

HAROLD SEIFFERT

September 18, 1996

TAPE 3, Side 1

M.O'R.: It's September the 18th, and this is a continuation of the oral history with Harold Seiffert, and today's interview is taking place in his home in Cherry Grove. This is Michael O'Rourke for the Washington County Historical Society.

Well, you gave me a really great account last time of logging up in the woods, and we talked a little bit about the river, and we talked about the various dams that were proposed here that could have affected you very directly and might still affect you.

H.S.: Yeah, it would have moved me out completely.

M.O'R.: Yeah, that's right. But of course the project was the next ridge over on Scoggins. You know, one thing you mentioned was that you drove by the Hagg Lake site often when it was under construction. I wonder if you could tell me what you saw, what the construction looked like in those early days.

H.S.: Well, almost daily on the evenings after work, during the summer hours there when it was long daylights, we would go over there and set where we could see the whole operation on the hillside with all the big equipment, hauling dirt down and clay and everything else. And then they hauled boulders from over here at Cherry Grove, up in the hill here, over there, that lined the face of the dam.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah? They hauled the rocks from ...

H.S.: Yes. It come from over here by Mount Richmond Road, and you can see it when you come up the valley, where they got some trees planted in there now. But they took out many, many loads of rock, big stuff, you know, to keep the banks from washing, see, and lined it around the dam there.

M.O'R.: At the end of the lake where the dam is?

H.S.: Yeah, where the dam is, the face of the dam, on the water side. So, we watched that. It was just something to do. It was kinda interesting, because they had lots of big equipment. They had D-9 cats and they were hooked in tandem, where one operator would run both cats, you know, and they was hooked together, and they pushed the big carry-alls, you know, to load them with that. And, so that was something we watched, you might say, from the start to the end.

M.O'R.: Well, I'm interested in hearing about that. So they had to move quite a bit of earth?

H.S.: Oh, there was lots of earth moved across that. See, that's I think 150 feet high, something like that - in that neighborhood, anyway. And they took a lot of dirt, and it was wide, you know, too, thick at the base.

M.O'R.: So the dam was constructed with - I mean it was mostly earth, but did it start off with a core of some sort?

H.S.: Yeah. Well, see, they had three different types of dirt that they went for, you know, on the outside. And then the center core, it was kind of like a sand type fill that they picked out up there off the hill. It was a different material.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah, and that again was Mount Richmond?

H.S.: No, no, that's all from the on the hillside over there.

M.O'R.: I see.

H.S.: And then it was just the rock come from over here. But you could tell the layers, you know, they'd have a layer here and a layer of clay and a layer of this other - it looked kind of sandy, like, you know, a different color. So as it was building it up, you could see the three different layers. Then these carry-alls and then they had these machines, you know, that tamped it down. And then, of course, the rock was put in after they had the

dam up, and then they started building from the bottom and, you know, come up with the rock. The big stuff.

M.O'R.: Oh, I see. Okay, so the earth went in first, and then they lined it with rock, is that right?

H.S.: Mm-hmm.

M.O'R.: And I imagine as the dam went up then the water started to slowly rise behind it?

H.S.: Yeah. It took quite a little while to fill it, you know.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I'll bet it did. How long, roughly?

H.S.: Oh, gosh, I don't remember. I think it was in towards fall, and of course by next spring they had it up.

M.O'R.: I see. So the winter rains filled it up, eh?

H.S.: Mm-hmm.

M.O'R.: I've heard some people say that the dam wound up being located at not the most optimum point, that it should have been downstream a little.

H.S.: It should have been down, but see, Simpson's mill and hardboard plant was in the way. and that would have been a great cost to move them out and replace it. I mean, it's something ...

M.O'R.: Yeah. So that was the main concern?

H.S.: So that's why they put it up there, and make it longer. It would have been a lot shorter down below, and more water could have been held and everything, but you couldn't take the mill out.

M.O'R.: I understand that one of the reasons it was going to be expensive to do that was that they had just made some improvements at the mill.

H.S.: Oh yeah, they're always building over there, you know, and changing things.

M.O'R.: Did they have to do much logging in there to clear the site

H.S.: There was quite a little bit, uh-huh, around the edges there, timber.

M.O'R.: And who did the logging?

