

A: Actually, we were somewhat concerned early on about the expense of the water. The farmers were in a sense. But we were also, I think, concerned about the long-term impact, that we would like to have surface water available for farming. So consequently, we didn't know that the allocation would not be subscribed for because they were take and pay contracts and that's what really hurt. I know a couple of districts that went through bankruptcy because it was onerous on them on how to do it.

Q: What is a take or pay contract?

A: You had an allocation of the CAP water for your district. And you were obligated to take the full delivery of the water and pay for it. So if your farmers weren't taking it, I mean the district was liable for taking the contract. What happened is I think the CAP Board realized that this was a problem early on and they did preferential pricing in a sense in order to help the farmers to take more of the water and use the water beneficially. They're still using it that way, but because the farmers basically are helping hold the project together until such a time that as it reverted and converted to municipal and industrial uses for Phoenix, Tucson and Pinal County.

Q: As you look at these issues, who did you feel were the people on your side?

A: Now which issues do you mean as far as...

Q: As far as the pricing of the water or to figure out how to use the water?

A: A lot of people said, "well it's the city versus the farmers," but actually I don't think it was that way. The city leaders realized how valuable the CAP water was and they knew eventually that they would access to more and more of it because they couldn't use the water either at the time, like Tucson was taking hardly any of their allocation. And Phoenix wasn't taking all of this and Mesa, you know, the whole works. So they understood that for beneficial use for the farmers that, you

know, there had to be some pricing concepts that would work. And so I think the cities, and towns, and the farmers, I thought they worked pretty well together. The farmers that I dealt with and the Hohokam Irrigation District were I think...well in fact, they worked quite closely with the City of Mesa. And the City of Mesa eventually, I think, had access to a lot of the CAP water that was going to go to Hohokam because they helped them financially with their bonds and that sort of thing. There was a lot of cooperation and of course, there were also some difficulties between senators. There were lawsuits involved with farmers from some of the other areas trying to establish their rights as far as the long-term commitment of the CAP water and that sort of thing.

But all in all, I think the project has worked out quite well and it's certainly the reason that we have a future here in Arizona. I think all of us during these drought periods are glad that we have that CAP water flowing through the valley, even the Salt River Project lasted the number of years that they were unable to deliver their water and they took a lot of CAP water. So it's been part of our life blood and hopefully it will be for years to come. We all hope we can get some more snow, rain and runoff up in the Colorado, Wyoming area in our basin and certainly put some more water behind those dams. It not only hurts our deliveries of water, but also cuts down on our power because if those dams aren't full, they're not generating electrical power out at Hoover and Parker Davis that we need to keep our power situation going.

Q: To back up a little bit, you mentioned about issues with Babbitt and Cecil Andrus. Talk a little bit about what happened at that period?

A: If I can get it all straight here, after '68 when the project was authorized I think it was, Jimmy Carter that came in right after as president. And he had a hit list of projects that they should take off. Most of them were in the west as Reclamation projects. And CAP was somewhat under construction at the time, but they just wanted to cut appropriations on it. As I recall as part of, our congress people were sort of instrumental and fought that and did a good job on it but at the time, one

of the things that happened that we could get the project back on track again and get appropriations was that we establish the Groundwater Management Act and to control our overdraft of water. So they were basically tied together so that if you saved water under the Groundwater Management Act in pumping then you would deliver CAP water to make the difference of that. It was kind of a hard sell at the time but it was necessary in order to get the CAP back on track and get the construction done and the water delivered. And at the same time, that's when we got in with California. We needed their help politically and so we guaranteed them senior rights actually on the river for their water use and we became junior rights holder. What that means is in areas in times of drought that the allocations go to California and we get whatever is left in a sense. It sounds rather onerous and we're trying to change that somewhat. I don't know how that will work but at the time, it was necessary in order to get the project done and get the appropriations and get us to the point we're at now.

Q: What boards were you on at that time? How were you involved in all of this?

A: Basically that was the time that I was spending on the Hohokam Irrigation District Board and the Electrical District Number Two Board and didn't get on the CAP Board until they had everything pretty well ironed out, except for the issue with the government on repayment contracts and the recharge and that sort of thing.

