Interview with Art Whitney and George Holton
November 3, 1997

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LS: Art, would you start off with some background where you were born and where you grew up. Just give us an idea what your life was like before you came to Fish and Game.

AW: My life was spent in International Falls, Minnesota, where my Dad was an agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. We had a summer home on a lake nearby and spent the winters in an apartment upstairs above the depot. Living on the lake I did considerable boating and fishing and got interested in outdoors that way. When I graduated from high school in 1942 I had no idea there was a possibility in having a career in what I liked to do. I picked chemical engineering for my career. I spent a year in a junior college in Virginia, Minnesota, in chemical engineering. I learned there my partial color-blindness was a detriment to seeing any chemical reactions. At the end of that year I was picked up by the draft and my education was interrupted for a while for the second World War. I went into the Army in December 1943 classified limited service because of my eyes. The Army had a program called the Army Specialized Training Program. Students who were drafted who were in the fields of medicine, law or engineering and otherwise qualified could become part of this program and spend their time completing their studies rather than going to war. That sounded like a real good deal to me. So I applied for it. They said they couldn't do that because your eyes classify you as limited service. But if you really want to get into that we'll just tear the pink slip off your papers and no one will know you're limited service and you can get into this program. So I

did. First you had to complete basic training so they sent me to Fort Benning for a 13 week basic. At the eighth week of training they canceled the program for law and engineering. These students could stay in it but the others were shipped off to Edinburgh. At the time I said wait a minute I'm limited service but they said there's nothing in your papers that say that. So I went to the 106th Infantry Regiment. We'd just come off Tennessee maneuvers and had all the PFC's and Corporals pulled out to replace other units. The U.S. was fighting in North Africa and up the Coast of Italy and getting ready for D-day so they decided cannon fighter was much more necessary than engineers and lawyers. We trained for a while and someone discovered that not everyone had been to basic because all of us from ASTP were at various stages. I had 8 weeks, someone else had 4, someone else had 12. So they decided that the only solution was everyone had to take basic all over again. When made them really happy. Then they pulled a bunch of us out for Italy replacements. I was 13th and they picked up through the 12th. So I stayed with the outfit. Well, I came up with severe asthma and they sent me to the post hospital. The doctor said that the Army isn't really interested in what you have so if you want to get a discharge you can. You might get a medical discharge. So they let me out. Every time my asthma winds up I think of the 106th where they had the biggest man and material lost they suffered in the second World War. I got out of the Army in late 1944, went to the University of Minnesota. I knew I didn't want to be in chemical engineering. I took an aptitude test and when I came back to the interviewer, he said you're best suited for teaching or wildlife management. I said I know I don't want to be a teacher, what is this wildlife management? That's when I first learned about it. So I went to school for several years. I thought I'd prefer to be in wildlife because I liked hunting better than fishing, but the first summer I applied for a summer job with the department they didn't have any in wildlife so I took the one in fisheries. I learned that my skills I'd picked up at the lake at home would help greatly so I decided to do that. I got my bachelor's in 1949 and worked on my master's for two years that I never did complete. I finally decided I had to quit school and get to work. Since my Dad was a railroader I had a pass on the train and I could ride from International Falls to school and back again. I always expected to work in Minnesota but there were no jobs available. That country with the lakes is very pleasing to me and I always wanted to work there. They had a job in eastern Montana. Lloyd Smith, Walt Allen. I applied for it and Walt wrote back and said one other person was under consideration. They wrote back again and said I had the job. No interview. Just report to Miles City on July 1, 1951 someone will be there to meet you. I went to the federal hatchery, called the local game warden. He said Walt Allen was in town and gave me the number. I called and they said he's downtown. It was the range riders reunion going on then on Main Street. He's playing clarinet in the Elks band. I went downtown with my Dad, he came out with me for the trip. There were two clarinet players. Well, Art Whitney how are you? Let's go and get a beer at the Elks Club. That was the start of my career.

LS: That was the start of your career?

AW: Yes, that was the start. I was hired as of that date. He said, the boys will be down with your equipment sometime after the fourth. This was the first of July. I said, well, my family is out here too and they've got a family reunion over the fourth, would it be alright if I went to that? Sure, go ahead. Just come back after the fourth. I left the family reunion and got there the night of the fourth. Fifth, sixth, seventh came by. Finally Chuck and Nels came down. Old Ford panel with a three speed transmission and a high speed rear end, a used surplus lift raft that didn't have a valve to pull the air in, nets, etc. Nels lived in Belt, Montana, and I didn't know there was such a place as Belt. Here was this guy whose belt buckle said belt. I wondered what kind of outfit I'd gotten into.

LS: So the two people you were talking about, Nels Thoreson and Chuck Phenicie.

AW: Chuck was chief biologist, Nels was the district fisheries biologist in the Great Falls district and lived in Belt. They spent the evening, we wondered around downtown. Nels had a recent copy of the Fish Culturist and there was an article of interest. With only one copy we sat in the park downtown and read it. Nels was reading it out loud to us. A fairly well lubricated Native American came up and said, buy me some beer. In those days, Indians could not buy liquor in Montana. He wanted me to. I wasn't about to risk that with my brand new job, break a state law, so I told him I couldn't do that. So he said down and listened to Nels. He looked at me and Phenicie and finally said, Jehovah Witness? That was the only person he'd seen read out loud anywhere. They left me the next day and I wasn't sure what to do. No job description, no orders. Overall my job was to determine species or species combination that was best suited for fish production in farm ponds and reservoirs. The way I went at it was totally up to me.

LS: Art, could you describe some experiences while you were out in eastern Montana?

AW: Let me say, first of all, I thought I was going into the desert. I'd always look at the country between Bismarck and Billings as something you had to get through. In the two years I was there, the prairie grew on me and I began to appreciate it and the people. They were wonderful. I did my first, the first thing I did was to examine some of the ponds that didn't have planting records in the past and find out what was there. Find some others that people would let me set up as experimental ponds. Nels had just completed a study on the physical characteristics that were necessary for fish production in farm ponds. I believe it was over 15 feet deep, something like that was required. I found that the snow depth and temperature varied so much from one part of eastern Montana to the other and in some instances the ponds would fit the description would winterkill and others wouldn't.

It was such an unpredictable thing that my final conclusion was that it didn't make a great deal of difference of the species long-term ability to last because nothing lasted very long in those ponds. Any fish that would survive for a year or two and provide fishing would be as good as any other. The people there accepted most any fish. Creel census, one fourth of July, in a pond north of Miles City, it was about 104 degrees in the shade, and no shade, we pulled up to the reservoir. Cattle on the other side. Antelope on the hill behind. There was a guy and his family bringing in yellow bullheads, about 6 to 8 inches, and putting them in a sack. He said, isn't this a wonderful country? I thought has the heat gotten to this fellow? No, he said, game in the hills, stock on the ranges, fish in the water. What more could you ask for? He was perfectly happy. Also, the old federal hatchery consisted of two large ponds they called lakes. One about 17 acres, the other about 12. Two half-acre ponds they overwinter fish in. Adult bass, adult bluegill. The production of the hatchery was whatever fish they put in would survive. There was no way of adjusting fish production. So through my survey work I had cut out half the pond was unsuitable because of possibility of winterkill I wouldn't have decreased the cost of the hatchery operation at all. Also considering some of the ponds I would cut out I would produce fishing and some I didn't cut out would winterkill I came to the conclusion they couldn't afford me. So my final report didn't say what was necessary it said what wasn't necessary. My superiors took my recommendation and I went back to Minnesota for a year to work on a creel census job.

LS: Art, could you tell us how long you were back in Minnesota and what brought you back to Montana?

AW: Well, the Minnesota job was not as responsible as the one I had here. Creel census. Montana expected to open up the Missoula district in western Montana soon. I'd left word that I would be interested in that. They did about a year later. I resigned and got the job as district fisheries manager in Missoula district. I was the first fisheries buy in Missoula. The time I went to Miles City I was the only trained fisheries person east of Bozeman. When I went to Missoula, Frank Stefanich was already fish manager in Kalispell, Nels Thoreson was Great Falls and Boyd Opheim was Bozeman. Some had summer help and some didn't. There were no permanent assistants.

LS: Art, how long were in Missoula? What were some of the things you did? And some major issues?

AW: I was in Missoula for nine years and the most memorable thing for me was the pollution problems. The Clark Fork and the pulp mill west of Missoula. We didn't have much authority, the Department of Health had authority to regulate those

things. All of us had fish sampling gear for lakes and streams. None of us could handle anything bigger than a stream 40 or 50 feet wide because the types of gear didn't lend themselves to getting a sample out of big water. We all tried. Each region had something they were working on part time. Stefanich and Thoreson had straight AC, 110 and 220. Jack Bailey and John Spindler in Philipsburg had DC. Gaffney at Bozeman who replaced Opheim went to larger and larger voltage. I had a generator that put out AC but I could get 3 electrodes that energized the bottom of the creek. A wonderful way to get bottom dwellers out of the bottom. Nothing that we developed would sample a stream the size of the Blackfoot River. We just couldn't do it. It was frustrating but the reason none of us got anywhere, was that you were working on your job at the same time.

LS: What was the pied piper?

AW: George developed the pied piper. Probably should add here that both George Holton and I are interviewing together. Since 1956 either George worked for me or I worked for him. Many things we did together.

GH: The pied piper was adjunct to the generator, electronic device. It was actually started by Chuck Phenicie who was the first chief of fisheries biologist. He was working with Kemp Roberts who had been an electrical engineer. Kemp was a friend of Bill Glasscock. Nowadays you hear of the Holter Monitor that people have as a heart monitor. Bill was working on that with Holter. They devised a little box, about a foot high, maybe six inches by six inches, which actually interrupted an alternative current and we were able to use a very small generator, one that had been developed by the military for paratroopers. It was very effective on small streams. Was not effective on larger streams.

