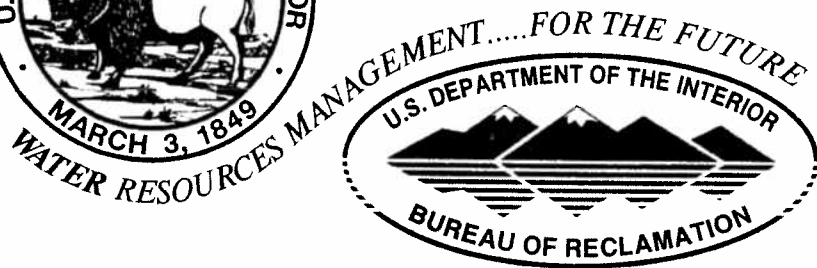


ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SENATOR CARL DODGE



**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM**

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
SENATOR CARL DODGE**



NEWLANDS PROJECT ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



August 5, 1994
Fallon, Nevada



**STATUS OF INTERVIEW:
OPEN FOR RESEARCH**



Interview Conducted by:
Donald B. Seney
Bureau of Reclamation



Oral History Program
Bureau of Reclamation

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CARL DODGE

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INTERVIEWER: DR. DONALD B. SENEY

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INTRODUCTION

In 1988 Reclamation hired a historian to create a history program and work in the cultural resources management program of the agency. Though headquartered in Denver, the history program was developed as a bureau-wide program. Since 1994 the senior historian has been on the staff of the Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, in the Program Analysis Office in Denver.

Over the years, the history program has developed and enlarged, and one component of Reclamation's history program is its oral history activity. The primary objectives of Reclamation's oral history activities are: preservation of historical data not normally available through Reclamation records (supplementing already available data on the whole range of Reclamation's history); and making the preserved data available to researchers inside and outside Reclamation. It is also hoped that the oral history activity may result in at least one publication sometime after 2000.

Most of Reclamation's oral history interviews focus on current and former Reclamation employees. However, one part of the oral history program has been implementation of a research design to obtain an all-around look at one Reclamation Project -- the Newlands Project. Focus on the Newlands Project, one of Reclamation's oldest projects, was suggested to the senior historian in consultations with Roger Patterson, the Regional Director in the Mid-Pacific Region, in which the Newlands Project is located. The Newlands Project was selected for several reasons: its relatively small size makes it manageable for this project; and the issues on the Project are complex and varied thereby providing a good mix of current issues faced by Reclamation in the arid West. This interview is one part of a research design to develop a comprehensive look at the entire constellation of interests and participants affected by the Newlands Project in western Nevada.

The senior historian of the Bureau of Reclamation developed and directs the oral history activity, and questions, comments, and suggestions may be addressed to the senior historian.

Brit Allan Storey
Senior Historian
Office of Water, Land, and Cultural Resources (D-5300)
Program Analysis Office
Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007
(303) 236-1061 ext. 241
FAX: (303) 236-0890
E-mail: bstorey@do.usbr.gov

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW: CARL DODGE

FAMILY AND EARLY LIFE

Seney: My name is Donald Seney, it's August 5, 1994, and I'm with Senator Carl Dodge at his home in Fallon, Nevada. Good afternoon, Senator.

Dodge: Good afternoon.

Seney: I wanted to ask you to start talking about your family; about your mother and father, where they were from and when they got here and all that sort of thing.

Dodge: My mother and father were both raised in a little community in northern Iowa, Algona, Iowa. My father came west when he was about twenty years old to the gold strike in Goldfield, Nevada. He got off the train at Hazen and took a horse-drawn stage through here [Fallon]¹ that went on down to Goldfield. At that time, there was a fair amount of agriculture in the valley.

Seney: What year would this have been?

Dodge: This was in 1907. This was actually before the Project.

Seney: It had been authorized but not yet built?

Dodge: Yeah, that's right. It was just in the building stage, even though it was authorized in 1902. But he told me in later years that it seemed like an oasis in the desert when he got into the greenery out here (laughs) crossing the

1. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

sandy (laughter) road and the stage coach coming in here. So then later, he went up to the Madeline Plains which is out of Ravendale in Lassen County, California. He and his brother homesteaded up there and that was in 1911. Then he went back in 1913 to Iowa and married my mother. She came west with him by rail to Ravendale and ~~back in the~~ [to the Madeline]² Plains. So then, in the course of time, there were two children born to our family and two to his brother's family. The four children were a year apart. I was the oldest, five, then four, three, and two. The reason that they came to Fallon in 1920 -- I was born in 1915 -- I was the oldest child, and was to start school. They were out in a remote area and there was a little, old country school was quite a ways away from them -- it was a mile high and pretty bad roads in the wintertime -- and so they just figured it was no place to educate children. That is why they came here. They came here with a string of horses and, in due time, they got into the highway construction business when it was a horse-drawn business -- that was in 1923. Then in 1928, they bought the Island Ranch which is the largest property on the Project -- largest water right. It's a very old historical property. I was just looking up some information this morning. I can track ownership on that property back to 1872, which is eight years after Nevada became a state. And at that time, before the Project, there was 21,000 acres of land here in the valley that was

2. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

being irrigated off the three terminal branches of the Carson River: the south branch, where the Island Ranch is, going to Carson Lake; the north branch, which was the old original Carson River channel; and then there was a middle one that developed that went down towards the Stillwater area. So anyway, they bought ~~the~~ [Island Ranches]³ranches as a home for horses.

Seney: They were very successful in the construction business, were they not?

Dodge: Yeah, they were, they operated for a long time until 1965 -- well, the company did. My dad and uncle both died prematurely and I was involved in the construction business after that. But, in any event, that's the history of the family in the valley.

EDUCATION, LAW SCHOOL AND THE FAMILY BUSINESS

I was a graduate of the University of Nevada in Reno, and I used to work on the construction jobs, though, in the summertime. My dad told me more than once that when all the kids got out of school, he and his brother would divide up the properties they had four ranches here in Fallon, the Madeline property and the construction business. He said, "We'll divide it up and you and I will take our part and go our own way." So then he wanted me to go to law school. I didn't know why I should be going to law school if I was going to work with him, but I did. I went down to Stanford and I graduated there in law school in 1939, and then my dad died in 1940, which

3. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

really left me adrift in a way. Then I was in the Navy during World War II.

GROWING UP IN FALLON

Seney: Could I stop you here to take you back to have you tell me what Fallon was like when you were growing up as a kid?

Dodge: Well, it was a very small community. My folks lived in Fallon, and I did start school here. They came in the summer of 1920, and I started in the fall. My guess is that county-wide, might have been 4,000 people. It was a very small community. There've been a lot of changes in it, obviously, since that time. There's about 20,000 people here now. So anyway, after he passed away, and after I got out of the Navy -- educated and out of the Navy.

Seney: Actually, I still would like you to talk a little bit more about Fallon (Dodge: Okay.) when you were a kid. (Dodge: Okay) You know, there aren't many people at your age and in such good shape who can tell us what Fallon was like in the 20s and 30s. You know, one of the things I'm interested in is, I know that there were a lot of various attempts at agriculture: sugar beets were tried, turkeys were tried, and melons were tried, and it seems to have gone from alfalfa to these, and kind of back to alfalfa again, so maybe as you're telling me this, you can talk a little about that too.

Dodge: Yeah, I can tell you about that. Basically about Fallon, the things I can remember about it were boardwalks. The street, Williams Avenue, was the south boundary of a farm that was to the north of it. And so after the county

seat was moved here in 1903, Warren Williams, who owned this property, dedicated a street along there -- the courthouse was built, that was part of the W.W. Williams Tract where the courthouse is. So coming west on Williams Avenue, he dedicated that street, and he figured he could develop the land just to the north of it for homes, which he did, and that's where we lived, along that street. He put up a fenceline that had cottonwood posts and it was along a ditch. These cottonwoods took root and grew up (laughs) to enormous, big trees over a period of time, and finally, they had to take them out. [There are still a lot of them]⁴ in this area. They're really big and they heave their branches -- so it was heaving these boardwalks. Then they generate a lot of cotton, and on the Fourth of July, they're be a lot of fires and stuff (laughter by both) when the cottonwood caught on fire like gasoline. And so they'd always have problems with that, so they finally took all those trees [along the street]⁵ out at one point in time. But anyway, as I say, there were little or no improvements. There were just dirt roads and boardwalks. And at that time, very limited housing situations. There weren't that many houses around, because most of the people were living on farms. And so then a few businesses started. I remember a lot of bars -- our (laughs) western towns! So that's about what the situation was.

4. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

5. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Seney: Can you remember when gambling was legalized? That would have been, what, '31 or '32?

Dodge: Well, yeah, gambling was legalized in '33. Nevada was never without gambling. It was legalized, and then it was outlawed, and then, finally, it was legalized again. But Nevada was never without gambling, for the reason that they always had saloons around the mining camps; and like the strike where my dad went, there was wide-open gambling down there. He told me he was a lucky gambler himself. He was telling me about some of the experiences there in Goldfield.

Seney: Well tell us about those experiences. Relate some of those experiences.

Dodge: Yeah, well, as I grew up, I was always around some kind of [gaming]⁶ machines. [I don't think know that they]⁷ had roulette wheels and they might have had crap tables, but mainly there were types of slot machines [and card games]⁸. Maybe they used some kind of a chip that you cashed in finally (chuckles) for cash or whatever. So it was nothing new about when it was finally legalized in '33. It had been virtually open gambling in Reno for a long time.

6. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

7. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

8. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Seney: Now my understanding is that the Churchill County went along with the legalization. Churchill County was a fairly big county even though there weren't many people here, because Nevada wasn't highly populated. They went along with the gambling legislation because they got the State Fair. Are you familiar with that?

Dodge: No, I'm not familiar with that trade-off, and I don't really know the politics of how the State Fair was established here, but I'm not sure that that's correct. I think it was primarily because this was the principal agricultural area in northern Nevada.

Seney: Well, there are others who have said that it had to do with some vote trading on the gambling issue.

Dodge: That's possible. I didn't know about that. But we did get the State Fair here, but I always assumed that it was because there were quite a lot of row crops, people were raising their own vegetables, and that sort of thing.

So anyway, people ask me today how I considered the community when it was small, as it was years ago, and I've told them that I thought it [is now]⁹ an infinitely better community, primarily because of the health services, because we didn't have them then. We had a couple of broken-down doctors here and somebody would take a two-story house with five bedrooms and open up a hospital -- you know, that sort of deal. And I almost

9. Unless otherwise indicated, material in brackets was inserted by editor.

died -- I guess I'm a little sensitive about it -- when I was a youngster. I always thought that I wouldn't have had the seriousness of the illness that I had if there had been some decent doctors around, but in any event, be that as it may.

Seney: So you think that's the major improvement at this point is that there's health care available.

Dodge: Oh yeah. And then, you know, they're on the verge of a new hospital here that will employ 500 people in this small community if you can imagine. It's going to be a really beautiful, modern facility.

Seney: Kind of a regional medical center for areas around?

Dodge: Yeah, right. And it's in the planning stage now and they've got the ground zoned by the county, on East Williams Avenue. So, a lot of people wouldn't think about that. But anymore, health care is one of our real top priorities, and we're in much better shape here than we've ever been in the past.

Seney: Anything in high school that sticks in your memory any more?

ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AT RENO AND STANFORD LAW SCHOOL

Dodge: Not particularly. I was an orator. I did a lot of high school debating, and was in a national oratorical contest, and was in the regional [seven state]¹⁰ finals in Los Angeles, at the Royce Auditorium in Los Angeles, at UCLA

10. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

[University of California at Los Angeles]. ~~and seven western states and Hawaii.~~¹¹ I took second in that contest. So then I went to the University of Nevada at Reno and I debated there. And then I was Student Body President when I was a senior at the university, and I think that's the reason why I was accepted to Stanford, because even then, there were a lot more people applied than were ever entered or permitted into the law school down there. I had a pretty good academic record, but I always figured the reason they accepted me was because I had been a Student Body President.

Seney: What was the size of the student body at UNR [University of Nevada at Reno] at that point?

Dodge: It was about 800.

Seney: How did you like Stanford?

Dodge: Oh, that was great. I thought law school was great, but let me tell you something, I was raised in this desert and I couldn't believe those green hills (laughter) in the spring of the year! I had a little old Ford coupe, and I'd just ride around. Those hills were just like green carpets. I had a wonderful experience and had some good friends. Those are the best three years, I guess, in my life, (laughter) in a way. We studied hard, but we had a lot of fun too. I graduated fourth in my class.

Seney: That's very good. You must have studied hard.

11. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Dodge: You know how hard I studied? Fortunately, I didn't have any social friends when I went down there, and I wasn't in a rooming house or a fraternity or anything like that. I rented a room in a home that had a side entrance, and took my meals out. But I had fifteen hours in classes and I studied seventy hours a week. I put in eighty-five hours a week, that's a lot of hours. That's seven days, and it was Sundays too -- it was Saturdays and Sundays -- so I really worked.