Q: Did the Irrigation District Boards work with Babbitt on the Groundwater Management Act?

A: Yes. In fact, I was on the Groundwater Management...he set up an ad hoc committee in dealing with that and I helped work on that.

Q: Long days and nights hashing things out.

A: It was. Governor Babbitt put things together and got it done. There were a lot of issues out there. Farmers weren't excited about it and didn't want to have any

changes. We understood that. I didn't know if it was going to fly or not but they put it together and it's worked.

Q: And then he became the Secretary of the Interior.

A: Yeah, right.

Q: Getting back to the CAP Board. What was the Board like when you joined it? Do you remember the makeup of the Board? Was it still a lot of farmers?

A: Let's see, Bill Perry and I were farmers at the time. Actually, I still consider myself a farmer at the time even though I wasn't active at that time. We had a great diversity of people. The Tucson contingency with Mary Beth Carlile and the people down there was really neat. They had one gentleman as I recall at the time, it was Mr. Beaudry and he came on board. He was really not interested, he was very interested in the Board and what was happening but he was very instrumental in Tucson of not taking CAP at that time. So it was kind of interesting to see him work on the Board and he did a really good job of explaining his position and what's happening and helping to mediate the problem I guess in that sense. Grady Gammage I recall was our chairman at the time I was on and what a great job he did in leading. I don't think anyone is more knowledgeable in water issues and zoning then he has. And he's still just a young person, but he's been here a long time. And as you well know, he's written some books and things about it and he's a student of water, power and zoning. And George Renner, we just had a great diversity of people.

Q: Let's see, some of the issues, were any Indian water rights issues still big?

A: Yes, yes, right. Once we did get the legal settlement on the repayment contract, there was a two- or three-year period after that that before the legislation would go through Congress in order to finalize the whole agreement that the Indian water rights issue had to be settled too. So that gave impetus and sort of worked

that through the system. And as I understand, most of that is settled now, but maybe there is still some settlements up on the Gila River with the San Carlos Indian Tribe there that might still be outstanding. But I think most of them have pretty well settled now.

Q: I always thought it was kind of interesting I covered some stories about the Indian settlements they were celebrating, signing the papers and settling it but saying now if we can get Congress to give them the money. They needed hundreds of millions of dollars.

A: Give them the money, right.

Q: If they don't have these hundreds of millions of dollars...

A: They need the money in order to put their infrastructure in, to build their canals and that sort of thing. And I think that's part of the settlement too. You know, to go back a little bit about the process in CAP early on, the way it was designed changed considerably because the original design they were supposed to have the Ridge Canyon/Marble Canyon Dam in the Grand Canyon. And that was supposed to be sort of the cash register to help pay...the power from there was going to pay for the water and putting it into the systems and that. For good environmental reasons I guess, decided that they didn't want to put a dam in the Grand Canyon. And consequently, they were taken out and there was this Steam Power Plant put in the four corners, well at Lake Powell, in order to pay for the pumping and that sort of thing. And that's still in place today. And then there was the Orme Dam issue. I don't know, you've probably heard of that. They were going to put the Orme Dam out at the Granite Reef area out there where the Verde River came in at the Salt. And that was not a good idea because it was flooding a lot of very good agricultural land, I guess, where the Indian tribe had out there. Consequently, another compromise and they did the Lake Pleasant/Waddell Dam and use it as a regulatory storage area which actually works quite well because in the winter time, when the rates are low, you can

pump water into the Waddell Dam and fill it up. And in the summer time, they can take the water out and there's a great diversity of cost between winters and summers as far as power costs are concerned. So it's a really good thing for the District that it turned out that way. So all of these road blocks that we've had early on, Bridge Canyon, Marble Canyon, Orme Dam, actually were just little road bumps. They've turned out to work out quite well. The alternatives seemed to work well.

Q: Did they work better than the original?

A: Well, you know I can't make that judgment. It's in place. It's working. And they're financially secure and they've got a great future for the state because of it. So you can't say it's all bad.