LS: Why was it not used on small streams?

GH: I used it in Helena and toward the end of my years I transferred it to Kalispell and Joe Huston got it up there. It was rather a delicate thing and you had to take it to an electrical shop to get it worked over. It had a series of relays. Actually, simultaneously with this, I came to Montana from Wyoming. We had a fellow down there, Max Rollefson, a fisheries biologist. I don't know if it was in connection with his university training or whether it was something that happened. I believe it was the Colorado fishery research unit sent him to Denver where Colfelt was developing their electronic unit. That was actually done between '54 and '57. So other things were being developed that took the place of the pied piper.

LS: Art, during your time in Missoula, when you were dealing with pollution, you mentioned that Department of Health had the responsibility but did we have some

relationship with them while you were there. How did it start?

AW: Yes, I do know that we had an agreement with the Department of Health whereby we furnished a biologist, paid his salary and they furnished the office space and laboratory equipment and services to work on pollution control. This gave them the advantage of having one more person on pollution control. It gave us the advantage of having a fisheries person over there who knew what was going on. George, maybe you know more.

GH: The only thing I would add to that, and I believe I'm right on this, that we could go out and find pollution problems but when it came to any manner of enforcement that was retained by the Department of Health.

AW: Yes, and we worked very closely when the pulp mill was going in. Both the Department of Health crew and we worked in the field. We were expected to stay in department headquarter buildings and not charge anything for a room. Department of Health could stay in their sleeping bags in their cots in our buildings and charge the full $7 a night for a room.

LS: Do you remember who the person was who was the first biologist and when it was?

AW: John Spindler was the first one. I went to Missoula in '54, Spindler and Bailey were working on a study on Flint Creek on the survival of hatchery trout in streams. That project was discontinued and Spindler transferred to the Health job and Bailey went to Bozeman as a research coordinator, hatchery biologist. That occurred during the nine years I was in Missoula but I can't remember when. Probably around 1960.

GH: I believe in 1957, I came on board in February, the test stream was still being operated by Spindler and Bailey and it was after that Spindler came to Helena as a pollution control biologist.

Art, when I was still down in Wyoming the Marias was known even there, largely I suppose because Fred Beale had come to Montana. To my knowledge at that time maybe something on the Green River south was a bigger project, but the Marias was the biggest undertaking of a drainage rehab.

AW: It was, I think, that Utah and Wyoming had done something similar on the Green but it wasn't as much area. Nels Thoreson proposed the project. He felt that the Tiber Dam going in near Shelby and making a habitat for some of the warmwater species like carp and goldeye, that heavy population was probably push them even farther up the drainage than they were, he thought not only would removing carp and goldeye benefit the reservoir itself but benefit the upstream areas. I think since

then that theory has been proved wrong. It doesn't make any difference if the habitat is suitable they'll move in and if it isn't they won't. Anyway it was, the decision was made. Start out in the fall of 1954, the first year I was in Missoula was a get together of all the fish managers, hatchery managers. Nels, Chuck, Walt. Gathered around the fire and we decided that's what we'd do. That fall we poisoned Kipp Lake and did an aerial application. We altered an old Ford trimotor that was equipped for aerial spraying and toxicants for crops and built a pulley on the bottom and put a 55-gallon barrel with our toxicant which was powdered and distributed it over the lake. People who haven't known it is a great experience. The Ford trimotor will get into and out of any field that a Piper Cub will. It flies slow. I was on the first crew inside the airplane to distribute the toxicant. Standing up inside the Ford trimotor you can't see anything that's going on outside so we had to look up front for the copilot to give us a wave when they cross the edge of the lake so we could start pouring the toxicant. We thought it was powdered rotenone with a little added something to make it dissolve faster. We learned long after the project was over that it was toxaphene that was added to it. We were standing in there up to our eyeballs with powdered toxaphene. Fortunately there were enough people around so when they landed the second crew could get in. The next year, which was my second year in the Missoula district I spent most of the year on Marias. I got detailed there longer than some others because I had only been in the district for less than a year and had no long range projects started and because I was single and had no wife that was concerned about me being gone all summer. I would say most of the fisheries division spent most of that summer walking most of the way, not once but several times, between the boundary of Glacier Park and Tiber dam site. Every bit of drainage was walked and treated and walked again. As soon as the toxicant cleared the hatchery crew would come in with the rainbow trout that was going to be used to restock the area to get fish back in. I remember one time they were so eager that the stocking crew overran the toxicant crew and they poisoned out a bunch of rainbows they'd just planted. That was not broadcast. Nor was it broadcast that the treatment went right through the city of Cutbank water supply. That was the hometown of Governor Aronson and fortunately no one got sick. We were successful in goldeye and not successful in carp.

LS: Summer of what year?

AW: Summer of '55.

GH: My first trip with Nels Thoreson, in 1957, he took me out to show me the Marias and he said some of us are unplanting them and some of us are planting them. But we're all keeping busy.

AW: Yes. I can remember Charlie Reevis, an old Blackfoot Indian standing on the bank

yelling at us, you've killed my buffalo, you've killed my coyote and now you kill my fish. He would have scalped us if he'd gotten a hold of us.

LS: Were there any, in every project there is some humor. Do you recall any anecdotes?

AW: Yes I can remember Clint Bishop who had, was part of the crew, had a fan belt on his car. Got his car fixed up. On the Marias you seldom got a chance to drive your own vehicle. In the morning people had different assignments and you just took off in any vehicle you had. I think it was a hatchery guy, following Nels and Chuck. They slammed into each other. The guy said, you got a new fan belt in your truck now you have to get a new truck for your fan belt.

GH: I don't remember exactly, but it seemed to me that Phenicie and Thoreson were overlooking an operation...

AW: No it was me. We had walkie talkies on the river. The car with the radio was perched up above and the bosses sat there. I remember the time the world series came on they could listen to it. We had a slough that you couldn't wade, so we called for an airplane. We were told from the radio up above, we can't get the plane this time of day. Gonna have to do it with waders. I said you'll never do it with waders, buster. They said, this isn't buster.

LS: There was a story I remember, but not the whole thing, it was the Two Medicine River and secondary falls.

AW: I remember that story because I was in it. Before we ever started we wanted to get some idea how fast a slug of toxicant would go down. Any stream flow, the center is going faster than the edges. You put in a high concentrate of what you need and it stretches out. Finally gets to where it's no longer toxic. How long would that be or how far would that go? They decided to float a boat down from the beginning in the park just below Two Medicine Falls and see how far it would get in a day. They picked Opheim and me. It was a rubber boat, some type of surplus. Nels had some truck inner tubes in the bottom with plywood that gave it a real nice floor but about a foot higher in the air than a rubber boat. We had a box of goodies for the day. I was in the front and they shoved us off and said, watch out for those secondary falls. We sailed around the corner, the back end hung up on a rock and I cleared the front end of the boat and hit my knee on a rock. I got back in and Opheim was wet too. This was all before we got to the bridge. They were standing on the bridge watching us. Laney Hanzel came by and dropped a can of beer to us. We made a wild battle to get back to the can and it was empty. We spent the day with our wet clothes and paddling. The boat began to leak air. No pump. It got

loose and wobbly. Combination of a falls and rapids and a long sloping rock, about 15 to 20 feet of an angle. We stopped and said if we hit it just right we'll do fine. Couldn't control the boat and we over the falls backwards. The boat was so low of air it formed over the rocks and we survived. They kept track of us and pulled us out about 4:00. We were badly sunburned.

LS: My recollections with Opie, he did some flying in those days.

AW: Opie had his license. There were many sloughs and backwaters we couldn't get to other than by air. We had a spray pilot to distribute the toxicant. The person in charge of that area Opheim flew another plane and pick up the project leader and fly and watch the spray plane. To find a place to meet them they said just drag your truck across the field and if you can keep your truck in a reasonably straight line at 45 miles an hour the plane can land there. It was the fields that they couldn't land down that we got the most thrill out of. Before seat belts the poor guy had to hang on to stay in the truck. You'd go out in the morning to meet the spray plane at dawn. You could hear a plane coming, all of a sudden, voom, he'd be flying close to the ground. We'd watch this guy spray.

LS: Bob Mitchell?

AW: Yes, he got detailed up there one night. When Walt Allen would fly up to see how things were going. He had Keller and Tangent his field superintendents would come to look around. Mitchell got in the airplane. All he had on was pants, no shirt. When they went to leave, Walt said let's get out of there. Hell, he said, you told me I was gonna be here to two weeks I've been here for a month, I'm going home. There's no room. Well there's not room for somebody else. I'm going home tonight.

LS: Do you recollections of other things that happened during the Marias rehab?

AW: Yes. I remember because I was single I didn't have anyone at home. I got stuck after the job was done. The dam area. I should back up and talk about that too. The large mine trucks, semi trailers running below. There were puddles of water all over the bottom. We didn't know what was in them. I was standing up on top of the dam and talking to one of the engineers in charge and watching those trucks go down there. I asked him what kind of rules they were driving under. He said if you really want to screw up a job like this try giving those guys some rules, you just tell them to go haul dirt and they'll figure out their own rules. You just stay out of their way, that's all you got to do. I was the first one to venture out with a state truck there with a boat behind, the pond we were headed for and these trucks down there. I pulled out ahead and started to go faster than he did and I looked in my

mirror and he must have been going 45 to 50 miles an hour with that load of stuff. Fortunately, I found a spot to get out of his way. That's all you could do. You just get some place they're not going to go. There were no rules or regulations. We got done with that and I was in the Army occupation and Dick Graham, who had been up there earlier and come down with a bad case of flu plus his ulcer problem, he had to go home in the middle of the summer. He got sent back up there so Dick and I were the ones, it was our job to put in a test slug here and then 10 or 15 miles downstream at the lower end to see if we could turn anything else up. He was so weak that he could hardly get to the mouth. I remember down below Browning somewhere we had a jeep that we towed behind the Suburban. I needed the jeep to haul the toxicant down to the river and I got down with Dick and my dog. Several of us had dogs that trip. And left him and the dog and the sack of toxicant and went back up to the jeep to get the second half of the toxicant that was still in the Suburban. I couldn't get the jeep in four-wheel-drive. I looked under and there was a ball of barbed wire around the universal and the transfer case that prevented the front engage. So I had the jeep and no tools cause the tools were in the Suburban. So I had to walk out of the bottom to the Suburban. I didn't have a good wire cutter. So I drove into Browning and bought a set of wire cutters. Came back, walked back down, laid under the jeep, got the wire off and drove the jeep up, got the toxicant, brought it back down again. By this time Dick had a wonderful afternoon sleeping on a sack of toxicant. We got the slug out.