Seney: Well that's what it takes.

Dodge: Well, you know what happened was that I had kind of an easy go of it at the University of Nevada. Particularly in my senior year, I probably got (laughs) some grades just because I was Student Body President. But anyway, when I went down there, I knew there would be top competition and I made up my mind they weren't going to show this country boy up! (laughter) So, after that year of course, as those things go, it became easier -- but I really worked. (laughter)

Seney: So you graduated in '40?

Dodge: In '39.

Seney: And your dad dies the next year?

Dodge: Yeah, next year.

Seney: Prematurely as you said before? Unexpectedly?

MILITARY SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

Dodge: Yeah, well he was a heavy smoker and he had a serious heart -- as a matter of fact, he came to my graduation in a wheel chair -- and then he died the next year. Then I practiced for a little while here. I didn't know what to do, because our plans were all shot. And then the war came on. I entered the service in '42 [as a Naval Officer]¹², and so actually then in '45 when I came back [from the service]¹³. ~~He got into~~ [My best friend in law school joined]¹⁴ a real good firm in San Francisco when he got out of law school. They apparently had an opening, and he kept wanting me to come down and join that firm, which I'm sure would have been an excellent opportunity for a young guy. So I thought about it off and on for a few weeks, and one morning I woke up and the thought occurred to me that I'd never be happy anywhere but in Nevada, so I put the law practice behind me. I never practiced law.

Seney: Once you came back from the Army, you never practiced? (Dodge: The Navy.) The Navy, I'm sorry. What did you do in the Navy, where were you in the war?

Dodge: I was a line officer in the auxiliary fleet. We were on transports mainly. I

12. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

13. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge. As well, at this point Mr. Dodge deleted two sentences.

14. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

put in 175,000 miles of sea in the Pacific.

Seney: Good experience? Useful experience?

Dodge: Yeah, well you know, in a way. We were there to do a job. As a matter of fact, I think that a lot of the -- I was a ninety-day wonder. I don't know whether you know what that program was.

Seney: Sure I do. Officer candidate school.

Dodge: Yeah, officer training deal, and they had to be college graduates. ~~And frankly, I thought that on those kind of ships~~ [In my opinion], they didn't have the top graduates from the Naval Academy on ~~these kind of~~ [auxiliary]¹⁵ ships. And I thought, in the main, that these guys that just came in like I did, once they'd begin to get the hang of things, did a lot better job than regular Navy personnel. But anyway, be that as it may, I came back just before Christmas in '45. And so my dad and uncle had passed away, two widows owned all these ranches and the construction business.

RETURNING FROM THE WAR TO THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Seney: Who was running them during the war?

Dodge: Well, there was a man named Ernie Maupin who was with the company -- started when he was very young as an accountant -- and he was very capable, and so he operated the business during the war, and I was vice president of the company, but I never really wanted to carry on that kind of a business.

15. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Nobody else was capable of doing it, so we finally liquidated the construction business in the 60s. I remember like it was yesterday, all the good estate planning tools that I learned at Stanford, and I used them with my mother and my aunt -- two widows who were very vulnerable at that time tax-wise, and so on. So, we finally got all their interests separated and the Island Ranch (phone rings). The first thing we did, we sold the Madeline property. There were 2,000 head of cattle up there on that place. It was a big spread.

Seney: Where was this one?

Dodge: Well that's the one at Ravendale. See, when they came down here, they never sold that property.

Seney: Up in Lassen County?

Dodge: Yeah, Lassen County. And so we sold that and we sold the other properties here, except for the big [Island]¹⁶ ranch. And I had never worked around a ranch. As I say, I always was around the construction business in the summertime. So, my aunt came in -- I had an office at the construction company.

Seney: Let me stop you to ask you, did your dad do both? Did he run both the construction company and the ranch?

Dodge: Well, he had managers on the ranches.

16. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Seney: So he wasn't really a farmer either in that sense.

BUYING THE ISLAND RANCH

Dodge: Well, of course he had a pretty good background when he was up where he was, because they raised a lot of crops, so he knew about that. But the point was that they always kept a foreman on that ranch, and they had managers on these other ranches, and so on. [When the Island Ranch was the only property left, my Aunt wanted to know what we were going to do with that property.]¹⁷ I said, "Well, I'll make you an offer, and if it's not acceptable, we'll put it on the market." [The Island Ranch foreman]¹⁸ was a young man, about my age -- he passed away here a couple years ago -- and he was a real good dirt farmer. And the other thing I liked, he was kind of a "diamond in the rough" in a way. He didn't like school, he quit when he was in about the eighth or ninth grade. But he had a unique ability to put first things first in his mind. So I went out there, and as I say, I'd never worked around the ranch. Oh, I'd been there but I didn't work there, and didn't know anything about it. So I said, Bernys [my Aunt]¹⁹ wants to sell her interest in the ranch and I said, "But," I said [to the foreman], "I will not make her an offer

17. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

18. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

19. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

unless you'll agree to stay here and run this property." He said, "I'll stay here as long as you want me." So anyway, I made her an offer and she consulted with some friends of hers and she asked, at that time, what seemed like a lot of money, but it wasn't too much more than what I had offered her.

I was a great saver of money when I was young. When I went out on these construction jobs, I always saved my money and my folks would start a little savings account in Susanville when they were up in that area for me, and I was always looking at the [savings]²⁰ book (laughter) to see how much I had. So anyway, then my dad, during the Depression years, bought for me, a property just south of the Island Ranch. I was still in school and I didn't know anything about a ranch, didn't have any equipment -- but anyway, we leased it to a couple of guys. So while it was leased, that was taking care of itself pretty well. Then they had other things they wanted to do, and they gave up the lease. I think he bought the property for -- these were real depression years -- for around \$12,000.

Seney: Well, during the early part of the Depression, there was a bad drought here too, to complicate things.

Dodge: Yeah. So anyway, I couldn't find anybody that would lease that property, and I wasn't in any position to do it.

Seney: How large of piece was it?

Dodge: Well, it was a pretty good-sized property. It was a big property, it was 780

20. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

acres.

Seney: That is a good-sized property in this area.

Dodge: Yeah. But anyway, what happened -- and this was still pretty hard times -- a guy came along and offered me \$30,000 in cash for it. So, to make a long story short, between what I saved, and that \$30,000, I had \$50,000 that I was able to make her down payment with. At that time, it was a lot of money [this was in 1948]²¹.

Seney: This would have been after the war again?

Dodge: No, this had been in the 30s, during the Depression.

Seney: You mean during the Depression, you were given \$30,000 for that piece of property?

Dodge: Yeah. But also, the values on the Island Ranch, at that time were low. The amount of money that I offered her [my Aunt]²² was according to the times. So, anyway, I got her paid off before too long. And then in the meantime, my mother and I -- she was very helpful about estate planning. She really wanted to do the right thing. She wound up gifting the other half of the property to my sister and myself. So, in time, I owned all the property.

THE QUALITY OF THE ISLAND RANCH

Seney: Let me ask you about the Island Ranch.

21. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

22. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Dodge: Yeah, that's a great ranch, incidentally.

Seney: Is it?

Dodge: I looked up some information this morning you'd be interested in. I have traced ownership on that property back to 1872, which was eight years after Nevada became a state. The only water they had was the flood waters in the spring, and then whenever that was done, that was all the water they had, so they were raising meadow grass is all, and they were grazing cattle and horses -- a lot of horses being used at that time. The cattle -- they were selling beef to Virginia City in it's heyday, and a lot of them were haying some of that grass and selling it to stage stops [for horses]²³.

Seney: This was the natural hay that grew here?

Dodge: Yeah, that was a natural, what we call bluegrass, bluejoint. They have a lot of that kind of production up along the Humboldt River in northern Nevada on those cattle ranches, where the river floods in the spring and irrigates these pastures, and then they just raise that hay. It actually gets by on not too much water. If it gets a good start and grows up, why, you can get quite a lot of production without too much water.

So anyway, the ranch has a great history, and they bought it -- my dad and uncle -- in 1928, as a home for the construction horses they had. And actually, that was about the time the horse business was going out, but my

23. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

dad never would accept that. And ~~so it's~~ [the ranch has]²⁴ had a long history.

The reason I started to tell you why it was called the "Island" is because in the spring, when the river channel was running good, there were low places that surrounded a high contour ground, and they called it the "island" because it would get completely surrounded with water in the spring. That's how it got it's name.

Seney: So, being as it is in the midst of it, at least adjacent to the river, the soils there must be among the best in the Project I would think.

Dodge: It is, and I'll tell you why it is, and I've really just realized it recently in these short water years. It's a deep soil. The reason why that ground was high was that the winds kept blowing soil in there and building up, so it had a much greater depth of topsoil -- much greater than on the average around the valley. And having that depth of topsoil, these alfalfa stands withstood these droughts out there better than any place that I've seen on the Project.

Seney: Because it's very dense soil and holds the moisture well.

Dodge: Well, and it's a deep root system. It's drawing deep from the soil -- moisture deep from the soil, don't you see, deep down.

Seney: Alfalfa gets a pretty deep root system on it, does it?

Dodge: Well, it does if the soil's there to do it.

24. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

END OF SIDE 1, TAPE 1.

BEGINNING OF SIDE 2, TAPE 1.

Seney: You were saying that the top soil was deep on the Island Ranch, and that's good for the alfalfa production.

Dodge: Well yeah, because it develops a very deep root system. If the ground's too shallow -- the top soil -- or you run into a sealed sub-soil or something like that where the water won't penetrate, in short water years, you just don't get along as well in that kind of a situation.

Seney: Over the years, you've become a farmer I take it?

Dodge: Yeah, I have, but I really relied on my foreman for the farming part. And incidentally, that's the only reason that I was ever able to serve in the Senate for twenty-three years, is because he and I would decide what we wanted to do, and I was always home on the weekends. Things always got taken care of.

Seney: And this was your principal business and source of income during this period?

BUILDING A MILL TO MAKE ALFALFA PELLETS

Dodge: Yeah it was. Yeah it was, after I bought the ranch. I was really personally operating it. And then I built a feed mill to make pellets to feed lambs, is what I had in mind. They'd had done some work down at New Mexico A&M on a finely-ground, pelletized feed with grain with alfalfa, that they were going to be getting a lot better feed conversions in fattening lambs than they'd ever done in the past. And before that, we'd been feeding cattle and

one thing and another, and just speculating on them, and that's a poor business. I found out that out of ten years, you might make money two or three years and you might lose money a couple or three years, and slide sideways the rest of the time. But anyway, I built this plant for my own purposes, and the first thing I knew, guys that owned horses that were training, started coming in there and buying these pellets.

Seney: Just as feed?

Dodge: [Yes, but also]²⁵ because of what it was doing for the horses. And I never dreamt when I started this plant, to make a commercial feed business out of it, but I did. I developed a commercial feed business. The most interesting book I ever read anywhere was a book by a man named Morrison who was a real authority called *Feeds and Feeding*²⁶. They had a lot of tables in the back about analysis of feeds and energy values and all those things, and boy I studied that book like there was no tomorrow, so I became a self-educated nutritionist. I got some help from some guys at the college of agriculture (laughs) at the university, and so, we developed a big business -- I thought it was big, \$150,000 a month cash flow on the mill, not to mention -- to merchandise all of my hay, at a good price.

25. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

26. Frank Barron Morrison, *Feeds and Feeding: A Handbook for Student and Stockman*. 21st ed. The Morrison Publishing Company (Ithaca, N.Y.) 1948.

Seney: So you didn't have to worry about what the market was so much?

Dodge: No. As a matter of fact that's exactly what happened. As a matter of fact, I made up my mind when I built it, at that time, feed prices were low, values of crops were low. Generally, hay was around twenty-five dollars a ton, and grain, around fifty. I made up my mind I was never going to put a pound of hay through that mill that I was going to mark less than twenty-five dollars. I did that one year when it was down to eighteen bucks, and I was still getting \$25 a ton out of hay.

Seney: And was it expensive to process the hay?

Dodge: No, because what we were doing is the least expensive method that I ever saw. We were field chopping it. See, I had to have it ground fine anyway, so I went from loose hay, the old loose stacks which they put up in nets with derricks. And then we dumped the hay and a couple guys up there would build a round, big tall stack. So I went directly from ~~that~~ [loose stacked hay]²⁷ to chopped hay.

Seney: What do you mean by chop?

Dodge: It was field chopping. The field chopper -- they go along and it's got a pick-up on it, pulled by a tractor. The choppers are over at the side of the tractor so you're going along the tractor here and the windrow here, and it just goes through a set of high-speed knives and just chops it up and blew it back into

27. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

covered wagons that we had, and then I'd haul it in and we had elevators that we'd unload from the unloading system on the wagons that we'd load onto the elevators and then stack these big stacks and then we'd just keep moving the elevator along and build this long stack as you'd want it. So I'd put about 300-400 ton into one of those stacks and top it off to look nice, and go on to the next one.