Q: Did you ever feel some of these issues going on specifically Native American water rights that it was kind of the white man against the Indian again?

A: No. They are the original inhabitants. They were farming people and they had rights to farm and should carry on their lifestyle. What can I say? The farmers always seem to be concerned because they didn't want to lose their water either and so there needs to be some accommodation that we can both be on the same planet and work together. Hopefully because of some really good leadership on both sides, they've cumulated I think a reasonable plan for both the Indian tribes and also for the farmers and the people of this state.

Q: Some people say that the Indians have won?

A: Well, yeah Earl Zarbin I think has said that a number of times. They are in a very good position as far as water is concerned, especially here because they probably have close to fifty percent of the allocation in their control now of the river. And of course the cities look at it as when they need the water, they will have access to it through leasing or that sort of thing and it will be used by the

people in Arizona but still under control probably of the tribes that have the right to it. The cities and towns were not that concerned in a sense, they felt good in a sense that they had a place to go to get the water. And they felt that they could lease the water and use it for their beneficial use if the Indians had control of it.

Q: One of the Indian leaders told me that the water rights are much more valuable than the casinos because everybody thinks they're the big cash thing now, but long-term the water will be more valuable.

A: Right. I would almost have to take that position. I think we're going to be finding that water might be as valuable as oil one of these days as it gets more and more scarce. And that's one of the troubling things that I find here in Arizona is that, you know, our outlying areas that are not subject to surface water or can't get the Colorado River water and they're strictly on underground pumping and there is some concern, long-term. We need, I think, to have some sort of control like our Groundwater Management Act that involves the whole state and takes care of those issues. Because if we don't, then people in a number of years in some of these outlying towns and cities are going to have problems with their water supply. Some of them already are, have.

Q: Looking back over your years with the CAP Board, is there anything that stands out that you're proudest of?

A: Like I said, it was great time. I really enjoyed it. A lot of things happened with the Indian Settlements and that sort of thing. I think the one thing that if I had any influence at all on the Board at that time was on the power issues. The CAP Board, we had great management but there was no one that was really involved on a day-to-day basis with power management and that's one of the largest expenses that they have. It's like an airline company with their diesel fuel. It's a big portion of their operating expense and that's the way it is with the Central Arizona Project is their power cost. It was extremely high in comparison to anything else. So I felt then, I talked to management about it and I talked to Board members that we

should have someone in place that strictly did power. And just as I left the Board, they hired a person to do that. As I understand his name is Gary Ijams and that he has done a really good job helping them in contracts and reducing their price of water in certain areas and that sort of thing and watching it on a day-to-day basis. It worked out real well. If I have anything that I might be proud of, it might be that little thing.

Q: Are you surprised as you see the growth of Arizona today, especially in the Coolidge area?

A: Being between Phoenix and Tucson, geographically, eventually it would pick up and grow. In Arizona, what was it seventeen percent of our property land is privately owned because they have the Indian reservations between and a lot of government land and that sort of thing. So there's just not that much private land and being located between Phoenix and Tucson, this golden corridor in a sense, I always knew at some point in time that it would grow.

Q: Now your land and the other farmers' land that get CAP water, when they build houses on that land, then can they also use CAP water?

A: It depends. There were some conversion ratios early on, but a lot of that had to do with the Arizona Water Company's franchise. They have access to CAP allocation. I'm not sure how it's going to pan out as far as conversion is down there, but they do have the possibility of that. Water is going to be the issue of development, I think, from now on anywhere. We're very fortunate in the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson that they have the CAP and the municipal water systems and the Salt River Project and that sort of thing, in order to establish their long-term water supply. And the outlying areas, even though they have CAP water, they still have to be very careful on how the conversion works. And I'm not sure how that's all going to work out. I here rumbling now that there may be developing more property down in Pinal County area then there is water available and that's entirely possible.

Q: I've always heard that if they took cotton acreages, houses use less water than the cotton, as opposed to developing in raw desert.

A: It depends of course, I think, on the mix of crops on the farming operation. I think that's a pretty general rule that once it's developed that there's not quite the water use, unless you have a lot of golf courses of course.