LS: He was probably better for having had the rest.

AW: Yes, he was. He wasn't feeling good.

LS: Art, do you want to continue with any other incidents that you can think of that happened after the Marias?

AW: Yes, this toxicant came packaged. It was in a burlap sack, in a plastic sack, in a paper sack. When you took the paper sack off, you took it to one place for burning. The plastic sacks we had to haul in to throw away in garbage that wouldn't burn and the burlap sack. And once we got the toxicant out, we saved the burlap sack, washed them out carefully and dried them and stored them. The toxicant when it was delivered was a semi and a trailer and another semi. So we had some 50,000 lbs of this toxicant. We had a lot of sacks. In fact at the end of the summer we had a one-ton panel full of burlap sacks that we thought we could sell to some grain grower. But they were potato sacks, not grain sacks. So we sent them home with Leo LeTrey from Hamilton which was potato country and he sold them to some potato growers. We'd get enough money to have a party on the Marias. So we sent out to Laney Hanzel one of the youngest, he and Posewitz were the two youngsters on this job, he'd lost his watch. So we bought Laney a new watch and still had

money enough for a pretty good party down at the factory in the middle of winter by selling these potato sacks. I suppose that was probably illegal by somebody's regulations but no one else knew about it. I always wondered about those potatoes and the toxicant sacks.

LS: Art, moving off the Marias and back to your job as biologist in Missoula, could you tell us something about the work you did and the relation to the pollution problems that were going on at that time.

AW: Yes, when I first went there the Clark Fork River was a dirty grey color all winter long. If you ever saw anyone fishing in it you knew they were a tourist because there wasn't any fish in it. But the company began obviously could see the handwriting on the wall what was coming in the future. Began treatment, they had some treatment ponds, it was a primitive method. The water come from the mine carrying copper and it was run over piles of steel cans and the steel replaces the copper and get the copper that they could sell and the water comes out carrying iron instead of copper at a very high Ph solution. They add lime to it before it enters the pond, the lime brings the Ph up to near neutral and the iron precipitates out, drops out in the pond and flows out. They began that operation somewhere int he late '50s.

LS: Excuse me, Art, is this the Anaconda company you're talking about?

AW: Yes, Anaconda Company at Butte-Anaconda, yeah. And I'm talking about the Clark Fork from there down towards Missoula. In fact in the late '50s it got clear enough that we were below the mouth of Rock Creek, people started catching some fish. At that time Bob Wards was a small store and they used to have a display out in front of their store with somebody's nice catch of fish in it. There'd be catches of brown trout there that always said lower Rock Creek. One of the worst kept secrets in Missoula at that time was that they really came out of the Clark Fork below the mouth of Rock Creek. Well in the winter of '59 and '60 I began having I believe due to ice in the ponds and then the union struck and because they running the water over the cans produced copper that was production the union wouldn't do any of that work so they wouldn't add the lime. So the water ran into the ponds clear and came out of the ponds clear cause it was still highly acidic and then as it got diluted right below the mouth of the Little Blackfoot it would turn to bright red back to neutral and iron precipitated out of it. It turned that bright color all the way to Missoula. The company first said it can't be us because it's coming out clear, it must be something happening somewhere else. The union finally got to allow them to put lime back in it. But the county attorney in Missoula, Anthony Keast, brought suit against them, the Anaconda Company under an archaic law that had to do with sawmill waste and went on to say that it was illegal to dump a deleterious substance

in a stream. And he took the company to court on that and the company fought it, the Department of Health, which realized the company had been trying to clean up and didn't want to embarrass the company wouldn't give any information out. The fish in our live cages died all the way down to Milltown Dam. Our information was gave to the sportsmen, the Board of Health wouldn't give any information to the sportsmen. They gave it to the company instead. Finally in the spring of 1960 the case came to district court. The day before the trial I was told by my superiors in Helena to come down to the Florence Hotel and have a meeting with some other folks, our attorney and the Anaconda attorney. Everyone was saying that this was embarrassing to us in Anaconda and our attorney would say it was embarrassing to Fish and Game Department too. I couldn't see why it was embarrassing to be on the side of clean water and told them as much. I was told it wasn't a good idea to fight the company on this. Bob Habbert, he and I really considered what we were going to do, if we should have an attorney of our own. The court case went no where, the county attorney was outclassed by the attorney for Anaconda. In fact the Department of Health was on the side of the company it was almost comical. The guy from Health was subpoenaed by Tony Keast because they had the information. He just couldn't understand Keast's questions, he didn't answer them very well. The Anaconda attorney got up and started questioning him and the pages came out of his brief case almost before the question was completed. It was so obvious. Then Keast got back to question him and finally the Anaconda guy said, Your Honor, he cross examining his own witness. Keast said, well it appears to me he spent more time with them than he did with me. The Judge said Mr. Keast if you can't properly prepare for a case, don't bring it to court. It was dismissed. But the one thing I did notice from all that, after that I had a much closer and better relationship with the Anaconda Company that I had before. The fact that I had opposed them didn't turn them off on me at all. It seemed like they respected me for what I had done.

GH: Art, wasn't that the time that Time Magazine mentioned the dedication?

AW: That was in '67. That was the next one after I was in Helena. The same thing happened in '67, the union struck when they didn't put the stuff in. And we had help from a lot of different places. Jerry Bouck and Howard Johnson from the Michigan State University came out and I can remember one comment of Bouck's, he said when he looked at the pond, you know Art I think there's enough copper deposited in the bottom of their treatment ponds, if you could somehow get it all in solution at the same time it would kill out the Columbia River here to the Astoria lighthouse. It was sitting there like a large bomb. They had an article at Newsweek, the reporters were visiting with us and some people after said the only place they had seen dedication in workers like the Fish and Game was in the inner cities.

LS: Art, and George, do you recall when we were getting into a period of chemical rehabilitation, following the Marias, some of the work that was done there on lake rehabilitation and what led into that sort of program.

AW: Yes, we decided after the Marias that we didn't want anything else of that size but we had examples of North Dakota where the state had not much of a fishery resource used rehabilitation to improve some of their waters and they had an example of eastern Washington, Clarence ... was the fisheries chief in the Spokane area, they had a lot of small landlocked lakes that had produced good rehabilitation that really improved their fisheries. I looked at the Clearwater chain out of Missoula when I was there in fact all the sportsmen were extremely happy when I was first assigned there because they had someone to run their rough fish traps on Clearwater lakes to get rid of some of their rough fish. I argued that that was my major occupation and I couldn't understand Dr. George Wysell from the University who was on their fish committee was also interested in the operation of these traps. I couldn't understand why George who was a fish scientist would take that track until I found out he was doing a study on fish pituitaries and the trap on the lake was his source of supply of rough fish. To find out what was in the lakes and to get a better idea if rehab was a possibility and wanted to get a fish sample. I wanted to get a comparable ones as I could in various lakes and that depends on whether a lot of other things, temperatures, and I thought somehow we could do them all at the same time it would be a good deal. And since I spent the whole summer up in the Marias there's no reason why the grizzly guys shouldn't spend some time over there in my district. George was taken over for Chuck Phenicie at that time and I convinced him it was reasonable, not for the whole summer but a short period of time. We had a pretty well organized and carried out netting project. We did find that the upper rough fish were not confined to the lower end they were all through the grades. The two upper lakes fairly small there was a good possibility getting everything out. And decided if we could build a barrier to upstream migration we could poison them. While I was there we did get the barrier built below Raney Lake and Clearwater and Summit. That must have been 1956 when we did the netting, the barrier was later than that. It was the year after the Marias. I left Missoula in '62 so I don't know when it was. Maybe 1960. Then there was the possibility that on the lower lakes that occurred after I left. You were in on that Liter when you worked in the Missoula district. So Clearwater Lake, Raney Lake, Alva and Inez the smaller upper lakes were rehabbed and I think provided a better fisheries. Rehab was the thing for a while until after the Marias we decided it would be small bodies of water.

LS: Well I came with the department in 1965 and one of the first jobs I had was the Alva and Inez rehabilitation. That was done in 1965. The Inez barrier was already built before I came to work.

AW: Yes the barrier would have been built before the project.

LS: Art, after you left Missoula where did you go and what happened in your life after Missoula.

AW: Well, in the fall of 1963 when Frank Dunkel took over as director at a meeting of the Missoula club one evening Frank asked me if I would like the job of chief of Fisheries. He said he needed my decision tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. My Dad had died the year before and I had an apartment rented for my Mother in Missoula and our house fixed up and everything ready for the winter. I didn't sleep a great deal that night. Well, this is an opportunity that would never come again so I called the next morning and said yes. Came to Helena. The fall of 1963, October. It was just as they were beginning the regional supervisor set up. In fact the previous director and deputy director were bounced back as regionals to Missoula and Kalispell. Dunkel had that arrangement by not hiring any additional people. He cleaned out the Helena office pretty well. Wildlife had a tremendous number of people in Helena. Fisheries didn't.

GH: I think I can say for fisheries that was always our philosophy was to keep Helena as lean as we could, whereas Game had a hierarchy of biologist positions which they did clean. They cleaned it I think even once before. Periodically they would build up.