H.S.: Oh, I don't really know who did it. There was the contractors, you know, come in. It's just like they're clearing the other lake up here, Barney Reservoir they call it, they're building that up now, you know. And they get people in there, contract, subcontractors, what-have-you, you know, do all that.

M.O'R.: Is it possible to get up to the Barney Reservoir from this side?

H.S.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: You don't need to go through the private property there.

H.S.: No, no. You have to go around the county road and go in. But they didn't like to have anybody come up now, due to construction, you know, type equipment. You can go up to it, but they don't want you going over there in there where they're working. I mean, unless you got some business in there, then you can go.

M.O'R.: And that's roughly how far away from here?

H.S.: Well, if we could use the road from here, it wouldn't be only about six miles. But when you go around, it's about twice that far.

M.O'R.: But still not that far.

H.S.: No.

M.O'R.: So you saw the construction as it progressed over there at the Hagg Lake site.

H.S.: Hagg Lake. Yeah, I watched that, like I say, from start to finish. It was interesting, you know. In the evenings, there's not much to do, so we'd just drive over, and we had a place we perched over there on the hillside kind of that we could watch

the whole thing. And use the binoculars and, you know - it was quite a ways across. We was on the opposite side where they was working, you know.

M.O'R.: Roughly how many men were working at any time?

H.S.: Oh, gosh, I don't know, but there was quite a few. There was a lot of big equipment.

M.O'R.: Of course, there were other things they had to build too, I guess. There's a pump station - well, that came later, I guess.

H.S.: Yes, that'd come after the dam.

M.O'R.: When they first built it, it wasn't as improved as it is now in terms of the road around the lake, I believe, that also came later, right?

H.S.: Yeah, they built the road - well, the road was being built, actually, when they was building the dam, you know. See, originally the road, the main road, went right up through where the water is now. It crossed and went up, so and then they had to put a road around above the water line.

M.O'R.: I see.

H.S.: Because you had people living up above had to get out.

M.O'R.: Right. But I understand that when they first put that road in, it wasn't done very well and it washed out?

H.S.: Well, a lot of it slid out.

M.O'R.: That's what I heard.

H.S.: They had to redo quite a bit of it.

M.O'R.: And that must have been a real inconvenience for the people that were living back up above the lake?

H.S.: Well, you had two ways to go, you know. So it really didn't stop them very much. See, you could come around on the west side, or you could go around on the east side. So, when it was slid out over kind of on the east side around there, they come

around the other way. And then when this side give out, well, they had the other one done, you could go out the other way.

M.O'R.: I see. So there was always ...

H.S.: Yeah. So, really it didn't really hold them anybody up very much. Local traffic only there, they would say on the signs, you know.

M.O'R.: Now they've got that station as you enter on the main road, but there's this little backroad here on Cherry Grove.

H.S.: Oh, Lee Road, yeah.

M.O'R.: You can get into it on - so that provides some local access to the lake, I guess?

H.S.: Yeah. I can go over the Lee Road all the time rather than go around. I buy my permit, get a senior permit, and then I just drive over the hill and I don't even have to go through that station. And 10 minutes from the time I leave the house I got my boat in the water.

M.O'R.: That's pretty convenient. Do you use the lake a lot then?

H.S.: I have used it almost daily for years, since it's been built, but this last year, I didn't do much.

M.O'R.: And you go over there to fish?

H.S.: Yeah, I fish, and I've done real good on it too.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I was going to say, is it good fishing?

H.S.: Yeah. But there's a lot of, you might say, trash fish in it now. People dumped a lot of other fish in it. It used to be just strictly trout, originally. Now you've got bass and - well, I suppose there's carp, but there's catfish, there's channel cats, I caught one, about eight pounds. You know. And I happen to know there's a bunch of sturgeon in there that was put in.

M.O'R.: Put in by who?

H.S.: Well, I'm not going to say who put that in, but I do know two different parties that dumped sturgeon.

M.O'R.: Oh, really. These are private parties, then.

H.S.: Yes. Which is illegal, you know. First place, it's illegal to keep a small sturgeon. But I happened to see one bucketfull go in.

M.O'R.: Really?

H.S.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: So this is somebody you know pretty well, huh?