Q: Do you have any advice for the people who are running the CAP today?

A: The good thing that they've done is that they have a great layer of management, executive management, there. And they've been there a number of years and they understand the situation and professionally work well. I admired them. I always knew that when staff told us something, that we could take it to the bank sort of speak. We trusted them explicitly. And I hope they stay on that line. I'm sure they will. And the power costs are something that they need to...internal vision I think is the price of victory on that. They need to watch that. Of course, we're trying to do the best we can at the Arizona Power Authority to keep reasonable, low cost, available power to them too, from the river. So hopefully they can keep the good work they are doing now. One thing...this is my feeling that's difficult, it's an elected Board sometimes it's not a big election. Some people, for whatever reason, like to run and name recognition is very important, but it would appear to me that people should be on the Board that have some expertise and background in water or power issues and that sort of thing. And for the most part, I think that has happened, but I can see down the road that maybe people get elected to the Board that have other agendas or whatever. It's not going to change, it's in statute but that's my only concern. I just hope that the people of Maricopa County and the state watch who they're electing to the Board to be sure that they have the background expertise in order to carry on and the work that's happened in the past.

Q: You were appointed into a four or six-year position?

A: They're six-year terms and I was appointed after a person had left after a year so I think I had about five years.

Q: Did you run for reelection?

A: Yes, I did. I ran for reelection and I was not elected. We joked about it. I think at the time we had five that were elected. I had enough votes to be elected governor of South Dakota but I didn't quite make it to the CAP Board. But anyway, the people that came on had done a good job.

Q: You're right; it's a real hokey election. You don't really see any signs.

A: No, you don't. No campaigns. It's just when the people are in the voting booths and you never know what's going to happen. I gave Bill Perry a bad time, William Perry. He was running with me at the time and I said you have great name recognition because of the professional football player, you know.

Q: I know when you go fill out the form, the Board is made up of retired governors.

A: I served with Governor Goddard and he was great addition to the Board and his son came on the same time I went off. They did a really good job there. For the most part, I found the Board very interested in what they were doing, they were well prepared, and they looked over the material, and for the most part made really good decisions.

Q: Is there anything that I didn't ask you that I should have or anything else you want to tell me?

A: I just appreciate being asked the questions and getting it down. It's a pleasure. Being an Arizonan, I don't consider myself an old pioneer but after 72 years you feel like you've seen a lot of things happen. The change here has just been amazing. I mean in just the last ten, fifteen years have been just amazing. Thank

God for all the good people that came before us, Senator Hayden and some of the early people that paved the way and did not give up. They went right on through and got it passed in legislation because it certainly wasn't a popular thing to do. I think George W.P. Hunt early on, it was his platform. He was the long-term governor of Arizona and he was talking about bringing Colorado River water and that was in the '20s or so.

Q: That was a pretty crazy idea?

A: Yeah, it was a pretty crazy idea. But we're all sitting here enjoying the benefits of their vision and that's important. Hopefully our generation can leave a similar legacy for who follows after us.

Q: One thing I always like to ask people when I have a chance to is, looking back over your life, your career, your family. What advice would you give to young people about what to do with their lives?

A: I would say you need to do something that makes them happy and something they're interested in and not just the materialistically motivated because no matter what you do, you have to be happy with what you're doing. It's nice if it's good financially for you and everything, but the most important thing is that you're happy and you like what you're doing. It's hard when you're a young person and you start off your education to really know what you want down the road and sometimes we have to find out by trying and seeing how it works. Changing directions isn't a bad thing either. Be flexible and be open and make yourself happy.

Q: You chose to be a farmer. Do you miss that life that now?

A: It was a phase in my life that I really enjoyed. It's been interesting. My life has been really good to me. It just seems like wherever I am, it's been good. During the farming phase of it, I enjoyed every day. It was a wonderful place to raise a family,

enjoyed that. I enjoy what I'm doing now. Hopefully, I'm giving back some too in my public service and that sort of thing. I'm heavily involved with the church too. Whenever you've been given a lot, you need to repay some of that.

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