



**BEN AVERY**  
1909 -1996

**Honored as a Historymaker 1995**  
Journalist and Outdoor Recreation Advocate



The following is an oral history interview with Ben Avery (**BA**) conducted by Zona Lorig (**ZL**) for Historical League, Inc. on September 22, 1994 at Mr. Avery's home in Phoenix, Arizona.

*Transcripts for website edited by members of Historical League, Inc.  
Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Heritage Center Archives, an Historical Society Museum, Tempe, Arizona.*

**ZL:** Thank you, Mr. Avery for the interview and congratulations on being a Historymaker.

**BA:** Did you want to talk first about my early childhood?

**ZL:** Yes, I did. I was going to mention that you're a native of Arizona.

**BA:** Right.

**ZL:** And would you tell where you were born?

**BA:** Well, I'm not exactly sure where I was born, but I think I was born in Clifton because my birth certificate is dated Clifton, but my folks were living on the Blue River at the time above Clifton but I think my mother came in to Clifton to have a baby because her health wasn't too good.

**ZL:** And she was probably isolated.

**BA:** Very isolated. The only way you could get into Clifton was by horseback.

**ZL:** Now were they on a ranch?

**BA:** They were on a ranch yes, up on the Blue.



**ZL:** And how long had they been in Arizona?

**BA:** My mother had been in Arizona since about 1881 or 2 and my father since 1897. He had a small goat ranch up on the Blue at a place called Gadegan Springs. My mother had a small cattle ranch near one of her brothers, my uncle Will and Hugh McKeen on the Main Blue, the lower Blue just above the Box. They were below the Box. My mother's place was above the Box. When my mother went there, she was taking care of her mother who had rheumatism very bad and also tuberculosis of which she died. But she had gone up there from Hooker Hot Springs where she originally settled in Arizona.

**ZL:** Now where's Hooker Hot Springs?

**BA:** Hooker Hot Springs is about thirty-five miles west of Wilcox a little north west of Willcox on Hot Springs Canyon. It's known as the Mule Shoe Ranch and now is a part of the Nature Conservancy. My Uncle Wiley had come out there earlier and established a ranch there and my mother and her mother and father and other members of the family had remained in New Mexico and my mother and grandmother and grandfather came out to Hooker Hot Springs because they thought the hot water there would benefit my grandmother. They were living right near my uncle Wiley who had a ranch there.

**ZL:** And what was your mother's maiden name?

**BA:** Mary Elizabeth Morgan. I have a copy here somewhere of her-- she started a little cattle herd while she was there. Well she was in her twenties but she registered her brand at Hooker Hot Springs, it was FKO. It's in one of the first brand books in Arizona along with my uncle's brand which was Double R and the Mule Shoe. Those were his two brands. He killed a man there, a fella by the name of John Duncan.

**ZL:** Do you remember what time period that was?

**BA:** I could look it up. I think it was about 1897. They got into an argument over a calf of my uncle's that Duncan had branded and it ended up in gunfire and *my* uncle killed him and he immediately, because there was pretty high feelings and this man was a Mormon, so *my* uncle didn't give himself up immediately. His brother who was there and also was somewhat involved in the fight, did go into Willcox and they charged him but then dismissed the charges and *my* uncle hid out for several weeks and *my* mother would take food to him and then he finally came in and gave himself up and stood trial. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to Yuma Prison but he had a retrial because one of the witnesses had perjured himself and on the retrial he was acquitted. But in the process he had to sell the ranch and his wife and children were practically destitute, but when he got out of prison he started a new ranch at Klondike over on the upper Aravaipa which is about thirty or forty miles distant. All the rest of his life, he ranched there in Klondike.

**ZL:** Now were those trials held in Tombstone?

**BA:** They were held in Tombstone. You've probably heard of the lawyer English, an early day lawyer there. He was quite a drinker I understand. But he's the one that defended *my* uncle and got him acquitted.



It was quite a historical fight. There was an article in *Arizona Highways* magazine on that trial but I haven't been able to find it. It was back in the sixties I think.

**ZL:** Where did you go to school?

**BA:** Well I went to school all over. (Chuckle) I started at the little town of Cochise. My mother homesteaded near there.

**ZL:** So she moved from Clifton down to Cochise.

**BA:** First to Bowie, then out to Klondike for a while and then finally to Cochise. We might get into more of that later in the interview if you want to. The thing that I wanted to tell you about is my childhood in the Cochise area was prior to World War I and of course there were no automobiles, there was no ice. It was really horse and buggy West and the people who lived there had to live off the land. There were very few jobs except in the towns of course. My mother, after her divorce from my father, had to support my sister and I and they had quite a court battle in Tombstone over custody of my sister and I. My mother wanted custody but in the meantime, they both spent everything they had fighting in court. He had to start over and so did she. She first homesteaded just west of Willcox in an area known as the Five F's. It wasn't a very good homestead. She homesteaded there because my uncle Wil had homesteaded the Five F Ranch there. So she gave that up and moved over just out of the town of Cochise called Manzora Siding. That was right at the foot of the Dragoon Mountains just south of Cochise. She moved there because her younger brother, my uncle George had a ranch there. He established a ranch just out of Cochise. Her brothers gave her some help in getting along, which she needed.

**ZL:** She must have been spunky.

**BA:** I've never known anyone that had the courage that she had. She wasn't afraid of anything and she would tackle any job. She acquired an abandoned homestead and that area in there has been homesteaded by people from the Midwest and the family that homesteaded this 160 acres had lived in a dugout like they have in the Midwest in Kansas. Most of these people were from the Kansas country.

**ZL:** Which is why they named it Kansas Settlement?

**BA:** That's why they named part of that valley Kansas Settlement. When she first took this place we had to live in this dugout which was right on Manzora Wash. She lived there while her brother helped her build a one room house on a little higher and better location. When she moved there, I was only four years old. My sister was about five and a half. She had a very hard time making a living for us. She planted a garden and she had a team of horses and a wagon and a milk cow. She had gotten the milk cow from her brother. We had to haul water in fifty gallon wooden barrels and my mother would tie a piece of canvas over the top of the barrel to keep the water from splashing out.



**ZL:** Where did you have to go for water?

**BA:** We had to go to a neighbor which was about three miles away who had a well. One of the peculiar things about that part of Sulphur Springs Valley in those days was that they had a saying that you had to climb for water and dig for wood. The people would pump water by windmill up into a tank and you would get your water out of that tank. About the only wood you could find were mesquite roots. The earlier settlers had chopped off nearly all the mesquites but left the roots. We'd go out in the wagon and tie a rope on a mesquite root, tie it to the back of the wagon and then my mother would pull it up and we would load it on the wagon and go look for another one. That's how you dug for wood and climbed for water.