H.S.: Well, you know, these old-timers around here, they don't really do anything illegal, but they might not be just quite right either, sometimes. And - originally, you know, stuff around here, it was a matter of survival back in the '30s. I mean, if it hadn't have been for the wild game and fish and what-have-you, the people could have starved to death.

M.O'R.: And so that mentality sort of continues to ...

H.S.: No, I wouldn't squeal on nobody, and they wouldn't squeal on me, you know, as far as that goes. But I was pretty legal always. Not exactly, but, you know, I was within my limits all the time. After things picked up and the economy and everything a little bit, we had a few dollars in our pocket now and then, I wouldn't think of going out and shooting a deer or going fishing illegally - which is illegal, really, but at that time we didn't look at it that way.

M.O'R.: Right. Right. You're talking back now ...

H.S.: Yeah, back in the 30's and the 40's, early 40's.

M.O'R.: Right, right. But the planting of the fish in Hagg Lake, people must be looking for future return on that?

H.S.: I imagine, you know, because there was no way a bass or croppy of anything else could get in that lake, and they got perch in there, it's almost too many perch. And you know, somebody had

to put them in. And I wouldn't never know who did it. Well, whoever did it, they was looking out for - they want some pan fish, is what they're looking for. A lot of people, you know, go for that. And I'm more for salmon and good trout.

M.O'R.: But they figure that if they went ahead and planted a few, they could fish them the next season.

H.S.: Yeah, right. You know, I used to fish Lava Lake, Big Lava, quite a bit, up in the mountains, you know. And they had nothing but eastern brook when I first went up in there. Now - they poisoned that lake two or three times to get rid of the junk fish, and they still put them in, you know. I don't know what people think about - why they don't leave something good alone.

M.O'R.: But the so-called junk fish are appealing to some people?

H.S.: Well, I suppose they must be. How would they get in there to start, you know?

M.O'R.: Right.

Well, I also wanted to ask you just a little bit about your time at the Water District. When you first went to work there, I think you told me you went to work as a mechanic in the shop, and that was in 1969?

H.S.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: At that time, was it still Wolf Creek Water District?

H.S.: Yes, it was Wolf Creek. They just changed the name here, what was it, about two - something like two years ago now.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah. It's more recent than I thought, then. Now they were serving not Hillsboro, because they had their own system, but ...

H.S.: Right. They're hooked up with the Hillsboro. At that time, when I was there, they had a two-way meter down there - it's on T-V Highway, right where that McCormick pipe used to be, which

is Rick's Fencing now. But I think somebody said they done away with that one, now, and they got one over on Cornelius Pass Road, over that way. So that if anybody runs out of water or gets short, something happens, they can feed both directions.

M.O'R.: Okay, I see. So occassionally you might wind up with water from the Hillsboro system and the Wolf Creek system and vice versa?

H.S.: Right. Of course now, see, the Tualatin Valley District has bought in with Hillsboro. You knew that, didn't you?

M.O'R.: Right.

H.S.: Right. Beaverton, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro, and Tualatin Valley is all bought in on it, so they get water from the Trask. And that would go through the Hillsboro lines, originally.

M.O'R.: And why would - were they worried about the Bull Run supply?

H.S.: Well, the main thing is to have another source of water if something would happen. You know, if they had a disaster of some type where they lost - that was cut off, well, then they'd have a source on the other end that could feed. That's the main thing is to have two sources of water.

M.O'R.: When you first came to work for the Water District, what were your main responsibilities?

H.S.: Well, the main responsibility was to keep all the old junk going, which they had a lot of old equipment.

M.O'R.: What kind of equipment?

H.S.: Well, everything they had was old. You know, they had a cat backhoe and a wheel backhoe, and a lot of old trucks and pickups, an old dump truck, you know, and stuff like that. Air compressors, old-time fashioned things, and I saw that all gone and replaced. Matter of fact, we put a lot of that out for bid and got new stuff.

M.O'R.: But when you first came there, they were getting by with the old stuff.

H.S.: It was the old stuff, uh-huh.

M.O'R.: And how long was it before they replaced it?

H.S.: I was there probably about five years before we started getting a bunch of new stuff. I mean, it was - when I say old, it was antique, some of it, practically.

M.O'R.: Yeah? So you had trouble finding parts and things?