ALFALFA PRODUCTION ON THE ISLAND RANCH

Seney: You were growing a lot of hay out there.

Dodge: Oh yeah, well we still do. This ranch grows a lot of hay.

Seney: How much hay can you grow on an acre if things go right for you?

Dodge: Okay, at that time, maybe partly because we didn't have the best irrigating systems, and partly because of better varieties of hay like everything else over the years, five ton was considered a very excellent production.

Seney: Now is this per cutting, or over the season?

Dodge: No, this is per season. And this assumes a full water year.

Seney: And three or four cuts?

Dodge: Yeah, that's correct. And today, because of the varieties, and the better soils, that production is eight ton per acre -- up to eight ton per acre. I don't mean every acre. I've had seven-ton averages.

Seney: You told me before, but how large is the ranch, 1,200 acres?

Dodge: Just about 1,200 irrigated acres, yes.

Seney: And you said you're the biggest single water user in the Project?

Dodge: By far. Well, and then I'm going to tell you another story. But we own 4,800 acre feet, to put it in context. That's a lot of water.

Seney: So 4,800 acre feet you own?

Dodge: Yeah. The 1,385 acres actually water-righted at 3 1/2 an acre.

Seney: Yours are all bottoms, bottomland?

Dodge: Yeah, bottomland, right. And so I've improved it a lot in my life.

Seney: Do you take a pretty open-minded, kind of modern approach to it? Sounds like you do, to the problems of agriculture. You're willing to make changes?

SQUARING THE FIELDS ON THE ISLAND RANCH

Dodge: Well, I don't know that we get out in the lead on experimentation or anything like that, but one of the things that I've done in retrospect, we couldn't get by nearly as well as we do today on short water years. But there was nothing square on that property, and the reason was, that when people started to farm it, they put their ditches on the high contour wherever it was, and then they'd scratch out a field that had some slope to it to irrigate from the high point to the field, right? So then these contours were again blown in by wind. So the main ditch system looked like a bunch of angle worms. Nothing square. The most extreme thing I had was a field that's 112 acres now, that was all or part of seven different fields with 135 ditch outlets. Talk about wasting water! You opened up the outlet and then the water would run off into a

drain at the end of the field -- 135 of them. So I moved 150,000 yards on that acreage, put it on an optimum irrigation slope for two-tenths to the hundred, and we have twenty-one outlets.

What happened is, they came out with what they called a paddle wheel scraper. It was a scraper box and it would pick the dirt up. It had a bit on the bottom that was sharp enough to pick the dirt up, and then these paddle wheels would lift the dirt and throw it back into the box. So you weren't pulling the load of dirt. You follow? Because it was cleaning itself all the time. And we had small tractors -- they weren't heavy horsepower tractors, but I could pull one of those scrapers with a small tractor. So what I did, I started with one and then I got a hold of a second one. I spent a lot of tax dollars levelling ground every winter. I could keep guys busy, don't you see, and expense it. I don't remember where I started, but wherever looked like a proper place to do it, what we'd have to do is, we'd have to relocate the ditch to square it, and then re-level the field. The other thing that happened about that time that was very helpful to us, was when the government established the Soil Conservation Service, and they did the engineering work for us. We never had anybody to calculate balancing the cuts and fills before. So having that service, they'd come out; that was free of charge, so we'd stake it on hundred foot squares, and run these stake lines and they'd come out and take the elevation, and calculate the cuts and fills on each stake. So I'd spend all

winter with a couple of guys that I wanted to keep, re-levelling land and re-locating irrigating ditch[es]. And I did that for years and years.

Seney: The cumulative effect of all the levelling must have been very good.

Dodge: Oh it was. In this fifty-seven percent year²⁸, we're getting by reasonably well. There was a time when on a full water allowance, 100 percent allowance, I'd run out of water.

Seney: Is that right?

Dodge: Oh, it was a very inefficient system, because there's too damn many of these little old fields and these ditch outlets, don't you see? And not proper slopes. So anyway, I'll tell you, I greatly improved that property, enormously, but it was a step at a time. It was just one of those deals that we just kept going on. Finally got to a point when we had bigger tractors and different types of scrapers that made it easier. So I did a great job! (laughter)

Seney: It sounds like it, all the way around though! You using less water.

Dodge: I don't say that immodestly at all, because hell, I was never really a dirt farmer! (laughter) But anyway, one of the guys had said -- a second generation farmer-- his son is now a third -- has been a real good farmer in this valley -- and somebody asked him one day who the best farmer in the valley was, and he said Carl Dodge. (laughs)

Seney: You took that as a real compliment.

28. In 1994, due to drought conditions, the irrigators on the Newlands Project were allocated only 57% of their allowed water right.

Dodge: He's one of my peers. (laughter) Judged by my peers! (Laughter)

SERVING IN THE NEVADA STATE SENATE

Seney: So tell me about getting into the State Senate. When did you first run for the State Senate, and why did you do that?

Dodge: Well, I ran for Student Body President when I in high school and a girl defeated me, which was a humiliation. (laughter) So then I was a Student Body President at the university, and I always liked the political process. I don't mean running for an office, I just mean politics as a general process. We have a biennial [legislative] session in Nevada, it's not every year, it's every two years. So I got out of law school in '39 and it was later than the [biennial] session, it had just been concluded that spring -- it's in odd years. So the next one was in '41, which was just before the war. So I was very fascinated by the Legislature so I used to go over there and visit the Senate and sit in on their proceedings and visit with some of these senators -- very colorful people -- and I made up my mind that year [1941]²⁹, that some time I was going to try to be there. And so -- this is kind of an interesting story -- what happened is that as I grew up, my dad, he didn't have a fetish about it and he didn't overdo it, but every once in a while he'd say to me, and particularly after I got driving the car, he said. "You know, I want you to be careful about not getting into trouble with the police or somebody about the

29. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

way you drive a car or anything else you do. You know, we own a lot of property here and we do a lot of things, and a lot of people are very envious and jealous of us. I don't want you to create a bad image for the family." I always remembered that. So in 1955 I was running the ranch. I had done a few things before that. I've got a biography I'll leave with you. (Seney: Good!) Maybe I'll bring it out now so you can see it.

Seney: Sure that would be fine. (tape turned off and on)

Dodge: . . . system.

Seney: You say you created the first civil service system?

Dodge: Yeah, where we could conform salaries. It was horrible, it was a political deal. The people that had the political juice were getting the most money.

Seney: I see you were the first Chairman of that Commission from '55 to '58.

Dodge: Right. So anyway

Seney: I see you were also on the Churchill County [School]³⁰ Board of Trustees.

CREATING A CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL SYSTEM IN NEVADA AND SERVING ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dodge: I was going to tell you about that. I told you that I made up mind in 1940 that sometime I'd like to get in the Senate. But what I did, was they passed a law in 1955 that did two things -- one of them a very great thing, and I'll tell you a sequel of it. Like in this community, there were a lot of small, grade

30. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

one to eight, little country schools, and then they had a consolidated high school. Throughout Nevada, that was the situation where they had had these small school districts. So, in 1955, the Legislature, with a great deal of vision, created centralized school districts. They were co-terminus with county boundaries, so that you had a total grade one through twelve school district. That law also provided that once you passed 1,250 students, that you expand the school boards from five to seven persons. So, later in 1955, after that Legislation was enacted, and in place, they'd reached that point in Churchill County, (brief interruption for refreshments). So one night about eleven o'clock, I got a phone call from the Chairman of the school board and he said -- they had a provision for interim appointments. He said, "We need to appoint two additional members to the school board. Would you be willing to be one of them?" Then he told me who the other one was, a friend of mine, who had accepted. So I wasn't doing anything else as far as public service at that time, so I said, "Sure I will." So, I went on the school board. And then in '56, I had to run, so I filed for short term. They had short and long terms, and I filed for the '56-'58 term. As it turned out, neither the other fellow or I had any opposition. I'm not sure it would have ever gotten into a competitive election except for the fact that he and I both got a very good complimentary vote. He got about fifty votes more than I did. But I always remember my dad telling me about all this jealousy and one thing or

another. And you know when you file for a competitive race, you really lay your neck on the line. You know about those things.

RUNNING FOR THE NEVADA STATE SENATE

So, anyway, I became Chairman of the school board and so being encouraged by the complimentary vote, I decided I'd run for the Senate in '58, which I'd always thought about doing. The guy that ran against me, had been in the Assembly for a long time from here, very conservative. I'm a Republican and I always consider myself a fiscal conservative. This guy was a Democrat, but he was very conservative. I always liked his voting record. I tried to rap on every door in the valley, and he made the mistake of -- he was well regarded by people and he'd been in the lower house in the Assembly for a long time -- but he made the mistake of doing all of his campaigning out of his store downtown. I beat him two to one.

Seney: This was his first try for the Senate?

Dodge: Personal contact. There's nothing like it. People really appreciate that. So anyway, I got into the Senate.

Seney: Was it what you expected?

SERVING IN THE SENATE

Dodge: Yeah every bit, as far as the process, and better than I expected as far as my own performance. I don't have some aptitudes at all, but I really had an aptitude for that process. And the last thing you'll find on that list will tell you, on the second page. (Seney: Senate Hall of Fame.) Only three people

in the Senate have ever been named. One posthumously, probably the greatest legislator Nevada ever had, and then the second one represented Clark County when he was the sole senator -- great guy -- and I was the third, the first person from a small county, and maybe the only one from a small county that will ever make it, I don't know. Because Las Vegas has sixty-five percent of the [population].

Seney: How many members are there in the Nevada State Senate?

Dodge: There's twenty-one. Twenty-one and forty-two in the Assembly. And we have a constitutional limit of twenty-five and fifty fortunately, so we'll never have a large Legislature. But anyway, it was an enormous experience. I just loved it. Every day of it. The day that I was inducted, I told people that I went through all the same emotions everybody else does. I said I suffered in defeat when I lost a good one (laughs) and I was on Cloud Nine when I'd win one! (laughter)

Seney: What did you specialize in, in the Senate? What issues were important to you?

Dodge: Well, I was on the Judiciary Committee because of having a legal background. I was never on the Finance Committee. In a way I'm glad. It's considered the most important committee, I think, in any Legislature, but I was never on it. I was always on Government Affairs, Taxation -- those kind of committees. Over the years, I actually worked on just thousands of pieces

of legislation because there's a lot of bills. There's not that many bills that go through a Finance Committee, you know what I mean. You've got a budget and you sit down with every department -- you go through that. But I'd say the Judiciary, and I think even today it's true, the Judiciary and the Government Affairs Committees, probably handle well over fifty percent of all legislation that goes through the Nevada Legislature. And the Taxation Committee handles a lot of it.

Seney: How often would you deal with matters having to do with the Newlands Project? Did it come up at all?

Dodge: Well, no it didn't. But what did happen is that this Pyramid thing began to heat up. (Seney: The Pyramid Lake Indians?) Yeah. And after we reapportioned in the mid 60s, after the one man, one vote decision -- see, originally, I just represented this county.

Seney: Before the re-apportionment you mean, was there a system kind of like California?

Dodge: Well, it was a unit system. It had an apportionment concept in the Assembly, but it was a unit system in the Senate. It was one senator for each county. Do you follow? Now after reapportionment, then, in these small counties, we had to begin to cluster some of them together to make up enough population for one senator. So, finally, I was representing four counties. But at the time this thing began to heat up, I was representing this county and

Lyon [county]; the Lahontan Reservoir is in Lyon County. And Fernley, which is part of this Project to get their water. So I represented all of those people. So I followed this thing very closely, not only because of our own property, but because I was representing agriculturalists, and so I've always followed it, and as I told you, after I got out of the Senate, I figured that I needed to stay with it because a lot of people wouldn't have the real historical background about this thing.

Seney: Why don't you give us that background? We'd like to have a record of the historical background as you see it.

CONTROVERSIES IN THE NEULANDS PROJECT

Dodge: Well background in the sense that the things that have happened over the years as far as the controversies, changes in legislation, the threats here and there.

Seney: That's exactly what I mean.

Dodge: This is just a combination of many things that happened: hearings, there was a so-called "blue ribbon" committee that the Bureau of Reclamation created that had several representatives of the different interests.

Seney: What year was that?

Dodge: I would say it had to be in the late 60s. And then I made statements before that committee. I made a lot of statements at different times that had to do with water generally. One time, we passed some legislation requesting the

state engineer to make a study of Nevada's water uses and capabilities and that sort of thing. I remember making statements at hearings that they had. So I made statements in a lot of different situations where the waters in the areas that I represented were involved. So, as I say, it isn't any one thing or a series of unique things here and there that I could point out, but it was just a general situation where I tried to make a record for the people that I represent. So, anyway, that's, I guess, the main reason why I do have a lot of knowledge about this Project from the early times and through all of these times, and currently, that not too many people have.