**ZL:** And you learned early in life about conservation.

**BA:** I guess you would call it that. Rainfall was much better then. You could dry farm in that area then. In fact nearly all of these homesteaders were dry farming. There was no such thing as a pump that you could irrigate with. We planted a garden then of course we would carry buckets of water and if the garden got dry we'd water our tomatoes and beans and then other things that we grew. And *my* sister and I would help *my* mother do that. There were a lot of prairie dogs all over that valley then. We had several dog towns on our 160 acres. When I was five years old, I sold subscriptions to *Country Gentleman* magazine to people in Cochise and neighbors. I think I had to sell six subscriptions and I got a twenty-two rifle. A little Hamilton single shot twenty-two rifle. It wasn't much stronger than a BB gun they make today, but it would shoot shorts and longs. My mother helped me get this so I could kill rabbits so we'd have some meat on the table. I remember when we went to town a man by the name of George Henshaw had this store in Cochise, you probably would know him 'cause he was County Assessor in Cochise County for many years later, but he had the Post Office in the store. I remember we went in in the buggy and got *my* rifle when it came in and I bought a box of twenty-two shorts. As I remember, I think they were twenty cents for fifty. Then we started home in the buggy. Got almost home and a big old jackrabbit crossed the road in front of the buggy and stopped and *my* mother stopped the horse and told me to shoot that jackrabbit. So I scrounged around on the seat of the buggy, took aim at the jackrabbit and fired and the jackrabbit never moved. I thought I'd missed it. Well I fired two or three more shots and it still didn't move. I told *my* mother I said, "Well I think I hit that jackrabbit." So I climbed down out of the buggy then went over there and got right close to him and shot him in the head. My first shot had grazed his head and he was just sitting there stunned. Anyhow, he was so tough we had to feed him to the dog. Then I started out hunting out cottontails. Rabbits were so tame, I could get up within eight or ten feet of them and I got to be deadly on cottontails. I had that little twenty-two for several years till our house burnt down one time and it burned up in the fire, but I killed a lot of rabbits. During World War I when it came along, we couldn't get flour hardly, occasionally we could get flour, but we ran out of flour once and *my* mother had raised some corn, then we had to grind corn in our coffee grinder to make bread. Our supper every night was clabber milk and bread. I think that's probably the most healthful food there is.

**ZL:** How was that corn bread?



**BA:** It wasn't very good. It needed flour. It probably needed some other things too but it needed flour. It was crumbly, very crumbly. But we couldn't get sugar hardly at all. During World War I they did sell corn sugar made out of corn. It was pretty lousy sugar. It left a sweet taste in your mouth like some of these artificial sweeteners. But we could get syrup. I think Log Cabin made syrup in those days and if we had syrup and bread, that was one of the real treats. Occasionally, you could get brown sugar. For *my* sister and I, that was our candy, lumps of brown sugar.

**ZL:** Did your mother raise cattle?

**BA:** When she first started out, she didn't have any but her brother gave her a couple of cows and they had calves and she wound up by about 1916 with about fifteen or twenty head of cows. She was very disturbed then about Pancho Villa who was raiding across the border. She had remarried in 1915 and she wanted to move and she leased the ranch, or he just let her use it, from Alfred McKinney on the lower Aravaipa and we moved everything we had down there. It took us six weeks and we had two wagons, drove our cattle and we lived there only one year. My mother couldn't stand the weather down there, it was real damp. So her husband stayed there. They separated. But the year before, I had started in the first grade and *my* sister and I walked to school about three miles to Cochise. Mrs. Helen Bruner was the teacher of this one room schoolhouse and she taught there all of her life until she finally had to retire but she still lived there. She died just a few years ago. She was 100 years old. She died over her in John Lincoln Hospital and *my* sister and I went to see her just before she died. She taught us in the first grade and also in the third grade later when we came back from Aravaipa. But the second grade, we went to school on the Aravaipa.

**ZL:** Was that a one room school house?

**BA:** That was a one room. We never had anything but one room school houses. When we came back from Aravaipa, we went to school in Cochise one year. Then we went to school in Cochise Stronghold because my mother knew a family that lived over there and the lady was real sick and they hired my mother to come and take care of her, so my sister and I lived there too with them. Their name was Holman. His name was Bill Holman. He was a well driller. Went to Cochise Stronghold and they didn't have a fourth grade. They didn't have anybody but me that would have been in the fourth grade but there was two other kids in the fifth grade so I went and started in the fifth grade. I skipped the fourth. We only went to school there one year and then I was eight years old, somewhere in there. But anyhow, after we got out of school, Mr. Holman was drilling a well over at Riggs Settlement on the east side of Sulphur Springs Valley over near Chiricahua National Monument and he took me with him to help him. He was kind of an alcoholic. He was from Oklahoma and he was mostly Indian but he drank what they called Choctaw beer and they make this out of corn and yeast and sugar. They'd let it ferment and they'd scrape off all the stuff that rose to the top and the rest of it was beer. It was pretty potent. He would drink that darn beer and he taught me how to loose the well drill outfit and watch the cable when it got or got too tight to give it more cable so the bit would keep going down. I was just a little kid but I learned to do that. He'd get drunk and sleep nearly all day. Ida Riggs who was, more or less, later head of the Riggs



clan, lived right near where we were drilling this well and I got real well acquainted with her. We'd call her aunt Ida. She would kind of see to it that I didn't starve to death. Anyhow, that was quite an experience for a young kid.

**ZL:** Yes, you were awfully young to be doing that.

**BA:** Well you know kids were old for their age in those days. That was a real experience in my childhood. The next year, we moved into Willcox. My mother got a job in Tucson and my sister and I lived by ourselves in Willcox and went to the sixth grade in Willcox. Ruby Fulghum was our teacher. You probably knew Ruby because she was County School Superintendent for years down there and in later life, a good friend of mine. But that was the closest I ever came to getting a whipping in school. I got in a fight with one of the Adcock boys and Ruby kept a piece of garden hose in the closet and every once in a while she'd use it and she threatened to use that on me if I got into another fight.

**ZL:** And you believed her.

**BA:** I believed her. I never got in another fight. We went to the sixth grade there and then the next year our mother was still in Tucson. We moved out to Klondike to stay with my uncle Wiley. His first wife had died in 1918 during the flu epidemic but he remarried a school teacher named Mrs. Duffey. She had two daughters. And in those days you had to have 12 kids to have a school and they had a school at Klondike but my uncle's ranch extended all the way across the Galiuros to the San Pedro River. You had the I Cross I Outfit then. It was real big. They wanted to start a school at Copper Creek 'cause they had a number of kids in that area and they needed two more kids so my aunt got the job teaching and took me and one of her daughters and we went over to Copper Creek for the seventh grade. There wasn't anything to do there but study and I made both the seventh and eighth grades in one year and graduated from the eighth grade in Copper Creek when I was 11 years old. (Chuckle) Her oldest daughter and my sister had graduated from the eighth grade at Klondike so the next year, we had three kids to go to high school and my aunt Mable moved into Willcox so that we could live there and go to high school. Then my mother came back from Tucson and got a job in Willcox cooking for a restaurant there and we went our freshman year in high school in Willcox and they had just built the new high school there. It's all torn down now, they have another new one. But this was in 1920/1921. After we finished the first year of high school, a friend of my mother's in San Bernardino, California wrote to her and asked her to come over there, that she could get work better over there, so we went over there. I went down to the produce center every morning and got a job with a fellow that had a produce store in Victorville, California. I got acquainted with him and he asked me if I wanted a job and I told him I sure did. So I got a job with him and he and his wife had this little store and they gave me a job of helping and he let me drive the delivery truck, a little Chevrolet truck to deliver vegetables around town. That was kind of my childhood.

**ZL:** So did you go to school that year?

**BA:** I went to school in Victorville two years. Then *my* mother got sick and couldn't work anymore so I



quit high school in *my* senior year. I was fifteen years old and I had to lie to get a job but I got a job at the cement plant just outside of Victorville. I was the same size I am now. I weighed the same then as I do now. So even though I was only 15 years old, I developed pretty fast as a man at the age of 15. I held a number of odd jobs. My sister got married and so *my* mother would spend part of the time with her and part of the time with me. Then I held odd jobs here and there and moved back to Arizona.