H.S.: Yeah, a lot of it was going to Johnson Brothers Wrecking Yard for parts. You know, because some of it you couldn't even hardly buy new parts for.

M.O'R.: It sounds like most of this was heavy equipment that they used to repair lines and stuff like that?

H.S.: Yeah, and lay new lines and what-have-you.

M.O'R.: Right. And then you helped them purchase the new equipment later, you said?

H.S.: Right. They had me go round and get bids for it. And then they would go have a board meeting with their directors, you know, and pick out what - I would get bids, try to get bids from three different places, even though we wanted to buy from a certain one, which we generally did, but we arranged it so our bid specs would match the certain ones. What we liked the John Deere equipment. I'd worked for John Deere too, see, and John Deere's good equipment, you can't get around that. But I had to get from Ford and Case and John Deere and all that, you know. So we worked around so we got nearly all John Deere equipment.

M.O'R.: And that was your preference, too?

H.S.: Yes. Well, it was the better of all of it, because I'd worked around all of it in the shops there, and we had better luck with John Deere, keeping, maintaining, than we did with anything else.

M.O'R.: And when you ordered the new stuff, did you take care of any problems - I mean, were there any deficiencies in what was there before besides just the fact that it was old? Did you get some equipment that you didn't previously have?

H.S.: Oh yeah. See, it kept growing. You know, they took in - well, originally, it was just in that local area, and then they ended up with up there at Sylvan and West Slope and over in Cooper Mountain area, different areas, you know. They merged. Metzger merged with them too, you know. And of course, the bigger you get, the more stuff you have to have.

M.O'R.: Did you ever work on parts of the system itself?

H.S.: Well, yeah, a little bit. In like on the reservoir, sometimes they'd have a vandalism and break in the doors or something, and you had to go and repair that and put in steel doors and locks, they'd cut the locks off, you know, and you'd try to fix it so they couldn't - lots of vandalism in that area at that time.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah? It was a real problem then?

H.S.: It was quite a problem.

M.O'R.: And what area was it?

H.S.: That's on the West Slope side over there.

M.O'R.: And so there were just places where you had your operations and they'd break in?

H.S.: Yeah, oh yeah. They'd break in the pump houses and what-have-you too, and nothing real serious, it was just a nuisance stuff mostly. Most of that stuff was big enough and heavy enough they couldn't do much damage to it, you know, and they wouldn't blow anything up like that. They'd just break in and see what's in there, mostly, or maybe turn some valves and what-have-you and screw things up.

M.O'R.: I wonder if you could tell me a little bit about what the system was like when you first started working and what kind of changes maybe took place during the time you worked there?

H.S.: Well, when I first went there, it was mostly all run manually. You know, with your pumps and what-have-you - made many trips up there. And then later they put in the telemetering system, which was all run from the office. They have a regular telemetering room down there; it's a big, big room and it's got everything in there, and it's all automatic. It tells you everything right there. You look at the charts and the gauges and you know what's going on and what isn't.

M.O'R.: Now, when you say it tells you everything, what kind of information? Is this about the levels of the various reservoirs?

H.S.: Oh yeah, it gives you all the levels and the pump running times and all of that, you know. And then they had a - not a chlorine, but what do you call this system - fluoride system. See, they voted fluoride in, in there, and Portland water don't have it. But all this system in Tualatin Valley got now is it's got fluoride, and that's quite a headache to keep that going, because it's so corrosive. You know, very corrosive. So you're working on that all the time, to keep that up. And it's poisonous stuff, it's got to be just right, you know. So that's tested all the time - I mean, just two or three times a day a lot of times they test that for fluoride.

M.O'R.: So they take the Bull Run water and then add the fluoride?

H.S.: Right.

M.O'R.: Now how does the water flow from Portland to the Wolf Creek District, then?

H.S.: Well, of course they've got that pump station over on the hill there, but it's not used very much any more because they put in a big 60-inch line gravity-flow from Mount Tabor over there that way, and it comes through Beaverton-Bertha Highway, around that way. And it's gravity.

M.O'R.: So it's gravity out of one of the reservoirs up there at Mount Tabor?

H.S.: Yeah, right. Right. But then, of course in the area they've got some booster pumps scattered around, to put it up on the hills, you know.

M.O'R.: Now that gravity-feed line, that went in after you went to work there?