AW: Well, they had a chief the divisions used and then they had a chief of big game research and a chief of big game management and a chief of small game research and a chief of small game management and a fur biologist all in Helena. And we had a super of fisheries a chief biologist and an assistant.

GH: Well, we had and then of course in Hatcheries, Clinton went into the field. He said Phenicie had promised him that he would get the same pay as the regional district supervisors and the only way he could do that was to get him out there. So we just never, we just did the work ourselves in fisheries. When you came to Helena you went right along with that policy of not moving them.

LS: And George you were already in Helena at the time Art came.

GH: Yes, I was. In fact you actually called me and asked me what I thought of the survival rate in that job.

AW: Well I had been in here when you went to the school of administrative leadership. I was in Missoula but you had me come in here to work while you were in training. Earlier in this interview I said either I worked for you or you worked for me.

GH: It was a great relationship, though. I can remember one of the commissioners said those two are like ... the gold dust twins.

AW: I can remember the first time the fish division budget went over $1 million. The entire division and Ed Leipheimer looked at that and said $1 million, my god, fishing must be pretty good in Montana and I said it sure is Ed. He said how do you know you never get out of this Helena office. I told him I read fishing and hunting news every week.

LS: Ed Leipheimer the commissioner?

AW: Yes, he was amazed. It was unheard of at that time, $1 million.

LS: What were some of the issues you took on after coming to Helena?

AW: One of the first things that was handed to me was the stream preservation act in its first ... it had a two year death sentence. We were to keep our streams just as clean as we could to make this thing work and hope we get it enacted permanently the next time. That took considerable amount of doing because John Peters had been hired as supervisor. He was out of Bozeman and the action was in Helena and I found out before very far along that John Peters was the supervisor in Helena and George and I were doing the leg work on it. So I moved Peters into Helena to his disgust. One thing I had in mind for years and it was a pet project of mine that I got done was to hire another project biologist for Gaffney who turned out to be Dick Vincent and give him the specific job of developing the gear and method to sample a large river. That started us on all kinds... dealing with the highway department dealing with dam builders. Anyway the fact that we couldn't make a population estimate in a large stream was going in blind and because Dick had a relative in Bozeman that was kind of interested in electronics and Dick himself was interested in it we hired him and gave him that job and he got it done.

GH: And I've always credited Dick Vincent, very often you will hire somebody to do a specific job and biology so often things can't be done because we don't really understand all the intricacies of wildlife population but Dick Vincent was one person who actually did what he was hired to do. He actually accomplished it and I've always admired Dick for that.

AW: And it was something he wanted to do too.

GH: Yea, he was, Dick is one of these people who proves that you can have everything else but what you really need is persistence. Dick had the persistence and the brain power to back it up.

LS: And the development of the large river electrofishing that eventually led into the wild fish program because we could not sample these larger rivers to determine what was going on in them.

AW: Prior to being able to sample the Madison I can remember the magazine article on the man who made the Madison and it was Bill Baker the manager of the federal hatchery in Ennis. And if it wasn't for him the Madison wouldn't be a fishery in the article. And we couldn't disprove it. We thought it wasn't quite right. I think there's no reason for me to go into the details because Dick covered that pretty well in his interview but the fact that he did it put us quite a ways ahead. We were so far ahead that a lot of people didn't believe us. Bob Martin in sport fishing institute, he said the old researcher got to be lying to you that can't be right.

GH: I know Colorado fish division wouldn't believe it because they were heavily into catchables and they couldn't believe the program wasn't working. And you mentioned Bill Baker, but it was really Harry Baker. He ran that Ennis hatchery and they got a thing called rainbow valley; the hatchery made the Madison. And he actually fought the concept of taking the catchables out, ultimately he came around and admitted the department was right and I've always admired him for that.

AW: There were some folks over there that never did believe it. We had a commission meeting in Ennis and old Chamberlain, what was his first name, he came up to the commission and said the Madison is not a blue ribbon stream it's a black stream. It's dead, there's no fish left in the Madison because they're not planting. He didn't know anything about it. He was a local sportsman.

LS: Dick has in his oral interview the specifics of that, but were there some things at the Helena level that you remember that you haven't told us about.

AW: When Dick first got the indication the way he got it was he was evaluating the drawdowns in the river and found that the way Montana Power was operating Hebgen Dam caused a very high mortality in the overwinter young of the year trout because it pulled the water away from the banks and they had to overwinter in the pools with the big fish and he went through the snow records and found out that they could in most years and they would know this because of the snow records the SCS kept would be able to keep their water up in the winter time and fill their dam in the spring runoff. The power company agreed to it, the power company did it and lo and behold down below Ennis Lake the Madison just bounced back. At Varney it didn't. The difference was at Varney they were planting rainbow trout and we weren't planting anything below Ennis Lake. So we wanted to stop the plant at Varney but there was o much public pressure against it we had to go to the commission and get approval to stop the plant at Varney just as a test to find out

what happened. And that's the time the commission went down there and said they wished we had money enough to build a million pound a day hatchery and plant so many fish anywhere it won't matter how many survive we'll still have plenty of them. When we asked for commission approval to do this his statement to me was if this doesn't work will you quit. And what got me wasn't so much the fact that he would ask that it was that he didn't understand what I was asking.

GH: I would like to add that Vincent had actually done a study on O'Dell Creek. After he discovered the difference between the second below the Ennis Dam was the planting of catchables. He actually had a study stream in O'Dell Creek in which he demonstrated that if you plant catchables the wild trout population went down. Actually the request to the commission to cease planting and the Madison was well based..

AW: This was before... And I say he didn't understand what I was asking. We got commission approval we took the planting out of Varney and the fishing exploded.

LS: Then in '74 we haven't done stream planting except in very rare instances.

AW: We said we would not plant catchable trout in any stream where they couldn't sustain a wild fish population. Some of the hatchery folks were concerned that we were out to close some of the hatcheries. The managers were screaming for more fish for lakes and reservoirs. It wasn't a loss to anyone.

LS: Art, you mentioned the stream protection act first being passed in 1963 but it did have a sunset on it. Could you tell us more about what happened during that period of time to get the permanent act.

AW: Well the people who had worked very hard to get the first act put together with 13 streams kept right on working on it. We did our best to keep our relationship with the highway department in good shape and did not really want to push any project to arbitration because we figured a large arbitration cost might kill this thing. We dealt with at the start the highway department was not was you would call cooperative. They didn't like the idea that we had the authority to make recommendations to them. Some of the old people that had started as out as state ponders and came up as engineers were really friendly enough but from the business standpoint they opposed it. We worked as carefully as we could and had show me trips in each region showing people where the fish population in a straight section versus natural section. When the thing came up for reauthorization in '65 it passed both houses with just one dissenting vote and I believe that guy was a contractor that build roads for the highway department. We were pretty happy about that. I don't believe we ever did take any to arbitration. We had a court case

one time that I think was interesting. On the Clark Fork in the vicinity west of Drummond, I forgot the name of the project. It was all kinds of little bits of straightening here and there down the stream, a chunk here a chunk there. We realized there was no way you could replace at the site all you had was ponds in the stream so we asked the highway department to build in two artificial ... and make it all up in two places. One was Hazel marsh near Drummond and the other one was Morris Weaver downstream about 10 miles. No problem with Hazel marsh they had sold the land and built the thing. Morris Weaver didn't want to give up his land, he wanted the highway department to put black dirt in the old channel. He had to give up some farm land to make a meander so he wanted the farm land to be black dirt and not a bunch of rocks. The highway department said no they didn't do that. So he went to court saying that the highway department may have the authority to condemn land on which to build highways but they don't have the authority to condemn land on which we build streams. So this was in Judge Stewart's court in Philipsburg and a few of us went over from here and a few from Missoula. Chad Smith was the department attorney at the time. We got into court and the opposing side attorney was shaking hands with the judge they were old friends. The opening statement by the attorney for Weaver was that we don't believe the fish and game department should be part of this proceedings, just the highway department. Judge Stewart said he was inclined to agree with you Mr. Boone. The rest of us went out and waited in Philipsburg about an hour and I didn't know what was said but Chad Smith did keep us in the case. They allowed that the fish and game could be a part of it. I got on the stand in the afternoon and the attorney and judge questioned me. He said I can't understand why you want to put all this on Mr. Weaver's land. If you lost ten miles of stream all over Montana would you try to put it all back on Mr. Weaver's land. No, Your Honor, it's only because it's on this stream. Well, why do you care how long it is. You've got so much water, why do you care how long that stream is. I looked up at the ceiling of the room and here's a water pipe going across the ceiling from one side to the other. I said Your Honor there's a half inch pipe full of water up there that means there's a half inch going here and a half inch going out there. You put some elbows up there and run that back across two more times you'll still have a half inch in and a half inch out but you'll have three times as much water up there. By this time the whole court room was looking at the ceiling and the judge said Mr. Whitney I see what you mean. He took it under advisement. He didn't make a decision that day and in the mean time I think the highway department saw where it was going and they agreed to put black dirt on Mr. Weaver's land and dropped the case so they never did decide if the highway department has authority to condemn land for a stream or not.

LS: Back in the late '50s, early '60s the department was in the process of trying to rate the streams because of the dams and highways being built. Could you both

elaborate what happened during that period.