**ZL:** When did you move back?

**BA:** Came back to Arizona in the fall of 1924 and worked two weeks in Jerome and I was still too young. I had to lie about *my* age all the time. And then in 1925, went down to Camp Verde and went to work in the salt mine there. I worked in the mine for a little while, then got a job as swapper on the truck hauling timbers from the old Murphy Sawmill out by Stoneman Lake. Worked on the truck until winter came. We got caught in a snow storm at Stoneman Lake. It snowed 18 inches over night while we were asleep and the next morning we tried to get out with the truck and we got about half way around the lake and it slid off into a ditch and we had to abandon it with a load of timbers on it and hike around to the-- they had a little store there and two or three cabins. We hiked around there and stayed till the storm quit and then we started walking out to go back to Camp Verde and about four or five miles down the hill we got a ride and got back to Camp Verde. Left the truck there all winter. Of course that ended our jobs. (Laughter by both) That was quite a time. I spent the rest of that winter in Camp Verde trapping. That year beaver skin coats were real popular. I mean coon skin coats were real popular with college kids back east. I remember I made nine dollars on each coon skin if it was a good one. So I spent the rest of the winter trapping coons (chuckle) which was lot of fun. From there I went back to California and worked about a year in Imperial Valley and then came back to Arizona and settled in Globe. That was in 1927. First when I got back to Globe I worked for a while. I worked for a couple of weeks doing assessment work on some mining claims for old Bill Reynolds after who Reynolds Creek up there is named. When we finished that job I came back to Globe and went to work for the Vance Bakery there wrapping bread for a short time. Then I wanted to get into something a little better so I got a job as an apprentice meat cutter at the Clark Meat Market. That was just across the street from the newspaper office. I got acquainted with the town's only reporter, Henry Fine. I would kind of pal around with him in the evenings when he was gathering news and he would let me type some of the stories we gathered, but I'd ask him. And then he suggested to me that I write a feature story about something. I worked on that and managed to do it and I kept doing that for quite a while. During that period I had gotten acquainted with Bill Strode who was the editor of *The Silverbelt* in Miami and on Labor Day weekend they always had a big blowout in Miami to celebrate Labor Day. This year they inaugurated a race from Superior over the mountain to Globe along with the other Labor Day celebrations. So Bill Strode hired me to cover this race and to cover the other races and things there in town. That was *my* first experience covering a news story. That was just a one event deal but I kept writing those stories for *The Arizona Record*. I'd get a story and I wouldn't know exactly how to put it together. I'd take a copy of *The Arizona Republic* and find a similar story in there and study it and see how to write a story. That's how I learned to write newspaper stories. About the first part of 1928, Henry Fine quit and went back to California. He was from there. Meantime, *my* mother had come back to live with me and *my* sister and brother-in-law. He



had gotten a job down on the construction of Coolidge Dam. I had rented an apartment in the old Meadows Apartment Building in Globe. My mother and I were living there and I was working at the meat market and the editor of the paper Ralph Heron lived in the apartment right next to us and he was taking care of his mother who was real old. So his mother and *my* mother got pretty well acquainted and when Henry Fine left, I'd gotten acquainted with Ralph pretty good 'cause I was in and out of the office, and he asked me if I would like to take the job as *The Record's* only reporter. I said "I sure would" because I liked it. So I quit the meat market and went to work for *The Arizona Record* and that was the beginning of *my* newspaper career really.

*(Mr. Avery reads from prepared copy for several sentences)* "My career as a newspaper man began in 1928 with *The Arizona Record* in Globe and Ralph Heron the editor hired me to replace his only reporter Henry Fine who had left without warning to take a job in Los Angeles and he recommended me. My experience was about nil but Mr. Heron and I lived next door in a local apartment house. We both were responsible for our elderly mothers who had become close friends and he decided to give me a chance to learn the newspaper business. I had been working at odd jobs since I was 12 years old but I finally found something I really wanted to stick to. As the town's only reporter, I immediately began forming many friendships, the most important to me was a lifetime association with Judge Clifford C. Faires of Gila County Superior Court. Judge Faires, a true southerner and devoted hunter and fisherman had no son and we almost immediately adopted each other because *my* mother's and father's divorce took place before I was a year old and I had never known *my* father and having grown up pretty close to the land with a 22 rifle, I was a ripe prospect to learn the finer points of hunting and fishing and Judge Faires was a willing teacher. He kept a Llewellyn setter, Old "T", as fine a pointing dog and retriever as anyone ever hunted over. A dog a 19 year old couldn't help but love. In those days you couldn't ask for better help for better quail hunting than you had within fifteen miles of Globe, south and east of town. We traveled as far as the Ft. Thomas area along the Gila River hunting ducks.

It just so happened that Arizona sportsmen were embroiled in a statewide campaign in 1928 to change the way the state managed its wildlife. Waging this campaign was the Arizona Game Protective Association, part of a national organization, The American Game Protective Association which I believe was headed by Dean Garling, editorial cartoonist for *The St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Judge Faires became the leader in organizing the Gila County Game Protective Association and I just naturally became an active salesman of memberships and tickets to an organizing banquet at two dollars each. It followed that I became involved in the meetings of The Arizona Game Protective Association and in helping publish a new magazine *Arizona Wildlife* to help wage the campaign to abolish the office of State Game Warden appointed by the governor and establish a three member commission to administer a new state game code patterned after laws proposed by The American Game Protective Association. During that campaign, we traveled to meetings every evening around the state and I formed friendships with leaders of this campaign in many communities. History records that our campaign was successful and the following January the legislature adopted a new state game code and it was signed into law by Governor John C. Phillips. That campaign marked the beginning of *my* career sideline as an outdoor writer leading to writing an outdoor column for *The Arizona Republic* in 1945.





My work on *The Arizona Record* also led to another career sideline, covering Arizona's continuing fight for Colorado River water. This long struggle started in 1918 with the formation of The League of the Southwest by governors of the seven Colorado River Basin states, with then Arizona Governor, Tom Campbell taking a leading role. The League objective was to get a Colorado River Compact to establish legal division of the water of the river between the states so federal assistance could be obtained to build water storage and diversion projects. This effort had succeeded and in 1921, the Colorado River Compact Commission was established with Herbert Hoover as Chairman. They finally completed a compact at Santa Fe which was signed by Governor Campbell but he was defeated in the next election and Governor Hunt.

However, the other states went ahead with the leadership of California, and eventually the Boulder Canyon Project Pact was passed by Congress in 1929 and signed into law by President Hoover who had served as Chairman of the Colorado River Compact Commission. This cleared the way for building of Boulder later renamed Hoover Dam. But Arizona was still fighting the development because we had not signed the Compact.

After the Boulder Canyon Project Act was signed, Arizona decided to challenge the constitutionality in the Supreme Court because of the fact that only six of the states had signed the compact. The governor at that time appointed Clifton Matthews a law partner of E.W. Rice, Rice & Matthews in Globe as a Special Assistant Attorney General to file a lawsuit challenging this act. I had become quite well acquainted with Clifton Matthews and he gave me a lot of inside information on the thing and I continued to cover the suit. *The Globe Record* really was one of the state's leading newspapers. It was almost as big as *The Republic* at that time. During the Depression it almost folded up, but prior to the Depression, it was a pretty large newspaper. I continued to cover this story after this lawsuit was settled in 1931. At that time I had left *The Record* and was working for United Press in Phoenix and so I wrote a feature story on the lawsuit settlement when the Supreme Court denied Arizona's petition and threw it out, said we didn't have standing in the court but they did uphold the constitutionality of the Boulder Canyon Project because Senator Hayden had inserted language in that act actually making a division of water to Arizona. It specified that we should get 1.2 million acre feet plus an additional million acre feet to protect our interest in the waters of the Gila River and that language eventually was upheld by the Supreme Court and the long lawsuit we had with California many years later. That's how I got involved with our long Colorado River life. I continued working for *The Record* for a short while.