H.S.: It was just starting to be used when I left. Ken Leahy did a lot of that work.

M.O'R.: And so that was a change, a real change that took place.

H.S.: That was a real change. Yeah, they started shutting the pumps down and using the gravity as much as they could. Those pumps are real expensive to run.

M.O'R.: Yeah, because of the electricity and everything?

H.S.: Yeah. There's one pump has a demand meter on it, and every time that pump started was \$100 just to start it.

M.O'R.: \$100 just in electricity usage?

H.S.: Well, yeah, I suppose that's the way they measured it. But I know that's what they talked was \$100 every time that pump started. And I suppose after it got to running it was less, you know, but -.

M.O'R.: Right. And so, Leahy laid the ...

H.S.: He did most of the work on this end. But then there was other contractors, when they had to cross the river with the line, and they had to dredge that out, and they sunk the pipe, put

it together and sunk it, the Willamette there. But Leahy come all on this side of the river.

M.O'R.: Where does the line cross the Willamette?

H.S.: Oh, it's up there close by Ross Island Sand & Gravel.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah, that would make sense. That's sort of on a straight line probably between Tabor and the Bertha Beaverton Highway. So you saw the one change, then, take place where they really changed the system and didn't have - they used to pump it up over Barnes Road: is that right?

H.S.: Right. They had six pumps in there going at one time.

M.O'R.: And that connection comes from, maybe, what, one at Washington Park reservoirs or -?

H.S.: Yes, it probably - I think that's where they took it from. I'm not all positive just exactly. But anyway, they had to use those pumps to get it over the hill from there. It was free-flow up to the pumps, and then it pushed it on over the hill.

M.O'R.: Were you involved in any of this new equipment they brought in, like the telemetering?

H.S.: No, they had another fellow by the name of Stiles, he was looking after it at that time, the telemetering. And now Tony Vata, he's pretty much on that.

M.O'R.: You mentioned the fluoridation equipment and what a headache that was.

H.S.: Well, there was always something going wrong, you know what I mean. It quit - the auger quit, or some other thing, you know, that they augured in, and of course it's metered, and it'd freeze up, rust out, and you know, there was many, many times that people thought they had fluoride and they didn't even have it while they was changing stuff.

[end of side one]

HAROLD SEIFFERT

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TAPE 3, Side 2

H.S.: So anyway, it was a big headache. I don't know whether they got it improved anymore or not. They must have some better metals I suppose now, you know, that don't eat it up as bad.

M.O'R.: Are you on Wolf Creek water here, or do you get yours from a well?

H.S.: No, I'm on Hillsboro here.

M.O'R.: Oh, you're on Hillsboro.

H.S.: The Hillsboro main line comes right by my house here, just off the driveway a little ways here.

M.O'R.: In terms of the fluoridation decision, did you think that that was a good thing? Apart from the maintenance problems?

H.S.: Well, I suppose that's questionable, you know what I mean. They claim it's supposed to help your teeth and what-have-you. But it's actually poison.

M.O'R.: That's right.

H.S.: So, I guess you could take strychnine, if you don't take too much at one time.

M.O'R.: And you'd be okay.

H.S.: No, they seem to think - they voted it in - people seemed to think it was good. But I don't think I need it.

M.O'R.: Do you get it here?

H.S.: No. No, we don't have it.

M.O'R.: Because the Hillsboro isn't part of that?

H.S.: No, right.

M.O'R.: I see. Can the Wolf Creek Water District - there's so much talk now about water shortages, and of course they're looking at building a new project up at Bull Run, or perhaps, you

know, taking water into the Portland system from other sources, like the Willamette or Columbia or someplace. Was there much talk in the Water District out here about the possibility of not being able to get that Bull Run water, or has it always felt like a fairly secure supply?

H.S.: Well, there was talk about maybe, you know - Portland never did - they was always kind of wondering whether, you know, it was going to be available all the time to them. Wolf Creek worried quite a bit about being cut back or what-have-you. After all, see, when you buy something, they can cut you off. You see, you don't own it. See, you're just buying.

M.O'R.: Right. You're just buying it by volume.

H.S.: So I think that's one of the main reasons why they bought in over here, too.

M.O'R.: I see. To cover ...