END OF SIDE 2, TAPE 1.
BEGINNING OF SIDE 1, TAPE 2.

Seney: It's August 5, 1994. I'm Donald Seney and I'm speaking with Senator Carl Dodge at his home in Fallon, Nevada.

Dodge: The unfortunate part about this Project, when this thing started was that it was the only Reclamation Project in America that ran afoul of an endangered species, the qui-ui. And this created a real political problem for the Secretaries of Interior as time went on. This guy [Robert] Pelcyger, ~~that had~~ [the attorney for the Pyramid Lake Tribe, has]³¹ been riding the crest of the wave on this thing. ~~They appropriated him~~ [The Department of Interior has

31. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

appropriated money for him and]³² a hydrologist that he uses to develop all his technical stuff -- about a half million dollars a year -- and they've done it for years through the Department of Indian Affairs. It was at a time, also, when the American people had begun to develop a real sense of guilt about how Indian tribes had been treated. And what Pelcyger did was -- well, in 1973, he filed a suit, the Pyramid Tribe against Rogers Morton, who was then the Secretary of the Interior, claiming that he was allowing this Project too much water. See, we split the water. When it comes from Reno down here, the only two users are Pyramid Lake on the Truckee River -- we have the Carson River water, whatever it is -- and the only two users then, on the Lower Truckee, are the either to go to Pyramid or diverted to Derby Dam and the canal over into Lahontan and coming down here. So the TCID [Truckee-Carson Irrigation District] did not elect to join that suit, [against the Secretary of the Interior]³³ because it was in Washington, and ~~they~~ [the TCID]³⁴ just didn't think -- right or wrong -- they didn't think it was a good judgement to get involved as a party to the suit, or an interpleader. And the defense of the Project was not good in that litigation. It was not a good

32. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

33. Clarification

34. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

presentation. Some guy back there just didn't do a good job. So a man named [U.S. District Judge] Gerhardt Gessel -- I think he's still on the bench back there of Circuit Court -- Pelcyger asked for a 288,000 acre-foot release from Lahontan. At that time, we were probably using, by virtue of inefficiency, 375[,000] or 400[,000], and Gessel bought his argument and ordered the Secretary -- we weren't parties to the suit -- to reduce this allowance, or whatever it was, down to the 288[,000]. Well there's no way, at that time, that we could have survived -- well, we might have survived on a drought basis, on a limited water basis, to some extent, but it would never have allowed for complete irrigation of the Project in full production. So after Pelcyger got that judgment, he kept threatening all the subsequent Secretaries of the Interior with a contempt citation, if he didn't enforce this order and do more for the survival of the cui-ui.

Seney: That was about 1973, wasn't it?

Dodge: That was '73, that's correct. And so the last thing politically, that a Secretary of the Interior could stand, in my opinion, is an issue over a contempt ~~against~~ [proceeding filed by]³⁵ an Indian tribe with a threatened species. Politically, they just couldn't handle it. So, for that reason, over the years, they have increasingly put more pressure on this Project and reduced in different ways, the water allowances in here, and water supplies because of these factors. In

35. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

recent years, we've gotten more pressure, again, a lot because of public opinion and because of attitudes of the actual people that were involved with the Secretary of Interior about Indian tribes or whatever. They were a lot more liberal people and they were placing a lot less emphasis, particularly on the limited-type agricultural production we have, as against the interests in Pyramid Lake. So, it hasn't been an easy road. I can appreciate, as I say, the political problems that were involved over all the years.

Then the TCID itself got a real bad reputation -- still has one -- with the Department of Interior -- horrible reputation.

Seney: How do you mean? What would that reputation be, rightly or wrongly?

Dodge: Well, because they defied the Gessel order.

Seney: They did, didn't they. (Dodge: Oh sure.) They said, "We don't have to do this."

Dodge: No, they just plain defied it. And boy, they've been the "black hats" with the Department of Interior ever since that. And then the story gets worse all the time, and the reputation gets worse. As new people come on, they get to hear these stories about these bunch of rebels (laughter) out here in Nevada, defying the United States. And then the board, in retrospect, I can't be too critical about them, but at times, they probably weren't as farsighted as they should have been.

Seney: The water users themselves didn't permit the board to be very farsighted.

Dodge: No, no they didn't. They still felt that there was no way these guys could touch them. Well, they began to find out at time went on. All of us did.

Seney: Let me go back to something that you just hinted at. You said that "they thought they couldn't touch them, but we learned that they could."

Dodge: Well, we won a big case in the 70s in the Supreme Court.

Seney: *Nevada v. the United States.*

Dodge: Yes. But then, what these guys have done, they keep coming in through the back door, they don't challenge the water right, but they simply reduce the supply. And a water right is no better than the supply that fleshes it out. So they kept tightening the screws.

Seney: How does that work? How do you tighten the supply?

Dodge: Well, through this OCAP [operating criteria and procedures] that they've created and limited carryover storages -- a whole slew of things. And, they've been upheld by a liberal Ninth Circuit Court in San Francisco, and so nothing has gone our way in any recent years, particularly as far as legal protection or legal support for positions. And it's just kind of an accumulation of things that have created a lot more pressures on us and a lot lower water supplies than we'd like to have.

THE SETTLEMENT II NEGOTIATIONS

We now are poised to enter an effort at a negotiated settlement. I have some hopes for that. I don't want to get overly optimistic. A lot of our

problems are the result of one guy back there who's had an absolute fetish about this Project. He'd like to see it destroyed. He's in the Department of Justice, an attorney, and he's handled all their litigation out here, and he's got a real vendetta. He's out of his mind about this Project. But he's been very successful in court, and he keeps telling these guys in the Department of Interior all these things he can do and the wins that he can make and the way they can tighten the screws tighter here and there on the Project, and he's a big buddy of Pelcyger's. The two of them "pee through the same quill" (laughter) as we used to say in the Legislature. (laughter) I'm not sure how much of this you want to quote in there.

Seney: We'll give you a copy and you can edit it out if you want, but I think you should leave it! (laughter)

Dodge: Not too bad.

Seney: No, no.

Dodge: So anyway, and then this Reid Bill was

THE ATTEMPT AT AN INTERSTATE COMPACT

Seney: That comes about, if I may, because Senator [Paul] Laxalt tried to get this solved at a time when he was a very powerful individual, (Dodge: Very powerful.) and Mr. Reagan, his close friend, was President.

Dodge: Well, I can tell you what happened there.

Seney: Please do, yeah.

Dodge: He really wanted to get that done.

Seney: To end all the litigation and get the parties to agree to this.

Dodge: Right. And among other things -- see, both states are involved in this deal -- California and Nevada, because California has got rights on the Upper Truckee River coming out of Tahoe, down through Truckee to the state line, and so they were involved, and they've been working over the years with the State Engineer, and that group in Nevada. And so, at the last minute, they had some legislation, I think that Paul had introduced, and so Pelcyger went back there and talked to Paul about some changes. In retrospect, I'm not sure that they were all that bad -- I don't remember all of them. But he called up Roland Westergard, who's still working on some of this stuff for the state of Nevada. He was State Engineer, then he was Head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -- it's a big department now -- and then with a prior governor, he began to get some political pressures and he couldn't live with that. He was asking him to do things that he didn't want to do, and so he left the Department. He's now under contract with them as a consultant. But anyway, he called up Roland on very short notice, and talked to him about these changes.

Seney: Laxalt.

Dodge: Yeah, Laxalt, and this was right towards the end of the session when he was retiring. Right or wrong, Roland just told him that he just couldn't, without

some further analysis of the thing, he just couldn't consent to that. And then time ran out, is what happened there.

Seney: So Pelcyger had made request for changes. Laxalt checks back with the people in Nevada and the guy says, "Gee, I can't give you an answer."

Dodge: Well, I'm not sure. As I say, if they had had a chance to give the pros and cons a little more analysis, they might not of, but I can appreciate the position he was in -- he just didn't feel that with those kind of changes And Christ, this had been negotiated for months, that he could, over the phone, consent to some of that stuff. And, as I say, in retrospect, it might have been the right thing to do.

Seney: Was Pelcyger is a position to be able to kind of kill the legislation if he didn't get these changes that he wanted? Is that what you're suggesting?

Dodge: I'm not sure, but I think he was influential enough with the Department of Interior that if they wouldn't support the bill, then I think Paul was dead with it, [that] would be my guess. And incidentally, I worked very closely, I was a very, good, personal friend of Paul Laxalt's, and worked very closely with him. I thought a lot of him.

Seney: He has a very good reputation, does he not?

Dodge: Oh yeah, yeah, excellent. But anyway, there's no use looking back at all of those things. We can all see in retrospect, maybe things we should have done. So, anyway, coming down to the present, and with this

negotiation

THE FORMATION OF THE LAHONTAN VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Seney: Who's negotiating what at this point?

Dodge: Okay, a lot of things that are involved, but it's hopefully a permanent settlement. I can't tell you finally what -- the problem is these two river systems don't generate enough water to satisfy all the things that people would like to do with the water. That's the real problem. When you get into that situation, you have to try to reach some middle ground somewhere. Our problem has been that the Department of Interior has not only been rigid, as far as this Project, but more punitive all the time. It's gotten worse as the years have gone on. And so what we did last summer, Lyman McConnell from the TCID, he's the manager, and Mike Makedon, who's the City Attorney, and a neighbor of mine here, went back to a water conference in Colorado one month. There was a presentation by the Las Vegas Water District, which is a big -- God, they get water off the [Colorado]. And they're trying to buy more from Arizona now. They get 300,000 acre feet off the Colorado River and they're trying to buy additional water now. I was talking to Lyman about it and Lyman said, "You know, ~~they formed this~~ [the Las Vegas Water District was formed under the]³⁶ Government Inter-Local Cooperation Act in Nevada. Looks like we could set something like that up."

36. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

And I got to thinking about that Act, and I was an author of it. How it came about was that the TCID was having to handle -- they weren't handling it, it was just not being handled at all -- the recreational use at Lahontan. And it was getting more boat use and swimmers and drunks and everything else. So finally, some boat cut a guy's leg off and they got hit in a judgment of \$500,000 on this accident. And so the TCID wanted to get rid of it in the worst way. The State Parks Department wanted to have it as a recreational area -- water recreation -- but there was no mechanism. So this was again when there was one senator from each county, so the senator from Lyon County, which is the back end of Lahontan, and myself, introduced this bill called the Inter-Local Government Cooperation Act, which provided, in essence, that all legal sub-divisions of the Nevada government, could make inter-local agreements for whatever their objectives. Well the result of that was that the Park Department did take it over with four parties being signatory in it: TCID, Lyon County, the Park Department, and the United States. So, Heft [after talking to Lyman]³⁷ that office that day and I was able to get a hold of a copy of the Cooperative Agreement down in Las Vegas, and then in the meantime, up along the Humboldt River, they'd formed an alliance, all the counties that are on the Humboldt River, and they were using this mechanism. So I got a copy of their document. In five days,

37. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

I put together a document for this county called the Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance. I don't know whether you've heard about that. So anyway, I'm more or less retired and I had the time to do it, and nobody else really had the time.

Seney: And probably the interest too?

Dodge: The interest -- sure I did, sure I did. So anyway, I wasn't trying to make brownie points with anybody; I don't need to do that anymore. I scheduled myself with the city and the county on their next meetings, and I had a preliminary draft of this deal that I had handed to them, and I asked them to endorse in principle, the creation of this alliance. See, any two governments could form it -- the county and the city could. As time went on -- the town of Fernley which is also a sub-division of Nevada's government -- they came in. And the two [soil]³⁸ conservation districts here, small [soil] conservation districts, even our sub-divisions, and they came in. They were all parties signatory to this document.

Seney: Who else is part of it? Churchill County?

Dodge: Those are the signers, but then the document provided for the creation of a board and an advisory group comprised of the various interests in the community. It was a good structure. So anyway, they [the county and

38. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

city]³⁹ endorsed it in principle and then we had a big meeting out here, a public meeting, at the community center when this was discussed. I didn't call the meeting, but anyway this was the subject matter, so I discussed the concept of what we were trying to do, and get a community organization together. And so they asked for volunteers to serve on a drafting committee, and there were about twelve or fourteen people raised their hands. It was a very interesting experience for me. The most democratic thing I ever got into. We had seven drafting sessions. Everybody got their penny's worth -- their two bits' worth (laughter) and more, into that document. We kept refining it and adding to it and making changes here and there, and so after about seven drafting sessions, we got it as far as we could go with it, and then went back and asked the city and the county and the TCID, which was a sub-division, if they would be parties to it. Well, the result of that process was that everybody signed it, it had to be approved by the Attorney General of Nevada, which was done, and it was created -- except for the money.

Seney: List the member sub-divisions for me.