**ZL:** I'm going to back up here. You were at the *Miami Silverbelt*.

**BA:** Well, that was the first.

**ZL:** And then you went to the *Arizona Record*?

**BA:** Well I started my career really with *The Record*. I just did a short assignment for *The Silverbelt*. But then the papers in Miami/Globe were owned by the mining company and Mr. Heron wanted me to go to



work for Bill Walsh who was editor of *The Miami Bulletin* and an ex-school teacher and a real grammarian. You know what a grammarian is. Bill wanted me to come over there. He needed a reporter so I went over there and Ralph got someone to take my place on *The Record* and worked for Bill Walsh starting about April or May of 1929. I worked six months over there. But Walsh was a real journalism teacher. He really worked to try to teach me how to write and proper use of words. It was almost like going back to school, but it was something I really appreciated. I worked for Bill Walsh on *The Bulletin* as their only reporter until the Depression hit October 19, 1929, the day the stock market busted. Only a couple of weeks later, *The Miami Bulletin* folded up so I went back to *The Record* and I continued to work on the record then until July 1931. They had been a daily all these years and the Depression got so bad that *The Record* decided to go to a by- weekly publication. There was another newspaper man in town who was married and had a family and he was out of work. His name was Klondike J. Dodd. He was a pretty good newspaper man. We had a telegraph wire. I put a little note on the wire that I would like another job and almost immediately I got a message back from Phoenix from the United Press that they had an opening and offered me a job to come to Phoenix. This was early in 1931 so I talked it over with Ralph Heron and he gave the job to Klondike Dodd on *The Record* and I packed up and went to Phoenix the next day and went to work for United Press which was on the seventh floor of the old Heard Building and of course *The Republic/Gazette* was on the mezzanine and second floors and we had a hydraulic tube we stuffed our stories in that went down the news desk at *The Republic*. When I worked for United Press they had another reporter by the name of Bill Turnbow plus a bureau manager. At that time we were serving six newspapers in Arizona and one of us would work in the office a week, the other one would cover the Capitol and then we'd change off. That's when I started covering the Capitol in 1931 about June. In the meantime, Governor Hunt had defeated Governor Phillips in the 1928 election and was back in the Governor's office. No, that was the 1930 election he was back in the Governor's office and Bill Strode who had been editor of *The Arizona Silverbelt*, my old friend from Miami, was Governor Hunt's secretary. Governor Hunt was a crotchety old man and at that time he was senile.

**ZL:** This was his seventh term?

**BA:** This was his seventh and last term, yeah. And he had a rule in dealing with the press. He would issue a press release and the reporter is supposed to take that and print it, not ask him any questions. Well I wasn't in that rut so I got a press release, I wanted some more details so I would go to Hunt and he'd say, "Well talk to Bill." So I talked to Bill and he would give me whatever information I wanted. So I got to where I was covering the Capitol better than anybody because I wasn't just taking Hunt's press release.

**ZL:** Had you known Hunt in the Globe-Miami area?

**BA:** I hadn't really known him. I'd seen him and heard him talk but I didn't really know him very well. I got acquainted with him when I was covering the Capitol. But I had a run in with Hunt. He vetoed the legislative appropriation that year for the bug stations and the Yuma farmers were up in arms and they organized a delegation to come to the Capitol to try to get him to call a special session and to re-establish the appropriation.



**ZL:** Now elaborate on the bug stations.

**BA:** Those are the agricultural inspection stations that we used to have at each entrance highway to the state and they would stop all the cars and inspect them for plant pests. At that time, California had citrus red scale and Arizona's citrus orchards were free of it. The Yuma people particularly living so close to California were really upset and I had gotten acquainted with some Yuma farmers when I was traveling around the state with Judge Faures to get the game and fish code established, and one of these farmers who had come up here I knew. I met them in the rotunda of the Capitol as they were going up to see the governor and I told them I said, I'll wait till you get through. I'd like to find out what happens, how you come out. So when they got through talking to the governor which wasn't very long, they came out and they were madder than hop because he flatly refused to do anything for them. So they gathered around and gave me all the details in their meeting with the governor and what he had said and so I went up to the governor's office and Bill handed me a press release and he said, "The governor isn't going to have anything more to say." So I wrote the story and quoted the farmers as to their interview with him and gave the governor's statement that he wouldn't have anything to say. As a Republican he was sitting on the front page the next morning and of course they didn't like Hunt anyhow. They played it up pretty good. I went to the governor's office the next morning and Hunt never had his door closed. You could just walk into his office. You didn't have to have an appointment or anything. I walked into the office and the old man was sitting there looking out the window--that's where you found him nearly every morning, sitting there looking out the window. He turned around and saw me and he never even spoke. He yelled, "Bill come here. Bill Strode." Bill came running in the office. He said, "Throw him out the window." He said, "I don't ever want to see him again." Of course Bill was pretty upset because he and I were good friends. So I tried to argue with the old man and he wouldn't even listen. He just said, "Throw him out." Well I didn't make any issue of the thing. I went ahead and a couple of days later, he'd forgotten all about it. But that was quite an incident to start your career covering the Capitol.

**ZL:** Now at some point in there during the Depression did you go to Prescott?

**BA:** No. Well I did, yes. I worked for United Press Treaties for about six months. All of our papers around the state folded up. They quit taking our telegraph leased wire and went to either pony or nothing. So they laid both Bill and I off, closed the bureau and they just had an office boy tear off the news releases and send them down to *The Republic* because they didn't cover anything so they laid off Bill Turnbow and I both and the bureau chief was transferred to Kansas City. But they kept the machines running and the office boy serviced them. Bill went to work for *The Arizona Republic*. He had already had an application in there. I got a job right away with *The Prescott Journal Miner*. They needed a reporter.

**ZL:** Now was that a daily?

**BA:** At that time it was a daily, yeah. So I went to Prescott and this was about September of 1931 and went to work for *The Prescott Journal Miner*. I worked for *The Prescott Journal Miner* until sometime in



January or February 1932 when they folded up completely and with *The Prescott Courier*, took over all their facilities and everything. So I was out of a job.

**ZL:** Papers had a really tough time didn't they?

**BA:** It was really tough during those Depression years. You can't imagine. By that time in 1932, just about everything was closed down. That's when they were just beginning to start trying to help people but Hoover was still President and the federal government was still providing no assistance at all. So I went back to Globe and I lived with Judge Faires because I didn't have a job and no place else to go. A fella who was running a little bottled water company there, he had folded up so I had a car so I took over his bottled water route for a while until people finally just quit buying bottled water. But in the meantime, when I was still working at the meat market in Globe, *my* dad had found out where I was and came over to see me.

**ZL:** You hadn't seen him in a long time?

**BA:** I hadn't seen him ever until then. I was almost 20 years old before I ever saw him. But he came over to see me and we started corresponding. When I went back to Globe, I got a letter from him asking me if I wanted to come over and work for him. I jumped at the chance. I routed up a bedroll and loaded it in the car. I had an old Ford Touring car that I had bought for ten dollars. Somebody had abandoned it at a garage there and I bought it for ten dollars. So I cranked up the old Ford and took off for New Mexico.