AW: That was the impetus, the interstate highway system was coming up and we knew there was going to be a lot of... when I was in Miles City Phenicie had an idea that I can remember being rather frustrated coming from Miles City and coming in here and having a considerable portion of the meeting having to do with rating streams. At that time they were concerned about a numerical rating system. They knew they didn't want to put a dollar sign on it because you start talking to the dam builders and you lose out pretty fast. So they just had numbers and the streams in eastern Montana that I was concerned with got 00+, the Madison would have 1000 and the Big Hole 900 and the streams in eastern Montana were oo +. So I didn't have a great deal of interest in it. I had met Joe Halderman who was one of the prime movers in this thing. Joe saw a need for it. He and Chuck were good friends. When I first met Joe I came to Miles City cause I had a project shocking fish in the canal to see what the fish loss was when they shut off the water in the canal and Joe and Don Orca were up doing the Missouri River studies. I didn't know them very well and per diem was pretty low so we'd gone together and bought stuff for our lunch. We knew people from the fish and wildlife service had a higher per diem than we did. Joe was wondering around the table and made a grab for something and said is this ours. I said not by a damn site that's ours and he said hey Phenicie your dog just growled at me. I knew he was a pretty reasonable guy to work with. Joe Halderman and Don Orca were the biologists for the Missouri River basin studies for the fish and wildlife service located in Billings. That was a very unique situation. It was an unusual thing for them. They were doing field biology work and that's when Joe worked on it, he enjoyed going to the fields. In Miles City Bob Burwell said if you need equipment we got lots of it that we can't use anymore. We went out to the warehouse and they had a 26 foot cabin cruiser that they'd used on Fort Peck and trammel nets 1000 feet long and I wracked my brain trying to figure out somebody to use it. I could never figure out a logical way to do it. Joe had the idea of a need for a rating system and because he had traveled all over the whole state had a personal knowledge of the streams. Phenicie had the state responsibility but he didn't have the wherewithal to travel around and see things. I know he was active in all the meetings I attended in Miles City Joe was there. When I came back to Missoula it was I know Joe would make a tour of the regions and try to get each fish manager to relate streams in their regions in four different categories. It was Joe's job to put the regions together to make sure what I call an A or B is what Gaffney would call an A or B. Joe had a reputation far beyond his fisheries abilities too. One time he was supposed to meet me at 8:00, the next morning he didn't get in till 10:00. He said he found a rock for his rock garden and it took him a while to get it. We went out and he had a Ford sedan sitting there with one corner down and he had a boulder in the trunk half the way out Mount Jumbo and rolled it down into the trunk. He was a railroad buff too. His Dad had

been a railroader so he knew all about trains. When the Northern Pacific was scrapping their engines Joe desperately wanted a piece of the big engine and he wanted the bell. He was on a trip to Minnesota and went to the powers to be and tried to get a bell from the engine. He went to the store bought a railroad cap, overalls, blue shirt and went out to the engine and took the bell off. It must have been quite a job getting the bell of the engine. He said no he just had quite a job getting it in his Volkswagen.

LS: George you were involved in the stream rating project. Could you describe your experiences and how it evolved?

GH: Sure. I knew Joe when I worked in Wyoming and one of the first meetings I had with him when I started to work in Montana he had coffee with me one afternoon down in the Mitchell building and convinced me that I should convince the director to insist that the fish and wildlife service join with us in a stream rating map. Joe was as Art implied, he knew the streams of this state and was an expert fishermen and felt very strongly he kind of referred to it as an inventory. He said a grocery store can't work without knowing what it's got and fisheries can't work without knowing what it's got. So actually we did as Art described, it was a matter of all the fish managers rating their important streams and there were more rating factors as I recall. It was fish population and access and aesthetics and use. And we really didn't have firm data for all that so they were judgment calls and Joe was the one who balanced them all out. Different fish managers might rate a stream higher than a stream in another ration. Joe balanced that all out. He had every stream on the map on a card that was colored, 3 x 5 blue, red, yellow, white cards. Later I tried to correlate every rating factor how many A's did it take to be a blue ribbon stream, etc. As far as I could figure out there was no correlation. It was all Joe. But I think he did a magnificant job and the first stream rating map was published in 1959. The fish and wildlife service did the publishing. It was there the concept of the rating map was to use the county fair ribbon colors, and I think the concept of blue ribbon stream started with our rating map. And the map was updated in 1965 using the same concept. A committee, Dr. Brown, a very prominent part of the committee, Joe and we had a few biologists. It was updated in 1965. And then after the gas and oil crunch in 1974, that got us going on the fishes of concern. Robert Miller, Dr. Miller was one of the names in the American Fisheries society in Michigan. He had contacted Dr. Brown earlier in the '70s and they had worked up a list of Montana fishes that were considered sensitive. We used rare and threatened. I don't think we used the term endangered. We had a starting list and Dennis Flath who is the non game biologist actually had a list of fishes and I don't know if he was very happy with fisheries upstaging him but we took over his list and worked up our own. And that's where the fishes of special concern concept really got going strong. So in 1980 we again published a map and this was one I

think that EPA financed but this one was two phased. It was sport fishing and then overall resource value. At that time we were just starting to use computers and Bob McFarland who had a degree in statistics from Montana State, I guess the university, he was working as a field hand for Al Elser in Miles City. Somehow I guess Al kind of pushed it a little bit that he could help me. Before we had written all this stuff on cards and it worked well if you had a Joe Halderman who really knew the stuff. But we needed more of a mathematically based system. So I figure, well this is easy, Bob and I have laughed about this since. I told him all I needed was a simple little computer program. Well no way was that a simple computer program. We did get it done and it was reflected in that 1980 map. Then again the concept from the EPA was that this should be redone every five years. Well five years kind of stretched out a little. In 1987 we rated the streams again but this time it was not put on the map. This time it was just a rating system in the computer. These later ones involved the value of the streams the fishery value not just sport fishery.

LS: That has eventually evolved into what we call now the Montana Rivers Information System.

GH: I think that's right. That was the first information in it on the rivers. But that leads us into stream and lake database. There again Phenicie had actually started it, when you were working in the field you had a card, the lake and stream survey was on cards. It was a good system but terribly tedious because the secretary kept one in district headquarters and then send one to Helena. Carbon paper didn't work very well. They couldn't read our handwriting. And it was very time consuming. There were four 6 x 9 card files with all these cards. That evolved into our computerized stream and lake survey system. Hank McCurry who was with the forst service pointed out that the district forest out of Dillon wasn't the forest headquarters but one of the forests out of Dillon had started a computer lake database. Hank felt that we had to get one for the state as a whole. So we tied in fish and game and the forest service and McCurry and Gordon Haugen and some computer programmers out of Missoula came up with a lake and stream database that was used for the stream rating maps and in turn was the basis for the stream system of the Montana natural history program.

LS: Art, I think we've covered the main issues during your employment with the department. Do you have any other anecdotes that you'd like to share with us.

AW: We spent a considerable amount of time opposing a loss of streams to dam construction due to highways and pollution. There were some dams that we didn't oppose as much as others. One in particular that was a benefit to fisheries was Paradise on the Clark Fork, the backwater goes up the Flathead River almost to Kerr Dam and up the Clark Fork River quite a ways. Both streams had not a great

fisheries value and a dam that had a tremendous storage capacity. Probably would have negated the need for other dams in that drainage. It really wasn't too bad from a fisheries standpoint. But from the standpoint overall the state of Montana it was quite a lot of land so I believe the governor was somewhat opposed to it and our director had to make a statement. He heard a member of the audience say when he was walking back down the aisle that he didn't know if he was in favor of the dam or not. That's when he knew he'd done his job. It was Archie O'Claire. We had Likely Dam which was proposed on the Big Hole which would have stored water and taken it through a series of canals and another reservoir called Milligan. We were opposed to that, the Butte sportsmen were opposed to it. The people who lived in Lavina were opposed to it. The ranchers in the vicinity of Townsend who would get the benefit of more economical lower cost water supported it. The bureau had a show me trip from Helena down to the dam site and look at Milligan and wind up at Canyon Ferry. There were people from Dell the area that was going to be flooded and were opposed to it. There were people who would benefit from it who were engineers that wanted to build it and fish biologists who didn't. Joe Halderman was supposed to be on this trip too but he never showed up. Jim Posewitz and I were representing the department. Went to the beautiful valley at Dell that was going to be flooded and ended the trip at Canyon Ferry on land that would benefit. A large ranch run by Max Spencer and he showed his operation. He had some water that he got out of Crow creek with a water right and some water he got from bureau of reclamation from Toston Dam that he had to pay for. He was very honest about it. He wanted more of this free water because it was easier to manage. He said you know if I'm irrigating water from the project that I'm paying for and I've got what I need I'll go down and shut it off. If it's water from Crow Creek I'll just let it run. The lady from Dell was impressed with his operation and said you have a wonderful thing here Mr. Spencer but how much do you want for nothing. All I can get he said. That was his philosophy. I don't know how we won that. I think there were probably enough against it. A guy from the department of interior came out and looked at the thing and we showed him the big hole river and he said well the people in this area are going to have to decide if they want a beautiful blue water lake or a little ole brush covered stream.

Reichle

LS: Do you remember whether the blue ribbon concept had much to do with the outcome.

AW: We used it as a blue ribbon stream saying if you have to build build someplace else not on our very best. I assume it helped. I think they wanted to build on the Missouri. I think the main problem there was a little battle between the bureau and the corps. At some point on the river the corps is in charge and from there upstream the bureau is in charge. I think this was a no mans land on the Missouri where the corps would get to build them but the bureau would have to determine

economic feasibility. The bureau didn't care if the corps got to build any more dams or not. The bureau wanted to build them and that probably saved the Missouri as much as our argument did because as far as the people who used the Missouri at that time there weren't enough people to make any difference.