Dodge: Well, let's see, there was Churchill County, City of Fallon, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, Town of Fernley, the two conservation districts, -- six parties, I guess. We asked the Stillwater Indian Tribe, also, to come into it, because there was a provision for tribal representation, but they didn't elect to

39. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

do it. But in any event, there was no money, and my wife and I spend the winter down in the Coachella Valley, and I was leaving the first of October, but I went to the county commission, the last thing I did, and told them that I thought that as an interim thing, they ought to utilize this Lahontan 2000 Organization. I don't know whether you've heard about that or not. Well, it was a local organization spearheaded by a woman. She's a great gal with the Cooperative Extension Service here. She's a hydrologist and she's become very interested in this water problem, domestically more than anything else -- both with the city and a lot of rural wells, and so on.

Seney: What's her name?

Dodge: Mary Reid. R-E-I-D. She has an office out here at the Ag Building. And so they had this organization and they had people come in. It was an educational deal. Good meetings, and they were getting a lot of people in and a lot of good speakers. So they authorized her to carry on that work until we could formalize everything on the Alliance and get a board appointed and do all these other things, so that's pretty much what happened during the winter. She carried the thing on. They had meetings twice a month and they had good meetings, and very faithful people. Twenty-five or thirty came in every meeting, and they had speakers and they had programs that they were working on, and educational things, so they kept the thing going. In the meantime, I also asked them -- TCID and the city, and the county -- for \$10,000 each for

seed money until -- we were going to have a special election and try to get an override on a tax rate to finance it. We began to have some reservations about whether people would begin to raise questions and [we] would lose the election -- people don't like tax overrides anyway, and the last thing we wanted was to have an election and have this turned down in the community. That would have been a horrible message. So I got them all together one day and told them about this, and I said, "Would you be willing, to begin with anyway, to put up \$50,000 a piece to finance this deal?" And they said yes.

Seney: Fifty thousand a piece, you mean

Dodge: That's TCID, the city, and the county.

Dodge: So what finally happened is, ~~they~~ [the Alliance]⁴⁰ operated without any money all winter. Mary and those people did, all volunteer work and different people would get the papers out and use their computers and all this sort of thing. They wound up, interestingly enough, with \$150,000, and the \$30,000 seed money, so they got 180,000 bucks in the bank! They're organized -- we were going to have a director we figured we might have to pay \$60,000. Now, when the idea of the negotiated settlement came up, we decided that rather than have a director at this point in time, we'd have an executive secretary and wait to see whether we could get this thing resolved with a settlement, because I would have felt guilty about getting some guy in

40. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

here from somewhere and quit a job, and in a year's time or two years, [there's] nothing for him to do. That's wrong. So anyway, we finally got everything put together on the Alliance. The board is in place, the advisory group is still holding their meetings.

Seney: What are you trying to achieve with this group?

Dodge: A community coalition. Not farmers, a community coalition, and the thing is all fit together finally. We're going to have one, single position for the whole community. Domestic water supplies, which the city relies on; the rural wells the county's interested in; the farmers' interests, the wetlands' interest -- which is a big thing here. This is a lot of what we've got to do. We've got to reduce the agricultural acreage some and give more water to the wetlands out here under the Reid Bill.

Seney: Does this, if I may, hope to build a community coalition that will essentially support, to some extent, the Newlands Project?

HOPES FOR THE SETTLEMENT II NEGOTIATIONS

Dodge: In a way, but it's an indirect support. What it's objective is, is to retain the water in the valley and then decide how we can best satisfy the different needs -- the domestic water supplies, the agricultural use, the wetlands -- but keep the water in the valley, don't let it go to Pyramid or somewhere else. We finally got everybody together on that deal, and so we're going in, in the strongest position we can be in, in this negotiation. And if we had had

different agendas by the farmers, then the business people or the rural dwellers or the city -- we're in bad enough shape on this deal being completely unified. If we were weren't unified, I think we'd be dead in the water. So I'm extremely gratified that the thing worked out like I hoped it would work out, and it has, and they're financed, and we're probably better organized than anybody that's going into this negotiation. We had a lot of meetings, a lot of discussions about a lot of things, got the best man in America as our negotiator. A guy named Mike Clinton who was with the Bureau of Reclamation for twenty-six years and now with a private engineering firm. He's been involved in a lot of tremendous settlements in America. A very intelligent guy, very well regarded in Washington, and he visits with all these other people that are involved, trying to find out where they're coming from, trying to seek solutions.

I didn't mean to get side-tracked.

Seney: No, no, you were not side-tracked at all. This is all absolutely relevant because clearly, this water flowing in this valley has an impact on a lot of people beyond the farmers and the Newlands Project.

Dodge: Oh yes! And it does have a big impact.

END OF SIDE 1, TAPE 2.
BEGINNING OF SIDE 2, TAPE 2.

Dodge: When we're talking about the Project, this thing is probably the most important thing that ever happened in this Project, was to try to get this

matter resolved. God, we spent fortunes on it, and we haven't been that successful in court, and all I'd like to say about it is that we've got a mediator, a woman, that's been in a lot of successful deals in the country, and internationally, and so we have hopes. Well, first of all, she took it on a two-tier arrangement. She wanted 80,000 bucks for the job, but 15,000 of it was going to be an original amount which she was going to use to interview all the parties to determine whether she thought a negotiation could be successful. And if she didn't think that it would, she would so recommend, and that would end it. She is recommending that we go forward. Now that assumes some good will on the part of the United States government, and that is the real key, because they have been so rigid and so punitive to this Project, that there's no hope unless they're willing to make some concessions here and there. We're not going to get everything we want probably, but the point is that they've got the resources. Ultimately you have to build a water distribution system in here that would cost fifty million bucks, they've got the money to do it, and they've done it in other places.

Seney: By water distribution system, you mean domestic water?

Dodge: Yeah, domestic water. See now, all our water's relying on this -- this is why, from a community standpoint, they're only in an indirect way, having the big support for agriculture, because this is the groundwater recharge for all the shallow domestic wells, and the cities' aquifer, 500 feet deep, ~~which supplies~~

~~not only the city,~~⁴¹ is recharged by the agricultural [water]⁴², and clearly established by the agricultural irrigation on the west side of the valley -- it supplies the city, and ~~it~~ [that aquifer]⁴³ also supplies two Federal activities: the Stillwater Indian Tribe and the Navy -- that aquifer. So the interest of the Alliance is not necessarily to fight the battle for the farmers. Do you follow? But to protect it, keep the water in the valley. And this is going to be their position, and they're solid in it.

Seney: So in other words, when you turn on your tap here in your home, that water has really come out of the canals, essentially?

Dodge: Yes. Five hundred feet deep, there's a basalt aquifer; it's being recharged.

Seney: So, ultimately, that water is coming out of the Project.

Dodge: Yeah, sure. That's right. That's the source of the recharge on the basalt aquifer.

Seney: Well you mentioned when the tape was off that your lawn here is -- do you still irrigate it out of the canal here that goes by?

Dodge: Yeah, that's right, but I mean this is only wherever you've got a TCID ditch. It's not that everybody does that. (laughter) In time, we probably will.

41. Deleted by Mr. Dodge.

42. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

43. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Seney: Yeah. Who are the parties to this negotiation?

Dodge: The United States

Seney: Will this be both the Department of Justice and Department of Interior?

Dodge: Yeah, well, I'll tell you what. This guy [Fred R.] Disheroon -- real bad news. At onetime, even Harry Reid wanted to get him off the deal. But the unfortunate part is, this is the only guy that has a complete background on all this litigation, and one thing and another out here, as far as anybody in Washington. We just found out a couple of days ago, that the Department of Interior said they had to have him because he's the only guy that had that knowledge. He's not the lead man. They're going to have advisors, there will be certain people who will sit at the table, but they'll have whoever behind him they want to have behind him. He'll [Disheroon] be one of the guy's behind him. But there'd be the United States, the Department of Interior -- he's with the Department of Justice, he'd be one of the advisors -- the Sierra Pacific Power Company. I forget what the other water users' group in Reno is -- it's the county.

Seney: Wahoe County Water Conservation District?

Dodge: Those people, yeah.

Seney: West Pack Utilities -- that's Sierra Pacific?

Dodge: Yeah. Both Indian tribes -- Pyramid and Stillwater. So that's five. TCID.

Seney: And your group has standing to take part.

- Dodge: Yeah, and our group here. Wait a minute, not TCID, the Alliance, representing this community.
- Seney: So TCID won't be a direct participant?
- Dodge: No, and they don't want to be. They know that they haven't got the status to do anything with this deal. They know that their salvation is to let the community carry it for them. And I'm trying to think -- oh, I know, and an environmentalist. Well, the environmental organizations will be involved, but there will have to be one guy. They haven't selected him yet. The Sierra Club, Wetlands Coalition, the Environmental Defense Fund, Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society -- those kind of groups. They will get together and designate a team of maybe three people, we think is probably what they'll have. But there'll be a lead person for each group. So that's the way it's organized.
- Seney: Are you going to handle it for the Alliance?
- Dodge: No, I'm not. I won't even be here when most of it takes [place]. I think they'll start it in September, but I wouldn't anyway. This guy, Mike Clinton, will be our lead man. But he will have with him a member of the Alliance and a member of the Newlands Water Protective Association.
- Seney: What do you guys hope the settlement will look like? What's the Alliance looking for?
- Dodge: Well, what we want to do is, we can handle the deal if we can keep the water

in the valley, and we can accommodate the requirement in the Reid Bill for the 125,000 acre feet of water for the Wetlands. We can accommodate them. It depends upon how that's done. What we want to try to do is keep as much of the agricultural acreage as possible, and we want to keep it in a greenbelt area so that the land use is correct. And so far, the acquisitions they made have not hurt this valley at all because they're at the extremities of the Project, a lot of water loss to deliver water [there], and poor ground -- a lot of it that never should have been put into agriculture to begin with.

Seney: These are the acquisitions made by Fish and Wildlife?

Dodge: Yeah, well Nature Conservancy has been buying them, and then they just act as a ~~medium~~ [an intermediary]⁴⁴. No, then the United States buys the water from them. They just act as an intermediary.

Seney: How does it get to Stillwater, through one of the canals?

Dodge: Yeah, at the present time, yeah. Now they're talking about maybe building some more direct systems for the delivery of their water down there. I don't know whether that's going to come about or not. You've got canals and these laterals all over the valley that have been handling the Project, including Stillwater, and at the extremities wherever they are. So anyway, I'm not overly optimistic, but

Seney: Let me ask you, is what farmer Dodge wants, different from Alliance founder

44. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

Dodge wants here? Is there an inconsistency?

Dodge: I don't think so. Well, I'll put it this way: The farmers are going to be unhappy to some extent about whatever the reduction in the agriculture lands are, but, that is not going to be a fatal thing at all, if we can keep enough agricultural ground in a cohesive area where you can maintain the efficiency of delivery of the water and the quality of life in this valley because of the greenbelt. The most important thing about the whole deal -- and we tried to get into the Reid Bill and they wouldn't accept it -- was that if they do the land use planning correctly, even if we reduce the -- we got 60,000 irrigated acres now -- if we had to reduce it to 40,000 irrigated acres, 20,000 reduction, I don't think it will exceed that. Hopefully, I think we can wind up with maybe 45,000 acres of agricultural land, and generate enough water through return flows and purchases to supply the 25,000 acres of wetlands is really what it is -- five feet deep [or 125,000 acre feet]⁴⁵ is the way they calculate it. Twenty-five thousand acres of wetlands. That's between Carson Lake, south of the Island Ranch -- see, that was what was always fed by the south fork of the Carson River -- Carson Lake and the Stillwater area. Now, the State of Nevada [which operates Carson Lake]⁴⁶, interestingly enough, and understandably, is not interested in reducing this agricultural acreage any

45. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

46. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

more than necessary, because of the free water they get through return flows. With a full water allowance here, three hundred -- the last documented one -- we've had some dry years in '85, I think it was -- we had a year of 318,000 acre foot release from Lahontan -- 80,000 acre feet of water -- free water -- went to Stillwater and the Carson Lake, about evenly divided, about 40,000 acre feet each. The State of Nevada is not wealthy enough to buy a lot of this land and so to the extent that they can maximize the irrigation acreage and the return flows from that as free water, they benefit. And interestingly enough, in talking to Mike Clinton the other day, I said, "You know, Mike" He was here a while back and he and I had breakfast together -- I talked to him for an hour-and-a-half. I said, "Mike, you know this high efficiency, they keep striving for a higher efficiency on the Project. It's counter-productive because as you crank back the amount of water that is going to leave the agricultural lands, you reduce the free water that they're now getting." He said, "You know, you're right." And he said, "You know who's finally [telling me that] is [William] Bettenberg." He's the Department of Interior guy that leads this thing. (chuckles) It's true!

Seney: This is a very, very complicated situation.

Dodge: Oh it is complicated. It's complicated to anybody that doesn't understand it. It's not complicated to me.