**ZL:** Now this ranch was where?

**BA:** About twenty miles north of Silver City. Of course when I landed there, all I had was a bedroll and a few clothes and that was it. We went into town and he bought me a saddle which I was to pay forty dollars. I was to get twenty dollars a month and room and board and clothes which was twenty dollars a month in found and he says, "That ain't very much," but he said, "There's a lot of cow punchers around here that are just working for their board." Anyhow, that was a real enjoyable episode in *my* life because *my* dad and I immediately got along real good. I had worked around cattle a lot when I was younger with *my* uncle--*my* uncles, but I learned to be a cow puncher pretty fast. I worked for *my* dad a little over a year. It was still 1933, so it was about a year and a half. He remarried and the lady he married was really a wonderful person. They wanted me to stay but things were still real tough and I decided I'd strike out on *my* own. My stepmother had owned a barber shop in Long Beach, California. Her barber shop was destroyed in that 1932 earthquake so she had come over to live with a sister of hers who she and her husband had a ranch about two miles from ours. My dad got acquainted with her and they were just like two kids. He'd go over to see her and pick a bouquet of flowers along the way. He really fell for her. She was a wonderful person. She was raised on a farm in Texas. They decided to get married. I left and came back to Arizona.

**ZL:** How was food during the Depression?

**BA:** We raised most of our own. When I was on the ranch, we had our own beef and we used to garden. Of



course we had to buy flour and sugar and lard and stuff like that.

**ZL:** Did you trade for it?

**BA:** No, dad had enough money. He had a pretty good size ranch but he borrowed money each year 'till he sold cattle, if he needed to from the bank, so he had good credit. I remember though he had borrowed money to buy this ranch. He had had ten thousand dollars in a bank in Silver City that went broke and he lost it. Then this old ranch went broke and it had been a big ranch. As a matter of fact they gathered about 6,000 cows off their ranch when it went broke.

**ZL:** That would have been what time period?

**BA:** It went broke in 1926.

**ZL:** That was a lot of cows that late, wasn't it?

**BA:** Yeah. They gathered these cows over 1926 and 1927 and the ranch was up for sale in 1928 and my dad bought it. It was 1929 when he bought it. He was supposed to get a remnant of 100 wild cows that they couldn't catch. That's one of the reasons he asked me to come over there, he needed help trying to catch these cattle. So we worked there and altogether he gathered about 300 head.

**ZL:** Was this rough country?

**BA:** It was very rough country. My dad had built traps to trap these cattle in the water holes. They were trigger traps. The cattle could go through the trigger going in but then they couldn't get back out. Of course there was some of the places where there was water you couldn't build a trap on. We got about 300 head of those cattle. In the meantime, he had practically given his former ranch away and moved his cattle over there too. Even after we gathered the 300 head, there was about ten or twelve old steers that we couldn't catch--we had to shoot. We had to go hunting for them just like deer, up in the real rough brushy country. And then my dad gave the rest of the remnant to a neighbor of his by the name of Bill Furr who was a brother-in-law of the lady he married. Bill gathered nearly 100 head after my dad had given the rest of the remnant. So that was how wild and scattered the cattle were. They had scattered all over. We were getting the word from ranchers maybe twenty miles away that they'd seen one of these old 80 cows, 'cause they had been branded with a big 80 on the side. We'd cover the whole side of the cow nearly. But they were wilder than snakes. We caught one old cow in a little canyon up there, there was a spring in this canyon, and this old cow had lost all of her teeth and she was branded with K Bar which was one of the brands that dad bought with the ranch, but there hadn't been anything branded K Bar for twenty years. So this old cow had to be over twenty years old. But she was living in this little canyon full of mountain mahogany which is real rich food and she could eat it without any teeth.

**ZL:** So she didn't move, she just stayed right there.



**BA:** She didn't move. She was fat as butter and in trying to lead her out, she was fighting us all the way in. She got over heated and we had to kill her, so we killed her and butchered her and it was the finest meat you ever ate. She hadn't been doing any running or anything. She was in real good shape. But that was a real experience working with *my* dad there. So I left when he remarried in 1933 and came back to Arizona. Meantime, *my* brother- in-law and sister had moved to Willcox and *my* mother was living with them. I went down there and got a job packing for the Forest Service over in the Chiricahua Mountains.

**ZL:** Now describe that job.

**BA:** Well they had thirteen Spanish mules and you would think they were about half broke. None of them liked to carry a pack and it was a job packing them. But they had just started the Civilian Conservation Corps and they had built a CCC camp there at the Portal Ranger Station on the Chiricahuas. Of course the Forest Service, these boys were doing work for the Forest Service all over the forest there and they had set up flag camps around. They hired me to pack the supplies to these different flag camps. That was *my* job with these twelve, thirteen mules. There was two or three of them you had to neck them to something to put a pack on them and they could almost kick you when you were standing by their head. But after you got the pack on them, you would tie them all together, the head of one to the tail of the one in front, and they would travel along without any trouble. You never had any trouble with them.

**ZL:** Now did you lead them?

**BA:** Well sometimes I would lead them. Sometimes I would drive them. But normally I would lead the one in the lead and the rest would all follow.

**ZL:** Did you ride a mule or horse?

**BA:** I rode a horse. But then when you actually got to where you were going and unpacked them, you had no trouble with them then, they wanted to go home, go back to the stable. But every morning when you packed those darn mules, you really had to fight. But it was an interesting job. One of my jobs--they were building a fire lookout tower on Fly Peak and one of the jobs I had was packing steel up to the top of Fly Peak from the end of the road. That was a pretty tough job. I'd have to pack that steel on two mules and had hooks like you'd use packing wood that you tied to the pack saddle and they'd hang down on each side. They were a piece of level wood with a fork on it that made a hook. You'd put the end of a piece of steel on one mule and the other end on the one behind it.

**ZL:** How long was this steel?

**BA:** Well some of them were 10 and 15 feet long. And there was one bend in the trail that you could barely get around with those mules. Nearly every day you'd have trouble going around that bend because it was around a pointed rock. I didn't want to lose a mule so I had quite a job with those darn mules but it was interesting. And then I only stayed on that about two or three months. The Forest Service had cancelled the



permit for the cattle, I can't remember the name of that cattleman right now. His headquarters was in Paradise just over the hill from the ranger station and he needed somebody to help him gather those cattle. It was kind of down *my* alley.

**ZL:** You'd been doing that.

**BA:** I'd been doing that so I went to work for him and quit the Forest Service. But these cattle were really wild. They'd gathered all the more gentle ones and we just had to clean up the tail end of them. That Cave Creek Basin was one of the brushiest places on earth. It was really brushy. We would have to rope these cows and there was three of us working. You'd rope one and tie her up then come back the next day and lead her out. If you tied her up overnight she'd kinda quit fighting the rope and you'd come back the next day, you could lead her out. That's the way we got them out of there. It was rough work. I worked there 'till we got all we could find then I quit and went back to Willcox. My mother had homesteaded--her brother, uncle George had homesteaded over near the San Pedro River, in fact it was not too far from Hooker Hot Springs. He had homesteaded over there and this was just before the Taylor Grazing Act was passed in 1935. He got my mother to homestead a section of land near his. Of course the idea was when she proved up on it, he'd buy it from her. He had homesteaded toward the end of 1934, maybe early 1935. He wanted to fence his section of land so he asked me if I'd go over and help him but he didn't have any money to pay me so he gave me a horse. A little steel dust mare. She was really a pretty animal. He said he'd give me this horse if I'd go over and help him. So I went over there and worked about three months with him fencing this.