H.S.: So if something happens there, they got another source they can come to here.

M.O'R.: I understand that the City of Hillsboro takes some water up here from the Hagg Lake reservoir?

H.S.: Yeah, they've got a quota that they can get. You know, they have a quota. So many acre-feet, you know, for domestic water, so much for irrigation, and what-have-you.

M.O'R.: Was there anything during the time that you worked at the Water District that you were aware of in terms of big problems that the District faced, either a technical or a political matter or anything like that?

H.S.: Oh, not really. It actually went pretty smooth.

M.O'R.: That's sort of my impression too. Maybe now there's a little bit of uncertainty.

H.S.: I think there's more uncertainty now in the District than there was when I worked there. The bigger you get, the worse

it gets, you might say, you know what I mean. It's like any big company, you know, the bigger they get, the more dissension there is between the employees and what-have-you; you've probably seen that.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah, I have, for sure. And of course there definitely is a real growth out here in the Washington County area.

H.S.: Well, it's growing too fast, really.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I was going to ask you what you felt about that.

H.S.: I don't like it, really. We had it much better before all the - Well, you can't hardly get to town anymore, you know, if you want to go into Portland. I mean, you've got to pick the time of day to want to go, otherwise you get hung up in traffic.

M.O'R.: Yeah, that's right.

H.S.: You live in there, you know what I'm talking about, coming out this way.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I've been coming out making quite a few trips here in the past six months, and it can get pretty scary out there at times.

H.S.: And you know, they're still building these new plants at Hillsboro. Intel, a \$2 billion plant is going to be going. Well, maybe it's started now, a little bit, I think. I think I read where they's got 200 guys working or some such a thing.

M.O'R.: That's right.

H.S.: Well, all those people have to live here someplace. They eat and drink, and my gosh, it's just too crowded. Well, maybe I should go to California and get used to it. But if you notice a lot of them down there come up here.

M.O'R.: Yeah, that's right, they do. Til they experience a good wet Oregon winter; then that sends them back south.

Well, I imagine all this growth really meant that the Water District was constantly ...

H.S.: They have to have water - and some of these plants take an enormous amount of water. At one time when Tektronics was going there - Wolf Creek served Tektronics, you know - and you can't believe the amount of gallons of water; you could feed a small city for what they used. And then look at all these other plants: Intel uses lots of water in some of their production phases.

M.O'R.: Yeah. Tektronics, of course, would be one of the first, I guess, that was in this category. I guess some of the companies now are re-using some of the water that they take.

H.S.: Yeah, they're recycling a lot. And pretty near all your car washes now are recycling their water.

M.O'R.: But still the demand keeps growing.

H.S.: Well, you see, you can't recycle it all. There's lots of waste. You know.

M.O'R.: It must have meant they kept you busy in the shop?

H.S.: Oh yeah, I was pretty busy.

M.O'R.: All the new lines being hooked out to these developments. There's been so much - what used to be farm or pasture, now housing tracts with new streets and sewer hookups and all the rest of it.

H.S.: Of course, see, the shop up there - they've got a nice shop, Tualatin Valley now, or Wolf Creek at the time. That was all new. I was about five years in the new one. And we got so you didn't even attempt to keep up, you farmed a lot of it out. So it was just like, originally, when I come from the Hillsboro Implement deal and went to Wolf Creek, I was doing all their service work over there. That was the reason they hired me. Well, it was just like I told you before, I think. He says, "You're over here all the time anyway, you just well come and work here."

M.O'R.: That's right.

H.S.: And now, when they got so much, they farm a lot of it out, you know. Well, in the first place, nowadays, it's getting so complicated, your new equipment, with your computer setup, you know, and everything, you can't have that much equipment, you know, that didn't do that, to check things out. You just as well call somebody and have them come and pick it up, or come out and bring the equipment out to check this, to see what's the matter.

M.O'R.: When you were working for the District, were there ever any major breakdowns in the system that caused interruptions in water delivery?

H.S.: Oh yah, you always have some areas, but most of it is designed so that if something goes haywire, a pipe blows up or something, you can cut the water off here on one end and feed from the other end. You know, it has a regular circle-type system. So there's only a certain area, just for a small area, that would be affected.

M.O'R.: And then there's the valves in the system all along the way so you can shut it off?