Seney: Of the kind that you're mentioning here. If you concrete the canals, which

would be a very expensive proposition, then you lose the ground water seepage into the aquifer.

Dodge: That's right, then you'd have to put in a domestic water system. As a matter of fact, the last that I heard was that the United States' position on that is that they don't want to spend that kind of money on the Project. But what they're talking about doing is putting in a lot more meters to measure the water to be sure that people are not getting their water under-reported.

Seney: Is there much of that, do you think?

Dodge: I don't think there's too much of it. They think they're going to attain a real high level of efficiency by doing that. They may be right. There might be some of that, but I think that normally these ditch riders try to measure the water pretty accurately.

Seney: Do you think you're getting pretty much what you should be getting on yours?

Dodge: Well, yeah, we are. But, let me be honest with you, it's not in the interest of any farmer on the Project to have anybody's water under-reported, because if they get more water than they should, all that does is reduce the water to other people. You know what I mean. So there's nothing wrong with the concept of an accurate measurement on the water. And fortunately -- and I was talking to Lyman the other day about this -- I know personally, that my own observations with these short water years, these people have made on-farm efficiencies on these properties you can't believe, whereby they're able

to get by -- just like on the Island Ranch, as I told you. We used to run out of water -- run out, because it was an inefficient system. But in the thirty years or forty years that I've spent doing what I did, we finally got an efficient system, and on a fifty-seven percent water year, we will probably raise eighty percent of what we would on a full water allowance. It's efficiency. So, anyway, water that's lost to inefficiency is lost to everybody, so there's nothing wrong with this Project being efficient and seeing that it's efficient: It helps the farmer, it helps Pyramid, we don't have to divert as much water off the Truckee River and all those things.

Seney: Are you optimistic? Do you think that there's going to be an agreement this time?

THE ATTITUDE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS

Dodge: I said I'm reasonably optimistic. Clinton told me that there's a woman named Betsy Rieke, who is the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and he was in Washington recently and talked to both Bettenberg and Betsy Rieke. I asked him -- because I think it's the real key -- I said, "Are these people serious?" He said, "I think they are. Bettenberg sounds more like it all the time. Betsy Rieke told me that she was only going to be there two more years, and that she would like to see this thing settled on her watch."

Seney: The Federal people are the key, do you think?

Dodge: Absolutely. They've got the resources, they've got so many decisions within their own power that they can make to try to bring these things about, and if they're serious about it, all I'm saying is that the possibility exists for permanent settlement.

Seney: And that settlement will decide how much water will flow into the valley?

Dodge: Yeah, well hopefully it's permanent. You end all the litigation. Among other things, you dismiss all litigation if you have a settlement. The main thing, as I say, that we are interested in here, is to keep the water in the valley. That's the big thing. Once we got it in the valley, we can work this deal out with the Wetlands people.

THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

And let me tell you the other thing about that, a lot of these farmers have really got tunnel vision about: We cannot win this battle without the support of the environmentalists. We can't do it. We've got to have support outside of this valley. The people, the Wetlands Coalition, these other environmental groups who want these wetlands, we've got to make those concessions. We've got to reduce this agricultural acreage to satisfy them. But, we can all live with that deal as long as we can keep the water in the valley. If the United States is serious about it, it can come about.

Carson and Truckee River Water use on the Project

Seney: What is your minimum expectation for what's going to come down -- be

diverted at Derby and come down into the Lahontan from the Truckee water [system?]?

Dodge: You have to just deal with averages about that. In the main, over the years, we've gotten about maybe sixty percent of our supply off the Carson River anyway, which is our river. No, and so the rest of it diverts out of the Truckee. But every year it's different. But you see, that's one of the reasons for this big drive for efficiency that the government's put [onto this] because to the extent that we've become more efficient, we don't require as much release each year [from the Truckee River]⁴⁷, and that leaves then less diversion that's necessary off of the Truckee. And very simply, their concept has been -- and I don't disagree with it -- is to maximize the use of the Carson River in here, and minimize the Truckee. That's what they're after. Generate as much water as possible ~~through the~~ [on the Truckee River to go to]⁴⁸ Pyramid and go to the cui-ui.

Seney: So what you're talking about is what is here, reduce the agricultural use -- reduce the acreage, (Dodge: Yeah.) give some more out to the marsh (Dodge: Right.) because it deserves it.

Dodge: Well, it's going to require it. If you don't satisfy these Wetlands people, we're dead in the water. If we can get their support on this deal -- that's the

47. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

48. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

other thing, if the environmentalists will support us on what we do in here, this is going to be a great help in this negotiation. And we need them. You know, you've got tunnel vision if you don't recognize those things. Right?

THE TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHTS

And the other interesting thing I want to tell you about that is, one time, my last session of the Legislature, it had not been decided who had the authority on the transfer of water in here then. The Bureau of Reclamation always took the position that they were the ones that had to make the approval on water right transfer. I always figured somewhere along the line it was going to be the State Engineer. So my last session, I worked up a piece of legislation -- there's an Irrigation District Act in Nevada law, and there's only three irrigation districts involved: the one over in Mason Valley -- Yerington, that area -- and here, and in Lovelock. They're all organized under this Irrigation District Act. So this legislation, which was a limited piece of legislation, said that "within an irrigation district, that the State Engineer would not approve a transfer or change in the manner and place of use of water, without the approval of the local board of directors." I went to all the irrigation districts and cleared it with them, introduced the bill and Roland Westergard was the Head of the Department and he supported it because it was a guideline for him. So, we go into the committee that was appointed in the Senate, and I was, of course, in the senate, and it was a poor committee.

There was a black man from southern Nevada that wouldn't know of an acre foot of water from a tumbler full, and some other guys that knew nothing about water and could care less. I only had one guy on the committee really that was trying to do something for me. So who showed up at the hearing but the DA [District Attorney] from Carson City. I testified and Roland testified in support, and this guy said, "Well, I don't think any board of directors ever ought to have a veto authority over a change in the manner and place of the use of water." He said some other things besides that, but that was the essence of what he said. And the committee bought what he said, and that's understandable. So I wasn't getting anywhere with the bill. I kept jabbing (laughing obscures comment) to get some action on the bill and these guys could have cared less. It was a poor committee anyway -- not simply because of their attitude about that, but it was just a poor committee. It was one of the lesser committees.

And so one night, in the middle of the night, I woke up, and I don't know why, I hadn't been thinking about it particularly, but I thought to myself, "another way to handle this deal is to provide that within an irrigation district, that the State Engineer cannot change the manner and place of use of the water if it lessens the efficiency of delivery, or results in a higher cost to the remaining water users," which it would. If you reduce the base, and you've got the fixed costs, then it's a higher cost to all of the rest of the water

users. So I called up Roland first thing in the morning about this deal and I told him I'd had this thought. I said, "What do you think about that, Roland?" He said, "God, I think that'll work just as well as anything else." So, I get a bill drafted on that and introduced. So then I went to the DA in Carson City, and I cried crocodile tears for an hour with this guy, (laughter) telling him about our problems down here, and pleading with him not to show up at the hearing. Well he never said yes or no while I was talking with him, but I kept crossing my fingers, but anyway, he never showed up, and I got the bill passed. The sequel is that when the United States started buying this water, they were Mickey Mousing around about what they were going to pay the TCID because, again, if they didn't pack their share of that water cost, it would have resulted in a higher cost to everybody else as you reduce the acreage. And this thing went on for two or three years, and finally, they bought this water but they couldn't get (chuckles) the State Engineer to transfer it because they hadn't agreed to pay the O&M [operations and maintenance] charge on the water. Finally, they caved in, signed a forty-year agreement to pay the O&M just like the farmers. So the interesting thing about that is, don't you see, that you may reduce the area base, but you don't reduce the financing. It stays at 73,000 acres.

Seney: You know, when we toured the facility, they said, "Well, they can buy the water rights, but they've still got to pay the O&M." (Dodge: Yeah.) Now I

see why.

Dodge: Damn right! And that's the only reason they're doing it! You see, that's another thing that creates viability, because you don't reduce your financial base. Right? (laughter) And so the sequel to the story was that the next year, in 1980, Judge [first name?] Thompson brought down the Alpine Decree, and he was specifically asked who had the authority to transfer the water. He said the state engineer. And here we had the legislation in place. (laughter)

Seney: Well listen, I really thank you for taking part in this and talking to me about it. I may want to come back and see you again if that would be alright?

Dodge: Well, that's fine. I could talk with you for three days, I guess. (laughs)

Seney: I know you could, I know you could. Let me do some more interviews, and then it may be that I'd like to come and spend another hour with you when I have more questions to ask.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

Dodge: That'd be fine. To be talking about the history of the Project, I will tell you a little about what I know about the early times of the Project. And I did want to ask you before I get into that, have you talked to the Federal watermaster yet?

Seney: No. Garry Stone, I've talked to him on the phone, but I haven't interviewed him yet.

Dodge: He's got a lot of wonderful historical information. Studies that were made by the special master that was appointed. See, this was the longest case in the history of the -- the Alpine Decree was the longest case in the history of the Federal court in over fifty years. But the Orr Ditch was a long one too, but there was a special master's report, and one thing or another, that were very interesting about the concepts they had at that point in time. He's got all that historical

Seney: He's on vacation this week and next, and I'm going to see him the week after.

Dodge: Yeah, he's got all that historical information up here.

Seney: Well, we really appreciate you taking this time and giving us your insights. I say, I may be back to see you.

Dodge: The only other thing I can tell you from my own personal knowledge about what went on in the early times of the Project, is that when my family came here in 1920; the dam was completed in 1915. Before the dam was completed, they were actually diverting water off the Truckee River and they had an entrance for that water below the dam, originally. I don't know whether you know about that. And so, we were getting the water down through what distribution system they had in place at that time, and it was pretty early on. But a lot of it followed, I think, the channels and wherever the irrigated lands were -- and I'm going to comment on that in a minute, too. But anyway, what began to happen about the time that my family came

here was This ground is highly saline, an alkaline area. The waters that were coming in here were pretty saline. They were salting up the ground because you didn't have any drain ditches. So they tumbled to that after three, four, five years that they were losing the production, simply because of the salts. So when my family came here -- I can remember this very distinctly -- they had a lot of drag lines going around here digging drains. These same experiences have happened in other valleys. Imperial Valley which is 500,000 acres, went through that. And what they had to do is put in a big tile system and pump that water out of the valley down there. But in any event, that's one of the things there I remember about it.

Now the other thing I did want to tell you, that is sort of an interesting early facet: There was 21,000 acres of this land that had riparian rights before the Project ever came into being. And as I say, I can trace use out there to 1872.

END OF SIDE 2, TAPE 2.
BEGINNING OF SIDE 1, TAPE 3.

Seney: This is August 5, 1994. This is Donald Seney and I'm with Senator Carl Dodge at his home in Fallon, Nevada.

Dodge: So what happened then when the Project came into being, the United States obviously was interested in broadening the base and taking in this 21,000 acres, which had, as I say, riparian rights. And, as I understood it, a lot of the farmers at the time were reluctant or maybe originally had reactions not to

join the Project, but what finally happened is that they actually exchanged that riparian right, they surrendered it to the United States, and they took direct contracts to each farmer, signed by an official of the United States government, agreeing to furnish them with -- I think most of the language that went on ours, which was in 1912, agreeing to furnish sufficient water to irrigate whatever the designated [acreage]. And it was by legal description, the designated acreage. So there was an actual transfer of those rights. The riparian right was surrendered, and in those contracts it was provided that the only cost that those lands would ever have to pay would be the operation and maintenance costs. One of the problems then about any construction program -- capital construction program is that they cannot levy those costs against that 21,000 acres, which puts a higher burden if they were going to do it on the other 53,000.

Seney: And Island Ranch is one of those.

Dodge: The Island Ranch is one of them. The so-called "vested lands," if you've heard that term. And those were the 21,000 acres that were being historically irrigated off the river systems. You're familiar with riparian rights. So, that's how that came about, and it was a good deal for the farmers and they finally realized this because it lengthened out their seasons. Before, all they had was either "chicken or feathers." They had the water in the spring, and when it was gone, that was all there was. But with the reservoir, they could

see that they were going to extend their irrigation seasons, so it was a good deal both ways.

Seney: Right. So whenever any new capital construction is built, you don't have to worry about it. It's not going to be tacked on your bill.

Dodge: That's right. We had a hearing here recently with the Bureau of Reclamation guy and I pointed that out to him. They were talking about making noises about capital construction costs and contributions, and I said, "One of your problems about that" Well, two things, I said: One, that I've always maintained, and I think it's a correct theory, I don't know whether politically it's correct, but I said, "You know, I've always believed that for any capital construction costs that's going to reduce the requirement here, needs to be paid for by the beneficiaries of the water, and they're not the farmers. If it's Pyramid Lake, it needs to be paid for by the United States. If the farmers are the beneficiaries, then that's a different story. I said, "That's one contention." "But," I said, "the other thing is," and I pointed out, I said, "You're not going to be able to assess this 21,000 acres on a deal like" So anyway, it's kind of an interesting deal (chuckles) in a lot of ways.