**ZL:** What did you use for fence posts?

**BA:** We had to cut them from cedars and mesquite. Whatever we could find.

**ZL:** That was on the property?

**BA:** Yeah. Even if it was off the property in a wash or something.

**ZL:** But close, I mean you didn't haul them in?

**BA:** Oh no, we had to pack them in. I worked about three months with him on that. He had given my mother six heifers to make her ranch homesteading legitimate and those heifers, she didn't have it fenced and they had wandered off. She was staying over near Willcox with my sister and brother-in-law. After I got through helping Uncle George build his fence, he said, "You better go see if you can find those heifers." So I started out looking for them and I'd never even seen them but they had her brand on them. I started down to the river and about ten miles up the river I found the first one and I kept riding and looking for these darn heifers and my Uncle Will bought a little place up at Benson in the meantime and after I found this one, I found a second one at the old White House Ranch which was about half way to Benson. So I decided then I'd go up to Benson and stay with my Uncle Will while I hunted for the rest of them. I



finally found all six of those heifers. The last two of them were in the mesquite thickets down the river there just outside of St. David which was fifty miles from where they started. So I gathered them up and drove them back down and put them in *my* Uncle George's pasture. I was out of a job then and needed to get one. But I had this little mare that Uncle George paid me for helping him build a fence and I had a real good saddle I brought with me from New Mexico so I saddled up and headed down the river. I'd heard that the mines were beginning to open up in Mammoth. I headed down the river and I had a shirt tail relative in Mammoth, Mrs. George Young. When I had lived on Copper Creek, they had a mine there and one of *my* cousins married her oldest daughter Molly. My cousin Bert had married her and she was living at Mammoth then. Her husband had died so I rode down there and I went to her house and she took me in and said she was sure I could find a job. Well it so happened another cousin of mine was living in Mammoth then. Her name was Daisy Willerford. She had married a fella by the name of Willerford. But she was the daughter of *my* Uncle Wiley's daughter who had died during a flu epidemic too in 1918 and Daisy's father had remarried and then after she got out of high school, she married this Harvey Willerford. They were living in Mammoth. Daisy and I played together as kids when I was going to school in Copper Creek. So I started looking for a job there and everybody was on WPA welfare. But they were starting to open up the old Mammoth Mine.

**ZL:** Now what did they mine?

**BA:** It was a gold mine but it turned into mostly lead. They weren't getting much gold. The store keeper there, a fella by the name of Pink Stewart told me that he had a friend back in the hills there that was looking for somebody to work for him. I said, "Well I want a job." He said, "Well, he always comes in on Wednesday to get groceries--no, on Saturdays to get groceries, so if you come down here Saturday and wait around, he'll be in." So I went down and this fella came in - he and his wife. They had an old car. His name was Cel Tar actually short for Marcellus Grant Tar. He had been a miner all of his life. He started in Cripple Creek, Colorado when he was twelve years old and he made his living mining. He'd worked in Bisbee and all the mining camps all over Globe, Bisbee and he had held the world championship singlejacking --drilling with a hammer. He was working this little mine back in the hills from Mammoth and he was using hand tools altogether. So Pink Stewart introduced me to him and he said, "You really want to work?" I said, "You bet I want to work." So he said, "All these bums around here," he said, "I've been trying to hire somebody, and all they want to do is work for WPA." I said, "Well I don't want to work for WPA, I want a job." So he said, "Well get your stuff and come with me." So I had to put my horse in a pasture across the river with a fella by the name of Clark--a family over there that had a farm. I had left my saddle stuff with Mrs. Young and gathered up what little bed roll I had and climbed in his car and went up to his mine. It was about seven miles out of Mammoth and he and his wife were living there alone and he was trying to work this mine my himself. He had acquired a little three stamp mill and was trying to set it up. He just couldn't hardly get anything done without help. So he and I pitched in. We set this little mill up. He had an old Chevrolet engine to run it and he had gotten an old table from the old Mammoth Mine down there that had been abandoned and with this engine you could shake that table and it would separate the gold after it was ground up, but you'd grind it up with this three stamp mill and then as the crushed ore flowed out of the mill it would flow over a pad with quicksilver which would catch all the loose gold and





then the rest we'd run over this table with the old Chevrolet engine powered both the stamp mill and the table. We would go up to the mine every morning early and go in and muck out the ore that we had shot down the day before and load it on his little truck, and then we'd drill some holes in the face of this tunnel and when we got them all drilled we'd blast and leave and take the ore we got out back down to the mill and put it through. We were able to do this in an eight hour day. He had been a member of the old Western Mining Union and his creed was, "If you can't make a living working eight hours a day, you ought to starve to death." (Chuckle) He was really a character. He was as Irish as they ever made anyone and he could tell stories day in and day out and never tell the same one twice about his experiences mining over the years. I worked there with him and surprisingly, we made about \$3.50 a day a piece out of this little mine. Every two weeks he'd take the gold we had into Tucson and sell it. And that was pretty good wages in those days.

**ZL:** Yes, a lot better than what you'd been making.

**BA:** I really enjoyed his company and his wife was a real good cook and she fed both of us. It was a real good experience. Everything has to come to an end and he had a grandson in Ventura, California that had been in the Marine Corps and got out and he didn't have a job and he had to have a job somewhere so his sister over there had written to him and asked him if Paul could come over and work for him, so Paul came over. Two people could do pretty good in this little mine but three wouldn't be able to make much. So I left...

**ZL:** He was talking about going to work at the mine at Sombrero Butte.

**BA:** Well the job I got at Sombrero Butte surprising was running a diesel engine to generate power and I'd never run a diesel engine in my life but it only took me about an hour to learn how to do it and they taught me how to run this engine and I worked the night shift up there running that diesel engine. I would go to work in the late afternoon and then put in a twelve hour shift and run it all night. So all you had to do really is kind of watch it and make sure everything was oiled and running right. I worked there for I don't remember how long it was but in 1936 before I left to go to New Mexico, I had put in an application with *The Tucson Citizen* for a job down there. Alfred Hitchcock was publisher of *The Citizen* then and he had offered me a job but he only wanted to pay me eight dollars a week and I wouldn't take it. Well he had died in the meantime. He was quite a guy. He was Postmaster General under Calvin Coolidge I think. He was a big Republican and he actually got the prison labor camp there to build that highway up the Catalina Mountains to Mount Lemon. So he was quite an established character in the Tucson area.

**ZL:** Had he moved to Tucson after he was Postmaster General?

**BA:** Yeah. But the fella that was running *The Citizen* then. I didn't know him very well but after Hitchcock died, I would go into Tucson periodically to get clothes or one thing or another and I dropped by *The Citizen* office one day and this young fellow who I knew was really running the paper then. They were in the process of getting a new publisher. He told me if I wanted to go to work that I could get a job. I wanted



to get back into the newspaper business.