H.S.: Yeah. You valve it off. You valve off one area and then you can open up the other and feed from a different angle.

M.O'R.: And then you can bring in a cat or something and ...

H.S.: Yeah, and fix that part. And a lot of times that you find a drunk that'll hit a hydrant and break a hydrant off. And that really raises heck.

M.O'R.: Oh, yeah?

H.S.: Oh yeah, because over by Cedar Hills Boulevard going north there, it's on a little bit - the highway's a little bit above the houses. And there was some lady got drunk and knocked a hydrant over, and it flooded I don't know how many houses, basements, and floors. And that cost the district a lot of money.

M.O'R.: I'll bet.

H.S.: Finally, I think the insurance finally paid some of it, but -. Of course, the Cistrict's always insured, you know. But finally I think they got a little out of the other. But that water would scoot up there twenty feet in the air, so, you know, and it's really - like on an eight-inch line and it just can flood everything in a little while.

M.O'R.: I was going to ask you how big those lines are.

H.S.: Well, it all varies according to how much it has to feed.

M.O'R.: So the hydrants, the fire hydrants, they're located right on one of the main supply lines; is that right?

H.S.: Right. It might have a spur off from the main line, you know, to get -. But no, that's happened several times while I worked there. You know, where somebody'd hit a hydrant and break it off.

M.O'R.: Well, of course it doesn't happen up here, but one interesting aspect of the Water District getting their water from Portland is that there's a real transfer, you know, of water from the Bull Run reservoir into the Tualatin, ultimately, because that's where it gets dumped after people are through using it, so you've got a lot of Bull Run water running down the Tualatin.

Well, I'm probably running out of things to ask you here, Harold, so I'm just wondering if you have any other last thoughts or anything.

H.S.: Well, not really.

M.O'R.: Anything else you might want to add to the story here?

H.S.: No. I think we've covered about everything.

At the Water District when Gene Seibel took over, when Smith retired, Cecil Smith, Gene took his place, and he was a nice - a real good guy to work for.

M.O'R.: I was going to ask you about Gene, actually, so I'm glad you brought that up.

H.S.: I got along real good with him. Well, I always do my work the best I can, and they realize that. And they gave me good recommendations when I left, you know, and thought very highly of me. And this plaque here shows, you know, a little bit what they thought of me. And they didn't give everybody one of those, so -.

M.O'R.: What does the plaque say?

H.S.: Well, you know, I haven't read it for so long, I don't even know. It says, "Be it known unto all persons that the Guard of Commissioners, Wolf Creek Highway Water District, does hereby express its gratitude and appreciation for the 11 years of sacrifice you have provided the patrons of the district. Speaking with one voice, and as elected representatives of those you have served, we take this acclamation to wish you the best of all the days in each day of your retirement." And of course it's signed Gene Seibel.

M.O'R.: And then it's got, of course, the seal, I guess, of the Water District here.

And so Gene was, you say, a good man to work for?

H.S.: Yeah, he was a good man.

M.O'R.: And did he do a pretty good job of running the District, do you think?

H.S.: Well, he did I think the best anybody could do, you know what I mean.

M.O'R.: But you got along fairly well with the former manager, too?

H.S.: Oh, yeah. I got along really better with Cecil Smith, because he used to live in the area here and we kind of grew up together. You see, he was older than I am, but he lived right down the road here at one time. And he was Forest Grove manager there for quite a while, and then he went to Wolf Creek.

M.O'R.: And so he used to live right here in Cherry Grove?

H.S.: Yeah, down around the road a couple of miles here. So, anyway, you know, when somebody you know real well - where Gene I didn't know at all until after we got in there.

M.O'R.: Although he worked there from the first day you worked?

H.S.: Right, but he wasn't an administrator.

M.O'R.: Right.

Well, just maybe to kind of wrap things up here, how's retirement been going for you?

H.S.: Well, it's been real good. Been awful busy. You know, I used to get more done around here when I was working than I did after I retired.

M.O'R.: I can imagine that's the way it is.

H.S.: Because now I've traveled quite a bit of the world, you know, after I quit, and - oh, Australia, New Zealand, and over in Europe, six different countries, and I've been over to the islands about five times, Hawaiian Islands, and stayed as much as 15 days. And I've made two round trips to Alaska by van. And, you know, I've been in Canada; I'd go in Canada fishing several years in a row. After my wife passed away, then I didn't go this last year.