Seney: Well, I was aware that there were those who were irrigating when the Project was put in place. They had to be accommodated in the way that you described to get them to give up, (Dodge: That's correct.) because they would say, I'm sure, "Why should we pay for the construction?, we've got

our water here."

Dodge: Yeah, that's right. And, as I say, they're the so-called vested lands.

Seney: Okay, was there anything else you wanted to add, Senator?

Dodge: No. I can't think of it right now.

Seney: Okay, great. Well that's terrific and again, thanks very much.

Dodge: Well, I don't know whether I've given you

Seney: You've been very helpful, believe me.

BEING NAMED TO THE LEGISLATIVE HALL OF FAME

Dodge: I'm going to tell you one other thing. The primary reason that I got this recognition from the Legislature was the deal I got involved in, in 1963. In this '55 school legislation, they had a formula for allocation of state money to school districts. And by the early 60s, it became apparent that the formula wasn't working. It really wasn't working, because a lot of school districts just didn't have the dough. So, in '63, the Republicans were still in control at that time of the Senate, and so they appointed an interim study committee, of which I was the Chairman, to review the equity of that formula, or how to change it. So, there were some legislators, and there were some school people, and so we had several meetings, and it soon became apparent to me that there's no way politically that you could split the present pie a different way and ever get it passed, because for every winner, there might be one or two losers. And so, after a series of meetings, we decided that without

additional revenues we couldn't solve the problem. So I went back and reported that to the Legislature, but I did say that I thought we ought to continue the study for the next couple of years and see if we could find a source of some revenue and get the thing adjusted properly. Then it continued into the next two years. I would drive along these long, open roads in Nevada, and all I'd think about was how to try to do that job and get it accepted politically. I finally got a bill put together just about a month before the Legislature opened, after the two-year period, and the source of the money was -- we had a two percent, at that time, state sales tax, which could not be amended, the state two percent, without approval of the people -- I won't go into the reasons, but it couldn't. So I proposed in the bill a one-cent local school support tax. It was a sales tax, it was an excise tax, but the revenue sought a different destination. It went to the school districts rather than to the state general fund. And, fortunately, it was easy enough to account for, because again, the districts were county-wide, and that's the way the collections were, was by county. So we knew exactly at that time the two percent sales tax was raising twenty-four million dollars in Nevada. So, we knew this one cent would raise twelve million bucks for the schools. So it figured in as a local source -- and being a school person, you'll understand this -- it figured in as a local source of revenue, along with a seventy-five cent on the property tax mandated to schools, mandated as a first call on local tax

rates. And then the state then, through the state distributive school fund, would figure out a base support amount for each school district, and to the extent that they were short on their property tax and this one-cent local school support tax, they would make up the difference per student. So we also, in order to get out of the building with our lives, I introduced a twenty percent built-in increase in taxes in the gaming industry. And Laxalt was Governor; he had a bill that was a twenty percent [gaming tax]⁴⁹ bill that was a little different than mine -- I introduced his bill. So what we did, we passed, we processed this gaming tax bill. We finally agreed. It took us a long time to agree. There were a lot of guys that didn't want to tax the industry that much, particularly from down south, and so on. But we finally agreed on this -- my bill was a twenty-five percent bill, and so was Laxalt's. We finally agreed on twenty percent. So we passed that bill through both houses, and got the Governor to sign it before we ever brought this other bill out. We just let it lay. We didn't have a hearing on it, we didn't do anything with it until we got this other revenue in place. The only thing that I couldn't figure out -- I really couldn't -- was I took the historical base of costs, or revenues, within each district. I didn't know any other way to do it, but I knew it wasn't right, because that was why we were skewed to begin with. (Seney: Right, you were just making it more skewed.) Right, or freeze it in. So

49. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

anyway, we had a big hearing finally on this bill in the Senate, committee of the whole, and I got up and explained the bill and somebody asked me whether I saw any problems with it and I said, "Well, there's one thing, and I don't know how to solve it, is this historical revenue that these school districts have. I know that's not correct, I don't know how to solve it." The guy that had been handling the financial stuff over for the State Department of Education got up -- I didn't even know he'd been working on it, and this was just a set a figures you just put in per student, "X" number of dollars per student for each district, and he had a whole list of figures that made that adjustment. So, all we had to do was just amend those seventeen figures, and we had that done. So anyway, it passed in the Senate when we finally brought it up. My school district wasn't any problem. I got nailed with the damn thing when my own school district wasn't any problem, but we had to build UNLV [University of Nevada at Las Vegas], I knew it. The [Clark County, Las Vegas]⁵⁰ school superintendent kept coming every second year when we had a little surplus money and getting the Governor to call a special session to allocate it to schools. And the problem was, it was building it into the formula, it wasn't one-shot money. And we got to a point where seventy percent of all the state revenue was going into education at all levels, including the university, and we just didn't have money enough to do anything

50. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

else. I voted against all of those bills. I kept saying, "Where's the money coming from?" And so here I was trying to bail the state of Nevada out because I knew that we had to build the UNLV, and I knew that we had to get some better proportion of school money to the other things we had to do. So anyway, we passed a bill ~~that day~~ [the day of the hearings, by a vote of]⁵¹ thirteen to seven. Twenty people at that time in the Senate. Five minutes later, I got a call from Laxalt's office. I went down and he threw his arms around me. It was his first session (laughs), he knew he was home free money-wise, and he never opened his mouth about it in his message or anything else about additional revenues. And so then, we passed it in the Assembly and put it in place and then there was a constitutional challenge -- somebody that claimed it was part of the state two percent that violated, should have gone to the people. I had to get the Supreme Court to make a hurry-up (laughs) decision that it was legal. We didn't want to get it implemented and then have it thrown out. That would be a disaster.

But what I wanted to tell you about that, interestingly enough, I checked into it, I was given an honor in Reno in '88, I think, and so I called over to the Research Department. I said, "Have you got any information about how this formula has been working?" This is twenty-five years after we started it, and this thing was really designed to move with changing

51. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

conditions. There were two changing conditions: one was the cost per student, and the other was the ability to pay -- the local ability. Now we've been in and out of that in Nevada because of mining -- when the big mining booms, these counties got a lot of money off that tax, and they didn't need a lot of support, but then when the mines went out, then they were destitute. There were counties that didn't have anything much else. So he [the research people]⁵² sent me some information, and the last study that was made at that time had been made in '86 -- nationally. And they used three different approaches to the equity -- this was the equity of money behind each student, and you know all about that. Nevada was number one in two of them, and number six in the third one, after twenty-five years. It's still the best formula in the country.

Seney: That's great. It obviously pleases you very much, and it should, to be able to work out that problem and solve the whole thing.

Dodge: It was the best thing I ever did for this state.

Seney: That's great. Well, maybe getting this water settlement will be even a greater accomplishment.

Dodge: Well, I'm not going to be the one but, I'll tell you what, this Alliance thing, I am pleased about that because that puts us in the strongest possible position we can be, going into this negotiation. And that, I have to say, is a result of

52. Clarification provided by Mr. Dodge.

my own work.

Seney: What's the timeframe on this negotiation?

Dodge: Well, it's going to start in September. Reid put a time constraint on them of the 15th of January, but I think that the mediator has indicated that she was sure that if we were making progress, if it looked like we could get it solved, that he would extend that time, which I'm sure he will. But the original timeframe was about four or five months.

Seney: Well, I'll look forward to seeing what happens with that. Okay, thanks.

END OF SIDE 1, TAPE 3.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM GUIDELINES: BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Effective Date: October 13, 1994

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA)

The Bureau of Reclamation conducts its oral history program cooperatively with NARA because Reclamation wishes to permanently protect the data obtained through implementation of its oral history program, facilitate research in Reclamation's history, and assure permanent access of Reclamation and researchers to the data resulting from implementation of its oral history program. This cooperative program permits Reclamation to: use and distribute unrestricted oral history materials; use and distribute restricted oral history materials after the restrictions end; and, close interviews to public access and researcher access through restrictions contained in a donor's deed of gift accepted by the Archivist of the United States. The program is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Archives and Records Administration. These Oral History Program Guidelines of the Bureau of Reclamation fulfill one condition of that agreement and are required to be followed.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The ideal sought in Bureau of Reclamation oral history transcripts is to retain information understood today which may not be clearly understood, or will be lost entirely, in the future; yet, still retain facts and opinions, speech patterns, inflections, characteristics, and flavor of speech. This shall be done through preservation of oral history interviews: on cassette tapes and in printed transcriptions.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS DONE OUTSIDE THE DENVER OFFICE

Oral history interviews done outside the Denver Office should conform to the guidance in this document to assure that the resulting tapes and transcripts will be accepted by the National Archives and Records Administration for permanent storage and retention. Even if that is not done, copies of tapes and transcripts should be provided to the Oral History program in the Denver Office.

CONDUCT OF INTERVIEWS

Preparation for Interviews

Effective interviews are dependent upon proper preparation in advance. A brief telephone conversation with the prospective interviewee should provide basic background about where the interviewee worked at Reclamation and types of responsibility. Using that information, basic research into the offices involved and relevant projects may be conducted.

It is always a good idea to have a list of questions ready in advance of the interview. These should contain both general and specific questions about Reclamation and the interviewee's special areas of expertise and responsibility.

Obtaining Deed of Gift

Signature of the interviewee on the approved deed of gift should be obtained before the interview--with the understanding that clauses limiting access to all or part of the interview may be added after the interview if the interviewee deems it necessary.

The interviewer will also sign the deed of gift as a simple acknowledgement of conduct of the interview.

Objective of the Interview

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT, WHILE WE ALSO WANT GENERAL BACKGROUND ABOUT THE PERSON BEING INTERVIEWED, THE OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE INTERVIEW IS:

TO PRESERVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, ITS PROJECTS, THE COMMUNITIES ON ITS PROJECTS, AND PERCEPTIONS OF BOTH INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS ABOUT THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.

Conduct of the Interview
(Including Opening and Closing Statements on Tape)

Introducing the Interview
Before Taping Begins

Before beginning the interview discuss:

the general nature of what is going to happen,

the deed of gift and request signature of it,

point out that the interviewee may at any time state that they don't wish to discuss the topic proposed,

state that in addition to information strictly about the Bureau of Reclamation you want general family, education, biographical outline and other information about the interviewee,

Explain that the interview will be transcribed and then transmitted to the interviewee for review for accuracy and correct spellings. The interviewee will then be asked to initial each page of the interview.

Beginning the Interview on Tape

Open the interview with a statement which includes the following information:

Names of interviewer and interviewee.

Any pertinent information such as: farmer on _____ Project, or, electrician at Hoover Dam, or, operator at Minidoka Dam, or, watermaster of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, etc..

Location

Date

Time

Point out to the interviewee that the conversation is being recorded and ask permission to record the conversation.

Conduct of the Interview on Tape

Try to avoid questions which can be answered with yes and no. Instead ask for descriptions, explanations of events or working conditions or relationships with the community, etc.

Responses that include hand motions need supplemental work by the interviewer. When a person says "Oh, it was about this high" [and holds a hand about 2½ feet above the floor] -- we have no record of the meaning of what was said. The interviewer must integrate words into the tape to provide the necessary meaning, e.g., "Oh, about 2½ feet high, then?"

Just Before Ending the Interview

Before closing an interview, ask the interviewee whether (s)he wishes to add anything, recount an interesting story, or express any perspectives on Reclamation that were not already covered.

Ending the Interview

In spite of the signed deed of gift, each interview should end with a question such as this:

May we quote from and otherwise use the information in this interview for purposes of research and quotation? And may we also provide it to researchers interested in Reclamation and its history for purposes of research and quotation?

The end of the interview should be a brief restatement, ON TAPE, as to the identity of interviewer and interviewee, time, date, and location.

PREPARATION OF TRANSCRIPTS⁵³

Use of Computers

For editorial and other reasons it is necessary to use an IBM compatible computer using WordPerfect 5.1 or a later version for transcription of Bureau of Reclamation oral history interviews.

Objectives

Transcription and editing of oral history interviews by the Bureau of Reclamation shall be carried out in accordance with this guidance.

Transcription shall be done only with very limited editing. The basic objective is a verbatim transcript of the interview.

The Parts of the Final Transcript

53. Much of this material is developed from Shirley E. Stephenson, *Editing and Indexing: Guidelines for Oral History* (Fullerton: California State University, 1978 (Second Printing with revisions - 1983)).