OK. Now we'll talk about stories, things that happened. I remember when I was at Miles City the second year I was told by Walt Allen to go survey a pond owned by a fellow by the name of I forgot his name now near the town of Brusett, Glen Childers pond. Walt Allen had planted bass the year or two before and apparently no bass had survived and they wanted to know why. I headed for Jordan which is the town you have to go through to get to Brusett. And I got into Jordan about ninety miles from Miles City about 10:00 in the morning and stopped to have a cup of coffee and pulled into the hotel and noticed some pie in the case in the back and thought well I'm gonna be on my own cooking for a couple days so I'll have a piece of pie with the coffee and she said pie goes with the dinner. I said well pie goes with the dinner you gotta have dinner to get the pie. Well, I said I'll have dinner too. Its past 10:00. Did you sign up last night for dinner? I wasn't here last night. Sorry you can't have dinner unless you sign up last night. So I got just coffee and went to Brusett. I had good county maps but I could not find that doggone town. I had to find the town because my directions to get to the Childers ranch were from the town of Brusett and I couldn't find it. I finally stopped and talked to a ranch and asked the guy and said here's my map. Ho ho ho sonny he said. You got the old map. Well we moved Brusett into the next township north since that map was drawn. It's six miles north of here. So I went up and found Brusett and I finally found the place and found the ponds and Glen Childers was gone. His wife was there with the daughter about 8 to 10 years old and a son and I got my river boat out and went into the pond and took my water sample and I knew immediately what was wrong. It was in the pine hills and a steep canyon and it had a permanent thermocline and when I opened the water bottle hydrogen sulfide just about knocked me over. When it turned over in the fall it just killed everything just poisoned itself every year. I was getting ready to fix my supper, I lived in the back end of the suburban, took lunch, cooked meals on my camp stove. The little girl came riding up on a pony about a mile from the house and she said you're invited over to the house for supper. Well I don't want to impose on you folks. She came back in 10 minutes and said Ma says anyone who comes in here gets fed you get over to the house for supper. So I went over to the house for supper and I think I was the only guest they'd seen. They had a pet antelope, an antelope fawn. Gumbo soil behind the house and the only thing that survived in the garden was cucumbers. I can't stand cucumbers, my least favorite dish I call slimy cucumbers. They stir them up in a sauce. That was the main dish. So I had to eat cucumbers that night. One of the nicest things about the district was the people. Stop into a ranch and they just give you darn near anything. I remember I got rained in some

time in a place where for about three days and by that time I had a little metal boat and a little motor and I took the rancher and his wife and kids for a boat ride on their own pond.

We talked about lake rehab and we finally got out of it the rotenone we was using wouldn't get everything in a very large lake and the toxaphene which was an excellent chemical for getting rid of fish was too long lasting and not to use anymore. The last rehab was a lake west of the Divide Savage Lake that had carp in it. They really wanted to get rid of them. That's when Opheim was fish manager in Kalispell. He knew he wasn't supposed to use toxaphene but somehow or other it got poisoned with toxaphene and George asked him how on earth that could happen when we knew we had the ban on it. Well he said it just rolled out the back end of the truck and broke along the shores. We did get rid of carp west of the divide.

LS: Art, would you like to continue where we left off?

AW: Well, I think we're no longer going in a timed sequence, but we're just going back to thinks we missed the first time. One thing George brought out in his introduction that the state worked a 44 hour week when I went to work. The odd thing about it, men worked 44 hour week and women worked 38 hour week in Fish and Game. Fish and Game offices throughout the week and Saturday morning had their secretaries start at 9. The offices opened at 8:00, the biologists and wardens and parks people were there at 8 and the secretaries didn't come in till 9. The same thing occurred on Saturday mornings, so the secretaries worked a 7 hour day, five days a week plus 3 hours on a weekend and actually worked a shorter week. After that we worked a 40 hour week and the offices opened at 8 and everyone worked the same amount of time. And I say it was a male/female difference because in those days each agency had its own salary schedule. Fish and Game Department had four salary schedules for permanent personnel; one for temporaries, all different. The first one was for secretaries and at that time the secretaries were all females. The next one was operations and that was for people without a degree who did things like run the print shop, or laborer in a fish hatchery, or seining crews. The next one was technical, the people with a degree, and the fourth one was administrative, for the people who had gotten to the top. Administrative was the top and that was understandable because it was the administrators who drew up the salary schedule. There was really no difference, I think there were maybe two women who got into the operations category. The rest because they were female and because they could type were secretaries. You know, George, at one time you had Pat Levon working on a filing system that included punch cards. I can't remember, you either punched holes around the corner or there were holes in them and you put something through them, well, Pat got good at that. You gave her this

thing one day George and you said she's doing a lot more than just being a secretary. You said if we hired a guy off the street with no training and taught him how to do this he'd be over in the operations category. That was the lowest salary he could start at. He'd be two or three grades above Pat. And the only reason she's not there is because she's female and she can type. So you convinced me, I went in and discussed it with Keyes. I laid out what I've just said and he looked at me and said, well Art, you can't be a woman with a salary like that. There was no question about what she was doing that didn't enter into it at all. She was a woman, you couldn't pay her anything. So I said, why? Well, he said, women don't need it. They're just working to supplement their income, they don't need a higher salary. I found that Pat was divorced and had 4 kids at home. She needed every bit of salary she could get. But I don't think we did it at that time.

GH: No, we never did. I confronted about it later with Pat because she was a very competent person. At that time it was when Orville Lewis was Deputy Director and I didn't make it that time either.

AW: He wouldn't do it either.

GH: And, as I said before, and I think I'm right on this. It's an example of the same thing. That to be a fish hatchery man, you needed a high school education. And that was the same pay as a division secretary. And to be a division secretary you had to be above average for three years to be qualified. And they got the same thing. I remember Margaret Brooks eventually became the Director's secretary and she was angry about that policy. And she was right.

AW: She was one of the first who...Margaret was a little more vociferous. The coffee and teapot was in the Director's office and I walked in one day, it happened to be the day the Equal Rights Amendment had passed the U.S. Congress and I said something like, Margaret can I have a cup of tea? Get your own damn tea, she said, the ERA just passed.

Another thing we should mention, there was no state personnel division. There were no rules on hiring. Both of us were hired with a phone call. Neither of us had an interview. No one ever saw us before we started working. When we were expanding, we had DJ money available and we were hiring biologists. We would almost never go with the Sport Fishing Institute and put out an announcement there or every biologist coming out of school wanted to work in Montana. We had good applications. So we let it be known through Dr. C.J.D. Brown and his associates or the people in federal circles we knew, and we'd get some applicants that way. We got letters of recommendation. And we knew, one particularly, Carl Lawter. He would never write a letter without the last sentence that would be I will await your

glowing reports of this person's success in your department. Well, we knew his were worthless. In order to be hired as a fisheries biologist in Montana, either George or I had to personally know at least one of the people who was writing a letter of recommendation for the applicant, otherwise we'd just throw it out. He might be a fine guy but we didn't know.

GH: It wasn't fair, but probability was it was a good way of doing it. The few times we hired otherwise, we weren't happy with what had happened. Once you got a person who really wasn't working out then you'd go back to his letter of recommendation and you'd read between the lines and you'd see some subtle suggestions. What we really wanted was, say, if you ever send us a lemon, we aren't buying oranges from you anymore. When he said, this is a good man, you should hire him. And I say, it was not fair, but it worked and we, Art and I, would hire the very best people we could and even if they were so good they could take our jobs.

AW: We wanted someone who had good qualities. And of the people you and I hired, one, Pat Graham has been both Deputy Director and Director. Three of them, Elser, Marcoux and Johnson, were Deputy Directors. And two of them, Elser and Seaburg were Regional Supervisors. So I think our system worked.

GH: Our system of hiring summer help was somewhat the same and we got awfully good summer help. And one thing again completely unfair very often the field they'd work from sun up to sun down and any summer helper who felt you should only be working 8 hours a day, ok that's fine, you can, but when it comes to a permanent position, that person wasn't really considered. It was completely unfair, but it worked. I think we did build a tremendous staff.

LS: I remember when you guys hired me back in 1965, it was by a phone call and I always wondered, if there had been any other system, if I would have gotten the job. But that was the way it was then. You asked me if I wanted a job and I said sure. That's all there was to it.

GH: Yea, but we knew who you were.

AW: We knew Joe Halderman, we knew his recommendation was a good one. We visited with you down there. I can remember the discussion I had with Dr. Crabb after we had hired you. He was rather dumbfounded. He said, we had no idea you were trying to hire Liter Spence. And I said no, we don't really advertise. He thought we should have talked to him at first. One instance, we had an applicant from Michigan and in the letter we received from people recommending him, there was a slight indication he might have a drinking problem. We had no idea what

this amounted to so I called the fellow who was in Sport Fisheries for the District, he transferred to Commercial Fisheries back in Michigan. So I called him and asked him if he could look into this for us and tell us what they really meant. He called back in a few days and said well, seems like this fellow drinks a six pack of beer a day and they think it's a bad drinking problem. Well, we said, we won't really knock him down but if he gets out here he might have to increase his intake to fit the rest of the crew.

GH: In order words, bring him up to Montana standards.

AW: It was obvious, in Norman Maclean's book, A River Runs Through It, they always took beer along during the day. Drinking beer wasn't considered drinking. You drank beer during the day and if you wanted to drink you went out at night and drank whiskey.

LS: Art and George, what other remembrances do you have from the past, some of the early fishing regulations?

AW: Yes, when I started work the regulations had been in the same shape for some time. Originally they were on the back of a fishing license. But that was long before my time and when I came to Montana they were a small booklet that listed the regulations county by county. And if a body of water appeared in two different counties, it was listed in each county. It was alright if a person was going to fish one county but, the problem of trying to coordinate between fisheries managers and wardens in different areas, there seemed to be different regulations. If a river or stream happened to be on a county boundary, as some of them are, there were times we'd have one regulation on one side of the stream and another regulation on the other bank. Chuck Phenicie, the chief biologist when I went to work realized that was a problem and he wanted to go to a map. I don't know whether Washington had a map, that's where he came from. We all worked on it and Chuck worked harder than anyone else trying to get his booklet out of the map without making an inadvertent change in the regulations. It was a tremendous job. Listing all verbal on the map and then listing by waters and administrative districts. But he did accomplish it and it has been simplified. It's been interesting, both George and I watching over the years. Something like that can't stay simple, not when you have more fishermen getting involved, more people wanting different things from the same resource. You can't just have a blanket regulation. The simplest thing would be to say the fishing season opens from May 1 to November 30 and is closed in the winter. But that no longer works. Now they've gone back to the booklet again. Only not county by county, but a fishing region by fishing region. Both of us have seen this thing go from a complex booklet to a simple map to a complex booklet again. I guess anglers now want to know what this water they

are going to really is and now we have that. Anything that's different from ordinary is there. If you can't find it anywhere, it's standard.