M.O'R.: And she passed away just a year or so ago?

H.S.: Well, it was '77. Wait a minute - it wasn't '77, it was '87. Excuse me.

M.O'R.: And you had met her - maybe you did tell me - you met her when you first came to this area, or was it before?

H.S.: Well, my first wife - I've been married twice, you know. My first wife, she lived over here in Williams Canyon. And she passed away in '77.

M.O'R.: And her name again for the record was - ?

H.S.: Berger. Jane Berger.

M.O'R.: Jane Berger. That's her maiden name. And then your second wife?

H.S.: Was Helen Stream.

M.O'R.: Helen Stream. And you married her after ...

H.S.: A year afterwards.

M.O'R.: In '78 then. And you met her here in Cherry Grove, too?

H.S.: Well, originally her husband worked for the saw mill down here below me, and she was a neighbor. And so I knew her 25 years before, when they worked here.

So anyway, I hadn't seen her for 25 years, but I knew one of the other parties that lived here, which we kept friends with, and it was Carrie Brink, and I asked Carrie one time, I said, "Do you know where Helen is?" Helen - it used to be Rich.

And "Oh yeah," she says, "I go out and have coffee with her every once in a while, what-have-you." So I asked her about a phone number.

"Oh, she won't go with nobody." You know. I said I'd like to take her out for a dinner date. "Oh no, she won't go." Well, I says, "Can you give me her phone number?" See, her number wasn't under her name in the phone book.

Well, she says, "No use calling."

"Well," I says, "I'll just call and talk to her."

By gosh, when I called her, "I'd love to go," she says. Like that. So anyway, we went out for dinner a few times, and then we had a few dates, you know, around, and -.

M.O'R.: You got re-acquainted, huh?

H.S.: Yeah. And so anyway, I said, "I'd like to maybe get married some time in August or September."

"Well," she says, "why wait that long?" So here it was in June - I think it was about April when I started, you know, went out with her.

M.O'R.: So a whirlwind courtship.

H.S.: Well, yeah, but I knew her, see. And she had three kids that went to school with my three kids, at the same school here. So that's the way that took place.

M.O'R.: Well, good. And then the two of you, it sounds like had a pretty good life there for several years.

H.S.: Well, yeah. She retired from Tektronics about fourteen months after we were married. I tried to get her to quit before, but she had to work until she was 55 to draw her pension.

So anyway, I said in that case, go ahead. Then she could draw her pension. Otherwise she would be - there was something about the amount she was going to get. She had to work so long to get this certain amount. So, anyway, that's the way that was.

M.O'R.: So you've just generally enjoyed retired life, huh?

H.S.: Yes. Done a lot of things and still doing a lot of things.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I can see that.

H.S.: Every year, even this year already, I went back east, you know, visited from Arizona up to Kansas and Missouri and South Dakota and around, in April and into May, from mid-April to May 3rd, and now in a couple of week we're going to go back again and make a loop. This time I want to up to Wisconsin. I've got friends up there that was on a New Zealand trip with us, and we visited them a couple of times before and I want to go again. Matter of fact, I got a letter from them the other day, and they're

disappointed that I didn't get there this year. So I think I'll surprise them.

M.O'R.: Are you going to drive?

H.S.: Yes, we'll drive. And she's going to go with me.

M.O'R.: And that's your present housemate here.

H.S.: She's been here a year now.

M.O'R.: And what was her name again?

H.S.: Aggie.

M.O'R.: Aggie.

H.S.: Aggie Lankel, which is a cousin to me by marriage. No, we drove. I bought a new car. I said if we're going to go I'm going to buy a new car. I had a '94, so I got a '96, you know. A Chrysler LHS.

M.O'R.: Good road car.

H.S.: It's a good driving car, you bet it is. I had three different Cadillacs before, and this is better driving than any of those. You bet it is. Better road car. I like it a lot better.

M.O'R.: Well, Harold, thank you very much for the time you've taken to ...

H.S.: I'm glad I could do something there for you.

M.O'R.: It's been a very good interview, and I've really enjoyed meeting you. So thanks again.

[end of tape]