**ZL:** All this time you had that plan in the back of your mind.

**BA:** Oh yes, I was waiting for a job somewhere. I put in *my* application with *The Republic* and also the Tucson papers. So in February 1936 this new publisher came in to take over and in the meantime I had been hired to go to work the same day so I left the mine in Mammoth and went in to Tucson to go to work for *The Citizen*. As a matter of fact I met the new publisher as I started upstairs to the news room. I met him in the door and I didn't know him. I introduced myself and he introduced himself and said, "I'm Bill Johnson, I'm the new publisher." So we walked up the stairs together. He was a funny sort of a guy. He was one of these promoter types and I never did really care much for him but I went to work as a reporter covering a Federal beat there, Federal Court and of course at times I'd cover other beats to, police and the county courts, but *my* main job was covering Federal Court. Ed McKinney was US Marshall for Arizona then and he was a brother of Alfred McKinney that my mother had got the Aravaipa Ranch from. Ben and I became real good friends. So I was only making twenty- five dollars a week on *The Citizen* which wasn't very much. Ben said, "Well if you want to work the evenings after you get through working at the paper and real early in the mornings, he said, "I'll give you a job as a Special Deputy to haul prisoners." So I said, "Sure I'd like to do that." So I would get up real early in the morning, about three or four o'clock and we'd usually go to Tombstone or Bisbee or to Nogales to get prisoners to bring to the Federal Court because the Federal Court wouldn't allow them to keep prisoners in the Tucson jail. And so they had to keep them in Bisbee and Nogales. So we'd get up real early in the morning and we'd go over there and get prisoners and bring them back, and of course the court opened at ten and I had to be to work by ten so I'd go over there and help haul in the prisoners. I had never worked with police work before but a former Deputy Sheriff there Jake Ferrar was Special Deputy Marshall hauling the prisoners. So I moonlighted as a Special Deputy Marshall while I was working on *The Citizen* part of the time. I didn't have to do this except when the court was in session and of course in the summer they recessed so I didn't have to do it through the summer. But then I got along pretty good with *The Citizen* with Johnson. The election that fall 1936, of course *The Citizen* was rabid Republican and *The Tucson Star* was rabid Democrat. R.C. Stanford was running for governor in the primary against Governor Moeur. Tom Campbell came out as the Republican candidate and he was running against John Udall who was then mayor of Phoenix for the Republican nomination for governor. *The Citizen* assigned me to travel with Tom Campbell and cover him and of course they wanted to get him elected governor. Well Tom beat John for the Republican nomination and I continued to travel with him and cover the election in the general election. But after the primary, the Democrats held their convention in Tucson and Stanford had gotten the Democratic nomination, beat Governor Moeur and Bill Matthews was a real rabid Democrat.

**ZL:** Now he was the publisher of *The Star*.

**BA:** Yeah and at this Democratic convention, Matthews was very... Andrew Bettwy was the Democratic national committee one and Bettwy was going to make a speech against President Roosevelt and Bill Matthews decided he wasn't going to make it. So he got up when Bettwy started to speak, Matthews ran



up on the platform and socked Andy Bettwy and broke up the convention. I was there and I covered it. It was quite a hassle.

**ZL:** Interesting thing for a newspaper man to do.

**BA:** Yeah it was. Bill Matthews was real hot tempered. He was a nice guy though. I liked him. Anyhow, I continued to cover Campbell's campaign during the general election with Stanford. Stanford became Governor but before he went out of office that fall of 1936, Governor Moeur called a special session of the legislature to enact our Social Security legislation as we had to set up a state welfare office, the state labor department and all of these laws to comply with the Federal Social Security laws. So *The Citizen* sent me up to Phoenix to cover that special session of the legislature and of course to cover the capitol while I was up there with Governor Moeur. I covered that and it ended I think about the last of November they wound up the session and enacted all this legislation and I went back to Tucson. Johnson wanted to send me up to Phoenix to open a bureau for *The Citizen*. Well I discussed it with him and he was going to pay me more to run that bureau than he was paying the city editor there in Tucson. I told him that wasn't right, so we had a little bit of an argument over it and I got mad at him and quit. I just told him I didn't want to work for him anymore. In the meantime they had opened up the smelter in Hayden and I called up out there and got a job just like that. So I packed up and went to Hayden. This was about the end or middle of November. It was right after the election. So I was working at the smelter there when they issued everybody Social Security numbers. Donda's dad was working at the smelter there too. I wasn't working for him but I was working with him. I had gotten acquainted with her while I was working at Mammoth going to dances down there and we were more or less going together. I worked in the smelter for a couple of months -- almost two months and I got a call one day from Jack Lynch, the managing editor of *The Republic* asking me if I wanted a job on *The Republic* so I said, "Well, that's what I've been waiting for."

**ZL:** You were happy to get that call.

**BA:** Yeah. So I came up to Phoenix on January 1, 1937 and Jack hired me to go to work the next day.

**ZL:** Now who was the publisher at that point?

**BA:** Charlie Stauffer was publisher of *The Republic* and Wes Knorpp was publisher of *The Gazette*. This was on a Sunday. I packed up and went back to Hayden and got my stuff together and went over by Globe into Phoenix and I got into Phoenix and went to work Monday morning for *The Republic*. It was a job that I always wanted. *The Republic* was the single dominant state wide newspaper, and a good newspaper. Everybody liked *The Republic* in those days.

**ZL:** What was your first job there?

**BA:** My first job on *The Republic* was covering the Federal beat-- the Federal courts and Federal offices. I already knew nearly everybody on *The Republic* staff because working for United Press there in the



building I had gotten acquainted with everybody. So Gerry McClain who was the police reporter then, he and I roomed together. He didn't have a roommate so we roomed together because when I had been working on United Press, Gerry and I and Bill Turnbow all three shared a room. We worked different shifts. Only on Sunday would we all three be there. We only had one double bed in the room so on Sunday we'd all go out and sleep on the lawn with sheets. So Gerry and I roomed together. In the meantime, *my* wife had entered nursing school at Good Samaritan Hospital. She was living down here then. We weren't married but we were still kind of going together. This was still Depression. Times were really tough yet and I was darn glad to get a job on *The Republic* at one hundred thirty-five dollars a month which was pretty good pay. One of the things I got involved with right off was the Park Service. The National Park Service had established an office in Phoenix and they were helping the City of Phoenix develop South Mountain Park and they also started developing a park up in the Bradshaws at Horse Thief Basin. The Park Service was financing this as part of the National Relief Program to provide jobs for people. In South Mountain Park, they had a CCC Camp which was doing most of the work there but the Park Service supervised it. I was covering this office and the fella in charge of the office for the Park Service was Aaron Citron who later had an army surplus store down on Second Street and Jefferson. So I started doing stories on the park problems and of course the Park Service could help any county or city that had a Parks Department. If they didn't have a Parks Department, they couldn't help them. At that time, the only places that had a Parks Department was Phoenix and Tucson and Bob Morrow had gotten a law through the legislature authorizing county boards of supervisors to act as county parks boards and set up parks department but the only county that took advantage of this law was Mohave County. So they started developing Hualapai Mountain Park up in the Hualapai Mountains which is still in existence. So I did some stories on this. As a matter of fact, Aaron Citron and his secretary and I went out to South Mountain Park and hiked what is now part of the National Trail and the Hidden Valley Trail. When they first developed it, I wrote a story with pictures about this Hidden Valley Trail up there which I hike pretty regularly now.

**ZL:** It's a beautiful trail.

**BA:** It is. Have you ever hiked it?

**ZL:** Yes.

**BA:** Fat Man's Pass--one of the first park stories that I wrote was about that trail and what the CC's were doing up there and they were building that road up to the lookout, the only trails all over the park. The trails that they built are still good trails.

**ZL:** It's amazing what they accomplished.

**BA:** It sure is. Their camp was just up above the entrance there to the park. I covered the Federal beat for not quite a year really. It was even after that every time something came up that they wanted me to, I'd go over and cover it. I covered one trail there that lasted nearly all of that summer. And then that fall, they sent



me out to the Capitol to cover the Capitol because I had covered it before and knew most of the people out there. Governor Stanford was governor then. I started covering the Capitol on a regular basis. That was my beat for about the next ten years, the Capitol and the Legislature.

**ZL:** Was that when you got to know the legislature so well?

**BA:** Yeah. I would usually have help during legislative sessions if I needed it. But in those days, we had one man that would cover the whole shebang out there. You had to really work.

**ZL:** It was a big assignment.

**BA:** Well of course government wasn't as big then as it is now, but if we turned in ten stories, that was kind of a light day's work. Now most of the reporters if they do one story a day, they've done a day's work. In those days, we walked and covered every office out there. Nearly every day we'd visit nearly every office, visit with the people, find out what was going on.