LS: You always wonder if you're fishing properly on a given stream if you don't see it in the regulations.

AW: Just recently I was visited by one of the regional managers, Jim Vashro, from Kalispell. He was going to a meeting. The night before he had gone fishing on the Missouri. He said you know we really had to study those regulations to make sure we weren't doing something wrong. And he's a fish manager but from another region. It can't be simple when you have all these different factions wanting something different from the resource.

Well, I suppose we should mention our involvement in the professional societies. Both George and I have been officers in the fisheries society or its subdivisions. The society itself has gone a long ways from being run in our time with all volunteer help. I think at one time it's whole filing system was in a cardboard box in someone's basement in West Virginia. Now in Bethesda we have our own floor in a building with a lot more space. I ran for president of the western division in 1970. Managed to win only because Bud Basset's plane was late and he couldn't get there to do any politicking. Like a lot of things, once your name gets known, it seems to help. I became president of the western and you became secretary treasurer, George.

GH: Yes, but I didn't have to run. It was one of those jobs that someone had to do.

AW: Then they asked me if I'd run for the finance committee and I said yes. And I lost. I had plenty to do tho. A year later, Chuck Campbell, who was fisheries chief in Oregon asked me if I would run for second vice president. I told him I lost the finance committee the year before. I talked to Woodgerd who was the Director at the time. He said he would support me. So I ran and surprised myself by winning. At that time the society had met in rather fantastic expensive places, like Disney World, Sheraton Waikiki, in Honolulu. Posewitz said it's kinda hard to relate to this guy standing out in hip waders and mud at the end of a seine and go to places like that. The society always met with International Association of Fish Managers. And the commissioners said they would not meet at a university, they would not meet at a small town. They wanted something big. So I decided that would be my primary objective to maneuver this thing. And anytime the society wanted to they could have a split. The western was the same way, mixed up. When I was first vice president, and we planned the meeting three years in advance, I worked with a commissioner from Washington, Carl, I can't remember his last name. I told him we would like to meet separately but we didn't want to make a permanent split.

Would he be agreeable to us going to a university town? We decided West Yellowstone was a good possibility the next year to be together again. There were people with lower per diem that could stay there too. West Yellowstone appealed to the commissioners so they went along with my first idea. We split for the meeting at that time with the understanding that the next one would be West Yellowstone. The year I was president we met at the University of Rhode Island. First time AFS had split with the international association. The following year we went to West Yellowstone and was the first time the society had ever met in Montana. That seemed to work rather well too. Since that time the split has been permanent. Unfortunately, from the standpoint from the individual in the field, it seems like the society itself now takes fairly expensive meeting places too. That was one thing I'm glad I accomplished. Remember the meeting in Snowmass Colorado. Combined sessions with commissioners? Arnold Reader, a commissioner from Montana was on the program and we couldn't go because we had fisheries sessions. We actually knew what Arnold was going to say anyway. Lewis Jones, chairman of the commission at that time, complained to the director afterwards that the fisheries people run around and got drunk so much at night that they didn't get to the meetings the next day because no one was there to hear Arnold. He was right in one part, we did run around and get drunk, but he wasn't right about the meetings, we were all at our own fisheries meetings. The commissioners didn't even understand there was a split there.

LS: So, Art, what were your time periods you were with AFS?

AW: Let's see, I became president of the western division in 1970. The society was forming a lot of new sections. I became president of the fisheries administrator section. Jeff Campbell asked me if I'd run for second vice president. At the meeting in Hawaii and I think 1973, I became second vice president. In 1974 the meeting was at Ceasar's Palace in Las Vegas and in 1975 the hotel where Howard Hughes had his penthouse in Vancouver, that's the year I became president. 1977 and 1978 I became president. 1979 it was at West Yellowstone and I was past president.

LS: George, do you remember what your association with the society was, the time periods?

GH: Let's say, when the Montana chapter began, it was strictly a matter of practicality. We had always had an annual fisheries meeting and other agencies, forest service, fish and wildlife service were involved. Those got so large that they ceased to meet our needs to take care of our department business individually. About that time, another factor, we were always meeting at Montana State College, which became of course University. The meetings were with plain wooden chairs. About that time, I

don't remember when they did start these chapters. I think Dr. Brown was president of the...

AW: Dr. Brown was president of the society in 1971.

GH: Ok. Dr. Brown was really the one in the society and it was his idea that we establish a chapter. Just by being there and being involved I was kinda shooed in to be the first president of the Montana chapter. It was no big deal, but I always remember...John Peters was a member of the Montana Club and we had our social meeting at the Montana Club. Posewitz who was always a schemer, I needed someone to take registrations. It must have been more formal than just a social club. Posewitz made me an offer. He said, I'll do this if, I was always known as a teetotaler and people would pay money to see me drunk, Posewitz had a scheme. He said, ok, but you tell people you're taking drinks. The scheme was of course, if Holton was taking drinks, but I was taking drinks to Posewitz. Laney Hanzel was the only one who fell for it.

LS: The chapter presidents were for only one year?

GH: Yes. And it was very simple then. A chapter is quite profound now, but. I do not remember when I was the western division secretary.

AW: I'm sure you got on the same year I was president because I have a picture.

GH: It was probably four years. I enjoyed that job very much.

LS: That was back in the 1970's?

GH: Yes. Early '70s.

AW: Prior to that time, before Chuck Phenicie was hired in 1948, the department had no fisheries biologist at all. A biologist, Ray West, who worked for the forest service, had developed a five year stocking program for the Montana department. Prior to Ray West's time, it was just a question of each hatchery took what eggs they could and planted the fish they had where the local people wanted them and where they thought they should be. Main criteria was just the quality of fish. Ray West's program was an improvement. It set out what they should raise. It said you wouldn't plant any species if that species wasn't already there. But it had nothing to do with whether they needed stocking or not. When Chuck got the first biologist, he thought that was the first thing he had to approve. The 1954 biennial report, probably the very best one ever put out, designed by Vern Craig, and the fisheries section was written by Phenicie. It laid out a definite stocking program. It went

into what fishermen believed, how the ideas, once you get below the surface of the water, people's ideas change. They look at the number of fish and the people catching them and if they don't want to wipe it out they have to understand fishing pressure. On the other hand, they look at it as a place with unlimited capacity to plant fish. We'll just plant millions of fish and there's plenty of water to hold all these fish. Well, the commission adopted it and it was in place when you came, George. We planted catchable fish only in places that were accessible and had considerable fishing pressure. We assumed the catchable fish added a little cream to the top and didn't affect anything else. We knew the economics were haywire, we knew that the people who were catching them were not paying for them. Because 1 ten-fish limit of catchable trout was represented in an expenditure greater to the department than a seasonable fishing license. We assumed that kept those people off the places that had wild fish only. I think that was the situation when you arrived.

GH: I was impressed that you were protecting native fish too. This addressed very specifically that non native fish would not be planted where native fish were already there.

LS: Did this include mountain lakes as well as other bodies of water?

AW: Mountain lakes were a real hassle because we had very little information on them. They were not at all easy to survey and were not only hard for fishermen to get to they were inaccessible to hatchery crews. The state didn't have enough resources to.. I can remember Bob Mitchell said there were a series of lakes on the planting program and the outfitter would be arranged to take the fish to those lakes. The hatchery truck would roll up to the outfitters station and the fish would be transferred to cans on the backs of mules or horses and the outfitter would take off. That's the last the department ever saw of the fish. The fish were planted in many lakes. But some of the lakes weren't on the list because they didn't want anyone else to know where they were. It was a mess. Plus the fact that mountain lake fishing is temperamental, weather, season, sportsmen would go into a mountain lake, catch nothing and demand they be planted. In large meetings, they'd get in arguments amongst themselves. That would take the heat off the department.

GH: I think I'm correct, we had the policy that we would not plant a mountain lake unless it'd been surveyed. And at least it was my feeling that we should be conservative on this. And we came to planting, I felt that many of the vacant lakes should be left vacant just for their scientific value where fish were not impacting the invertebrates and any frogs and salamanders and that sort of thing. But as you say it was ...

AW: I don't remember. We finally developed plants with the airplane and we were able to plant fish by air. So instead of a few outfitters planting a few fish, we had the ability to plant everywhere. Any sportsmen who found a lake with no fish, would call for an airplane plant. That's when we said we won't plant until it has been surveyed.

GH: Right.

LS: We eventually got into a method of surveying those mountain lakes with helicopters.

AW: We finally caught up the helicopter. We could survey a lot more lakes and plant.

LS: As technology got better, it was quicker, like measuring the depths of the lakes, etc. Technology got better it was quicker to get into a mountain lake. Accessibility was always a problem because you had a very short window in most days because flying in the mountains you had neither morning nor evening to fly. As technology improved, we were able to do that quicker.

AW: And when we were able to use the helicopter as a boat it saved a lot of time. We used to go into a mountain lake with a rubber boat, tie the helicopter up to the shore, blow up the rubber boat and row around the lake and do your work. We finally got the helicopters more maneuverable more than the boat with a pair of oars on it.

LS: The second year I was employed we were scheduled to survey the mountain lakes in the Bitterroots. Cliff Higgins was the pilot and if you've never gotten out on a pontoon in the middle of a lake with the rotor going around your head 1000 miles an hour and the wind coming down on top of you and you're sitting on the end of a platform trying to set a gill net, you've never really experienced floating on a mountain lake. It's really quite a thrill. But the helicopter, once they used that as a boat, you could go across a lake with the depth finder in a short time and get some idea of the contour of the lake bottom.