The following will normally be the outline of a completed transcript, and when transmitted to the interviewee for review the transcript will be as nearly complete as possible:

- ◆ Title Page with suggested bibliographic citation form on the back of the page near the bottom. The title page should include the information and be laid out as shown in Appendix 1.
- ◆ Table of Contents -- use the table of contents function of WordPerfect to do this.
- ◆ An "Introduction" to the transcript with background material on the interviewee and interview, and including:
 - Discussion of the time, location, date, and circumstances of the interview.
 - Listing of each Bureau of Reclamation employee or contractor involved in the interviewing, transcribing, editing, and indexing of the interview.
- ◆ Copy of the signed and dated "Statement of Donation" for the interview.
- ◆ The transcript of the interview.
- ◆ Appendices, including:
 - A copy of the Bureau of Reclamation's "oral history program guidelines".
 - A list of donated photographs (including copies made at Reclamation expense which were only loaned) and/or documents -- if any provided by the interviewee/donor.
 - Copies of any photographs and/or documents.
- ◆ Index to the transcript -- use the indexing function of WordPerfect to do this.

Page Layout of Transcripts

Begin the first page of the transcript with the heading "Oral History Interview of _____."

Single space the heading on the first page. Double space the transcript itself.

Insert a centered footer which will include the page number to begin after the first page of the transcript in this format (8 pt. Times Roman font):

Name of Interviewee
Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Program
Date of Interview
Page Ctrl-B

The transcript, if it falls naturally into distinct segments may have headings for each segment inserted in the transcript.

To indicate the speaker use the last name of the person followed by a colon on the left margin of the page, e.g.:

Wilson:

Would you tell me about your educational experience?

Smythesville:

I was educated, first, at a one- room school house in Wittsendburg, . . .

After the name of the speaker indent as needed to line up the left edge of the text for all speakers. For instance do not do the following:

Babb: Would you tell me about your educational experience?

Smythesville:

I was educated, first, at a one- room school house in Wittsendburg, . . .

Instead, indent twice after Babb and once after Smythesville for this effect:

Babb: Would you tell me about your educational experience?

Smythesville:

I was educated, first, at a one- room school house in Wittsendburg, . . .

Indicating paragraphs in transcripts should follow the following rules:

Immediately after the name of the speaker do not tab at the beginning of the paragraph. For all subsequent paragraphs tab the beginning of the paragraph and do not insert extra spaces. For instance:

Watson:

Would you tell me about your education?

Witt:

Well, I went to grade school at South Wittburg, junior high school at West Wittburg, and High School at South Inglewood.

On the other hand, my older sister went to grade school at South Wittburg, and then attended West Wittburg Junior High School before going off to finishing school in Basel, Switzerland.

Then I went to college at . . .

Indicating the Beginning and end of Tapes

Indicate the beginning and end of each side of tapes in the transcript. Place this notation on the left margin lined up with names. Do not indicate the beginning of the first tape -- simply begin the transcript. For instance (note single spacing):

END OF SIDE 1, TAPE 1.
BEGINNING OF SIDE 2, TAPE 1.

Smith:

There was no indication that we . . .

If interviews/sessions on more than one date occurred then use the following format:

END OF SIDE 2, TAPE 2. SEPTEMBER 15, 1993.
BEGINNING OF SIDE 1, TAPE 1. OCTOBER 22, 1993.

Smith:

There was no indication that we . . .

In such cases, place that date at the end of all indications of tape changes in order to help quickly orient readers/researchers:

END OF SIDE 2, TAPE 1. SEPTEMBER 15, 1993.
BEGINNING OF SIDE 1, TAPE 2. SEPTEMBER 15, 1993.

Smith:

There was no indication that we . . .

Editorial Conventions

Transcription shall be done only with very limited editing -- punctuation designed to clarify meaning must be provided; only false starts and redundant oral sounds shall be edited out of the transcript with no indication they have been removed; interruptions to the interview or situations when the conversation wanders from the topic may be indicated in brackets and not included; to the extent possible full identification of individuals and geographic place names shall be provided.

Punctuation Conventions

Punctuation is the best tool for the transcriber and editor to provide clarity, understandability, and readability. Do not rearrange sentences or words to do this. Punctuation must simply reflect the original meaning and the original arrangement of thoughts.

Quotation marks.

Do not use quotes around the words of the interviewee as spoken to the interviewer. Use quotes around words which are presented by the interviewee as quotes of another person, e.g., -- then he said to me "Well, if you want it that way you can go ahead and do it."

Place commas and periods inside quotation marks -- regardless of whether the punctuation belongs to the quotation or the sentence as a whole.

Place colons and semicolons outside quotation marks.

Question marks and exclamation marks are placed inside or outside the quotation marks dependent upon whether or not they belong to the quotation or to the sentence as a whole.

PARENTHESES ARE USED TO INDICATE THINGS WHICH ARE ON THE TAPE. When laughter or other expressive sounds occur indicate them in parentheses =(). Indicate only what is on the tape with parentheses =().

ALSO USE PARENTHESES to include brief interjections in a discussion. For instance:

Smith:

At that time we were assigned to special duty as concrete inspectors for the

construction of the dam. We found that the quantity of ice mixed with the concrete was insufficient to reduce the temperature properly, (Jones: Yes.) and we had to work that issue out with the contractor. That only took a day, but it was rather tense because the contractor had to shut down the [concrete] batch plant while we worked it out. (Jones: Um-hmm.). The contractor was particularly concerned that she wouldn't fall behind schedule, and . . .

BRACKETS ARE USED TO INDICATE SUPPLEMENTAL EDITORIAL INFORMATION SUCH AS INTERPOLATIONS, EXPLANATIONS, AND CORRECTIONS PROVIDED BY THE EDITOR WHICH WAS NOT ON THE ORIGINAL TAPE -- place it in brackets =[]

FOOTNOTES:

May be used to provide supplemental editorial information. This would generally be done for researched information added to clarify and supplement the interview while brackets would provide brief information intended to clarify what was said.

Footnotes must be attributed to indicate who added the material. If the editor made the addition, the footnote should be followed by: (Ed.) If the addition was made by the interviewee, the footnote should be followed by the initials of the interviewee in parentheses.

Footnotes should be printed at the bottom of the page on which they appear in the final transcript rather than at the end of the entire transcript or of a section of it. The following conventions should be used (using WordPerfect set these conventions in the options to footnotes at the beginning of the transcript):

The footnote number in the text shall be superscript.

The footnote(s) shall be separated from the text on the page with a line from margin to margin of the page.

The footnote number in the footnote shall be on the left margin with the beginning of text one tab in from the note.

The footnote number in the note shall be full-size and shall sit on the same line as the text, i.e., it will not be superscript.

Ellipses are used to indicate pauses in the conversation.

For pauses in the middle of sentences always type them as three dots separated by spaces from one another and the preceding word -- thus . . .

For pauses which become the end of sentences or even incomplete thoughts, always type them as four dots separated by spaces from one another and the preceding word -- thus

Use of dashes.

Double dashes (--)⁵⁴ are used to show an abrupt change of thought in a sentence. For purposes of Reclamation's transcripts each double dash will be preceded and followed by a space. For example:

Our house at the dam had a living room, dining room, kitchen, and three bedrooms -- now it's been moved over on "N" Street here in town.

Single dashes (-) are used in inclusive or continuing series of numbers or dates (e.g., 23-26 or 1945-1948; to indicate words spelled out by the interviewee (e.g., L-A-N-I-D-O); for compound words (e.g., twenty-one).

Use of italics:

Use the italics font on the computer to indicate italics.⁵⁵

Italics are used:

For titles: books, plays, newspapers⁵⁶, periodicals, journals, long poems, musical productions, paintings, films; the names of ships, trains, and aircraft.

For foreign words not yet anglicized.⁵⁷

Abbreviations:

54. Technically double dashes (--) are known as "em" dashes and single dashes (-) are known as "en" dashes.

55. If a typewriter is being used for some reason, a single underline of the word indicates it is italicized.

56. The official title of the newspaper that appears on the masthead is what should be italicized. Consult *Ayer's Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals* for the official title.

57. Dictionaries are useful here. A useful reference is Marjorie E. Skillin, Robert M. Gay, et. al., *Words Into Type* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1974).

Under normal circumstances abbreviations should not be used since one does not speak in abbreviations and the objective is a verbatim transcript. The following abbreviations are generally acceptable: Mr., Messrs., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Jr., Sr., Ph.D., M.A., B.C., A.D., a.m., and p.m..

Do not use U. S. Postal Service abbreviations for names of states. Spell them out.

Acronyms:

Acronyms are capitalized without periods inserted after each letter, e.g., BR, NASA, NPS.

Normally the first use of an acronym should be followed by the words for which that acronym stands in brackets, e.g., BR [Bureau of Reclamation]; SOP [standard operating procedure].

If an interviewee uses the acronym B-O-R for Reclamation, type it BoR [BOR is the acronym for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, a now defunct Federal agency].

Hyphens:

Do not use hyphens except in compound words. Turn the hyphenation default in the computer program off.

Margins:

Set the margins in the computer at one inch -- top, bottom, and sides.

Justification:

Set the justification at left justify only. Do not use the "full" justification setting.

Grammatical Conventions

Use contractions in the transcript when they appear on the tape, e.g., they's, it's, etc..

Do not correct the interviewee's grammar.

For consistent colloquial pronunciations of words use the proper spelling instead of a phonetic spelling, e.g., them and not "em." But, equally, do not change the words, e.g., "yeah" is a word and should not be changed to "yes."

Numbers:

Generally exact numbers of two or fewer digits should be spelled out and numbers with more than two digits should be expressed in numerals.

Dates and parts of a book are expressed in numerals.

Do abbreviate dates when the century was not included in the taped discussion (e.g., '41 and not 1941)

When referring to dates you may use numerals and an "s" -- type 1940s instead of Nineteen Forties, or type '40s for the term forties. Do not use an apostrophe unless the term is possessive [as in -- The 50's autos often had huge tail fins]..

Spelling Conventions

Use the first (preferred) spelling in a standard dictionary when transcribing. American English conventions are preferred over British English conventions in most instances (e.g, interviewing a Briton might result in use of British English spellings).

Table of Contents

Interviews on different dates and major sections of the manuscript shall be marked with the table of contents function of the WordPerfect 5.1 program. Interviews of different dates shall be labelled at Level 1. Major sections within each interview shall be labelled at Level 2.

Indexing

All proper names, project names, feature names, locations, and major topics of discussion shall be indexed using the WordPerfect 5.1 indexing function. Items in the text will be cross-indexed as necessary to assure ease of finding them.

Review of Transcript by Interviewee

After transcription and initial editing, the transcript will be forwarded to the interviewee for review, comment if necessary, correction of names and place names, etc.

The interviewee will be asked to initial each page of the interview if it is acceptable as is.

If the interviewee requests changes, additions, or deletions to the transcript, each request will be considered on its merits. The transcript will then be corrected as necessary and returned for final review and initialing by the interviewee.

Changes to Transcripts at the Request of Interviewees

Additions to transcripts requested by interviewees will be made in footnotes at the appropriate location in the text with the initials of the interviewee in parentheses at the end of the addition.

Deletions to transcripts at the request of interviewees should be made with care and only after consultation with and approval by the Senior Historian of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Editorial changes to transcripts for the purposes of making the text more formal and grammatical, e.g., more like a formal written style rather than spoken style, shall be discussed with and approved by the Senior Historian of the Bureau of Reclamation. It is the policy of Reclamation, where possible and appropriate, to retain the flavor and style of the spoken interview.

Preparation of Record Copy of Transcript and Other Materials for Transmittal to NARA

The record copy of the transcript prepared for transmittal to the National Archives and Records Administration will be on quality, non-acid paper with a high cotton content, preferably 100 percent cotton. The record copy will be unbound, but Reclamation's copies will generally be bound in a standardized hard cover format.

Transcripts of 100 pages, or fewer, will be printed on one side of the paper. Transcripts of more than 100 pages will be printed on both sides of the paper.

The record copy of the transcript and other copies shall normally be printed in Times Roman font at the 12 point size.

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW CITATION FORM FOR RESEARCHERS

A suggested bibliographic citation should be placed near the bottom of the

page on the back of the title page of each oral history interview. The following is the format and punctuation for the citation:

Suggested Bibliographic Citation:

Last name, First and middle name or initial (of interviewee). ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW. Transcript of tape-recorded Bureau of Reclamation Oral History Interview conducted by ___(name of interviewer)___, ___(relationship of interviewer to Reclamation)___, ___(date of interview - be precise)___, at ___(location of interview)__. Transcription by ___(name of transcriber or transcription service)___ . Edited by ___(name of editor[s])___ . Repository for the record copy of the interview transcript is the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland.

THIS SET OF GUIDELINES SHALL BE PLACED AT THE END OR BEGINNING OF EACH INTERVIEW TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PRINCIPLES USED IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSCRIPT.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Name of Interviewee

Name of Reclamation Project

(if limited to only one - otherwise blank)

Date of Interview

Location of Interview

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Interview Conducted by:

Name

Title

Organizational Unit

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

**Oral History Program
Bureau of Reclamation**