AW: And he could hold it in a straight line to set a gill net. With a rubber boat, Nels Thoreson has pictures of a farm pond shallow enough to see the gill net and there's a rubber boat sitting on the shore with his little metal oars and here's this s-shaped gill net.

LS: We had a lot of faith in the pilots in those mountain canyons. You never tried to second guess Cliff Higgins. When he said we'd better not go in there, that was a decision. You really had a lot of confidence in the pilot. I always had a lot of

confidence in Cliff and never tried to second guess his observance of the weather. He could fly that thing out of there or in there because it was tricky to get in. It was a great thrill to ride into those canyons, particularly some of them in the Bitterroot, some of them are steep. You back into those circle eights...

AW: Helicopter is below some of the peaks.

LS: Yes. You fly right into the canyon. It was quite a thrill, particularly the first time. Flying the helicopter was one thrill and going in and landing on the lake and working off the helicopter was another thrill in itself. You sort of got used to it, but never really did. Always a lot of anxiety, adrenaline going when you're out there trying to survey the lakes with the helicopter.

AW: I never got to do that but I did do some aerial photography one time. A Cessna one time had a hole in the bottom about 18" in diameter when they installed the fish tank the pipe went down through the hole and then when the fish tank wasn't in they had a plate over it. Well, they took the plate off cause they wanted some vertical pictures. Better than standing the airplane over one wing, you could stand over the whole with the camera and the plane bouncing, you could get right over the top of the lake and take pictures. That's the closest I came to what you're describing. I was fortunate I didn't drop the camera out of the hole. Only one thing could be worse. Bob Mitchell who smoked and is also a gager, he can't stand to hold anything in his mouth he's got to be able to take it out. He was smoking when he got out of the helicopter, he'd light a cigarette. This is from Higgins, I wasn't there. He would start working with the gill net, probably stunk like fish anyway, with the cigarette in his mouth, he'd start to gag. His hands were busy with the gill net, and the cigarette, and on this little platform, about to fall off into the lake. I don't think he ever got to where he would leave a cigarette alone. He needed to smoke so badly that he just really had to get that thing going.

LS: I remember one time we surprised some fishermen one morning on one of the lakes in the Bitterroot. I can't remember the name of it; it was a tiny lake. But we flew in there and we could see these two guys down on shore and of course they could hear us coming. By the time we landed on the lake, we could look over and their eyes were just about so big, they couldn't, they thought they were so back in the wilderness all by themselves. We weren't really surveying within the wilderness boundaries, but for all practical purposes it was as far as they were concerned. They were back there having a wilderness experience and then this helicopter flies in and we tried... we didn't have any markings on the outside of the helicopter to identify it as a Fish and Game helicopter so these guys didn't know who we were. We tried with hand signals, with voice, Fish and Game Department. But the helicopter was screaming, you never stopped the engine all the way, it was always

revved up because you had to control it. I remember we went in there and set a gill net despite those guys being there. But I'll never forget their expression trying to make them understand that we weren't in there trying to steal anything. Or doing anything illegal. We were on their on official purpose. But I don't think we ever got them to understand who we were. And we're only in there for five or ten minutes doing the work. We left the gill net in the lake. We came back next day and it was untouched. They didn't have any boat so they couldn't get out to it. I believe these days you'd have a lot more trouble being by yourself, surveying mountain lakes with a helicopter because there is an increase in the number of people. In those days there wasn't. This was back in the '60s. There wasn't that many people who were back in the country. This was the only time that we ever ran into anyone. Otherwise we were all by ourselves.

LS: One time Lloyd Casagrande was going to write a book about anecdotes or funny things that happened in the department. We've all thought about doing something like that. One of the purposes of the interviews, when they first got started, was to try to put together some anecdotes of some people who had experience with the department over a long period of time and try to assemble them into some sort of booklet, whether that will take place or not, I do not know. My thought for a title of this book was, "There'll never be another Marias." Someone else said that Lloyd said the title should be "$400 a Month and a Million Laughs."

AW: Well, when I started, I started with $250 a month. I was thinking about that, I know that was true. My deduction for health insurance now is more than my salary was when I went to work. It was $150 plus $3.50 a day per diem, room and board. I can even remember when I was at Miles City going to Billings they always had a motel room for $3.00 a night, bathroom down the hall.

GH: Sure, I was always trying to find a less expensive room to save a buck and I used to stay in the Lincoln Hotel in Billings. I thought it was fine. Fletcher Newby was the Director and he tried it but never went back because the room he had the window was on the fire escape. In case of fire, you broke the glass door and then went through the fire escape.

AW: I remember Mitchell had that room at one time too. The glass on the door with chicken wire and a piece of rope.

GH: Well, you'd be the first one to escape. Or else you'd find out when everyone else started coming through your room.

LS: I can remember when the per diem for hotel rooms was $8. At that time it seemed like quite a bit.

GH: Yes, it was. I think I was going to California one time, had car trouble in Wyoming so we had to stay overnight and the motel person was very generous. He gave us a room for a family of four for $9. I remember even that stung because we always camped.

AW: When my folks were still alive, and we had three kids going back to Minnesota, we would search and usually find a motel where all five of us could stay for $10 or less. One time in Billings Christmas shopping, we stayed at a dude ranch or motel and it was $15. It seemed like it was so steep. Two of the kids had to sleep in sleeping bags on the floor too. The next day I went down to the old Alexander which was an upstairs hotel over an auto dealership where I'd stayed in Miles City and I got two rooms with a bathroom in between for $10. Everyone had a bed and all kinds of space.

GH: Things were a bit less expensive in those days.

AW: Well, the first commission meeting I really sat through was when they were all going to the Seattle World's Fair. They had the commission meeting in Missoula so they would all be closer to Seattle. They were still working on the linoleum in the Libby hatchery. They got the bid read and Steve said, that's too high. I can get a better price downtown right now. So they stopped the commission meeting and Steve got on the phone, spent half an hour calling hardware stores and got $15 off the linoleum bid. When they did an inspection of the Lewistown hatchery, he told him for $10,000 more in fish food he could double the production of the hatchery. He didn't mention that ....? carp with no fins in October, but he could double the production. He didn't spend three minutes. Passed, double the fish production, $10,000, no problem at all.

GH: You'd almost have to be an Eisenhower and write a book about World War II when you were battling something with Montgomery. And I can remember Shipley. When I first came to the department, Shipley and the people at Miles City, wanted to build the Miles City fish pond. The department was trying to do everything they could not to do it and Shipley came in as both a member of the commission. First he came in as a delegate from Miles City, then he came in as a member of the commission and voted. And we got it. Now it's a rifle range.

AW: Now it's a flat pond. You build a pond where there's no water.

GH: A pyramid, that's what it was. I admired Ralph Shipley, because he was wide awake. Some of those guys would go to sleep at the commission meeting, but not Shipley. He was sharp, knew what he wanted and knew how to get it. You can't knock success. I always figured out much better this was going to be when finally

Shipley retires from the commission. And what I learned from that was, then you get a Wines, then you get a MacDonough, and you never ... it's the same thing with a different name. You always got one.

AW: I don't suppose it would be worth talking about getting the commission room ready.

GH: Well you got a million of those. I'm afraid. Well, it was Dunkle and ... And then they would always take Governor Anderson who they particularly didn't like and a man of short stature. Anytime they were taking pictures for the commission, old Dunkle would put Anderson next to Cabunde... And you always wrote these formal letters, like Dear Director Dunkle and all this stuff. All of a sudden they got informal and it's Dear Frank. Senator Metcalf's secretary got all screwed up and got a letter for Metcalf's signature and instead of Dear Frank it was Dear Fred.

AW: No, she wrote, Dear Mr. Dunkle and he crossed out Dunkle and put Fred.

GH: Those letters are worth saving. And of course, Dunkle and the pole vaulting rods. Vince Yannon would risk life and limb with his raptors. He was climbing up to an eagle nest but he would use a power pole strap and somehow he swung around the tree and got a branch and broke some ribs. He got down ok but was very hurt. Now they've got to write a workman's comp and his supervisor has to say what happened. Posewitz said that Vince had always been clumsy. And then I like the one when we were on a terrible battle with the highway department trying to save streams. The water level route is the way to go because you have your grades. We got into a commission meeting and one of the highway commissioners said, this reminds me with a rancher with a hay rack. And he was putting his hay rack out on the road and he got across the road and the blasted tractor stalled. And this guy come up on the road and wanted to get around and sat and waited. The farmer was trying desperately to get his tractor going and the guy sat and honked and honked and honked. Finally the rancher got off his tractor and went back to the guy and said, hey. Let's you and I trade places. You try to start the tractor and I'll honk. That was his analogy to us and the highway department. I really liked that because it got us over the whole thing.

LS: Like us trying to build highways.

GH: Yes, right. I can remember one time. I got the highway guy so mad, he picked up his roll of maps and threw them down into the gully. I had him just irate. I was trying to persuade him they could make a change. He said no, no, no, this all has to come from up above. Well, I said that's exactly what Eichman said. Oh lordy that was not the thing to say.

AW: You know in the news the past couple of nights Clinton is determined they will not have multiracial on the applications. You have to check what race you're made up with. So why do we ask for that at all? We had a guy come in once who was a Mexican American. He was concerned about how many people we had of different races. We said we didn't know. He said, what do you mean you don't know? Well, we said here's our application we don't ask for that. There was nothing about race. We don't keep track of it. Well that was totally unacceptable. He said we had to keep track of that.

LS: This concludes the interview with Art Whitney and George Holton. George has written a short article, called "A Written Contribution to the Fisheries Division's Oral History Series," dated October 1997. This will be included in this history series.

End of interview.

Transcribed by Margie Peterson.
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