**ZL:** One of the things to me that is very unusual about you is that you had such a working relationship with the legislators. And today there's such an adversarial role a lot of times between reporters and legislators.

**BA:** I had adversarial fights with them once in a while but I knew all of them and they knew me. Some of them I had even known for years, like Freddie Fritz from the Blue and he punched cows for *my* mother when she was having me when she couldn't work. Freddie was fourteen years old and he'd punch cows for *my* mother on the Blue. He was one of the leaders of the legislature for years. Old Horn Hannon who was Speaker of the House when I first went there was from Clifton. Like Ralph Cowan, Ralph and I were always real good friends. He was Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and he would let me sit in on the Appropriations Committee meetings and he wouldn't let anybody else. None of the other reporters that were out there would get in. The committee meetings were all closed then.

**ZL:** There was no open meeting law in those days.

**BA:** No. Heavens no. But they all trusted me and they knew that I wasn't going in there to write some sensational story, I'd try to write what actually happened. They didn't want reporters to quote them directly when they were debating appropriations because they didn't want to get in Dutch with somebody that wanted some money. That didn't bother me any. I wouldn't quote them directly. So they'd let me go in their meetings. I never had any trouble. Ralph would ask me sometimes to cover a meeting.

**ZL:** How many years did you cover the Capitol beat?

**BA:** I covered it at one stretch ten years. I didn't cover anything else. After that, I covered it partly and covered the legislature and did general assignments. I was really on general assignments more or less.



They sent me out on special stories. But then during World War II, I had to cover the Capitol, Phoenix Police, City Hall, and then work on the desk getting out the paper. I'd go to work at 10:00 o'clock in the morning and get off at 2:00 o'clock the next morning.

**ZL:** Shortage of workers?

**BA:** Yeah well nearly everybody was in the service. I was news editor most of that time and that's why I had to cover these meetings and then get in and work on the desk, and I had three girls to help and that was just about it. Of course we only had eight pages. There was a shortage of newsprint. We didn't have much newsprint so we only had to get out eight pages. But we tried to cover all the local news and that's what they wanted as well as the national and war news. We really worked during the war there. Of course I got in an argument with a guy after the war because I hadn't gone into service he thought I was a slacker. Of course I had three children and I was forty years old and they didn't really want me very bad. But anyhow, I had gotten acquainted with so many people and of course I was covering the Colorado River matters too. That was another thing. Charlie Stauffer was very interested in our Colorado River fight and when I joined *The Republic*, there hadn't been anything happening really on our fight over Colorado River water for the years that I was away. In fact, I don't think there had been hardly any news in the paper on it.

**ZL:** They were waiting for you to come back.

**BA:** No, the Depression was on. They were building Hoover Dam and nobody was even thinking about any expansions and they hadn't really started pumping ground water much in Arizona then. About the time I came back to work in 1937, was when we started really developing ground water in Pinal County. They had done some pumping in Maricopa County--they had done quite a little pumping here but they hadn't started really developing Pinal County until about 1937. You had no power down there. But in 1937, they began to get natural gas and in Southern Pinal County they got some power from Tucson Light and Power Company but the power companies wouldn't serve the farmers because they didn't use enough power to justify building the lines and this was quite a battle with the farmers. Covering the Capitol, I got involved in that a little bit too but about that time, they brought in natural gas from El Paso and the farmers down there started pumping water using natural gas engines. That really started the development of farming in Pinal County, the development of ground water. Up to that time, the only way you could pump ground water--of course ground water was fairly shallow there then. They would dig a slanting hole down to a pump and then they had one of those old centrifugal pumps that they could prime them and suck the water up but it wasn't a very reliable pumping system. They had an engine sitting up here with a long belt running down to that pump. That wasn't a very efficient or reliable pumping system, but that's all they had. They had to use gasoline engines until they got this natural gas, and then they were able to start using submersible pumps.

So nothing had been happening much on the water front until about 1937 when they started developing the ground water. Professor G.E.P. Smith from the University of Arizona, a geologist, wrote a report on ground water development for Governor Stanford. Governor Stanford had asked him to this. He had



advocated the development of ground water and the regulation of ground water development which I wrote a story on. It started the ground water controversy. Then the Colorado River Commission at that time, I think Governor Stanford had appointed Alma Davis from Mesa and John Mason Ross, a lawyer here in Phoenix represented him and I started covering the office over there. They had an office actually sort of in the State Land Department. I got to visiting with John Mason Ross quite a bit about it. But as I say, they weren't really doing anything much. But the state at that time still hadn't ratified the Compact and interest began to build up because this need for power for irrigation development and Arizona had never gotten any of the power allotment that had been given to them in the Boulder Canyon Project Act from Hoover Dam or from Boulder Dam then. Well Boulder Dam was completed in 1936 and it was dedicated in 1937.

**ZL:** Now Arizona didn't want that dam built originally?

**BA:** No they didn't. Well they weren't so much against the dam but they wanted to get water out of it and they weren't allowed to. They had an allotment of water but they had no way of getting it because they hadn't ratified the Compact and none of the other states would let them--let the federal government, build a project for Arizona unless they ratified the Compact because when the court threw out our suit, the court made a statement in that, in their decision, that Arizona was not restrained by the Compact. In other words, we didn't have to comply with it. So this made all the other states suspicious of us and really it was harmful. But that was one of the rulings in that lawsuit, that we were not restrained by the Compact because we didn't belong to it. Well anyhow, the farmers then began wanting to organize rural electrification districts and they wanted to get power from Hoover Dam or Parker Dam too which was also had already been built, we were entitled to power from that. So I began to write some stories about our Colorado River controversy and of course John Mason Ross was one of my chief sources of information and he was a real good attorney. He was from Ellenwood & Ross, one of the biggest law firms in Phoenix and Ellenwood was a Republican. That's still one of the big law firms in Phoenix. It has a different name now. But Ross was a Democrat and Ellenwood was a Republican.

**ZL:** A balanced picture.

**BA:** A balanced picture. So I wrote several stories about the need for cheaper power to run irrigation pumps. This created a controversy. Salt River Project was dead against it because they sold power and they had power for their pumps. They didn't have to worry but the farmers down in Pinal had none. That controversy didn't really develop until Sidney P. Osborn was elected Governor.

**ZL:** And that was what year?

**BA:** He was elected in 1940 and took office in 1941. Sid and I were real good friends. He's a former newspaper man. I had gotten--well I was kind of pushed into helping him a little bit because Bill Turnbow was covering the capitol for The Gazette and Bob Jones was governor at that time. He followed Stanford as governor. He and Turnbow were buddies. Turnbow saw to it that I didn't get much news out of the



governor's office except second hand. So when Sid Osborn became governor, Turnbow would openly campaign that he had a column and he had openly campaigned for Jones against Osborn. So Osborn didn't have much use for him and Sid right off would call me in and talk to me about different things. He was one of the best governors we ever had. He had been a member of the Constitutional Convention and he really knew government. One of the first things that came up, I told Sid that Arizona ought to ratify the Compact. He said, "Well, I've always been against it. Everybody in Arizona's been against it. He said, "I never had any real strong convictions about it but I just always opposed it." He said, "Why should we ratify it?" So I told him that after they had passed the Boulder Canyon Project Act and it had been upheld by the Supreme Court, our allotment of water was set forth in that act at the request of Senator Hayden and from that day on there was really no reason why we should fight the Compact. All we were doing was cutting off our nose to spite our face because we had all the other states against us and the only irrigation projects we got through during that period was the Yuma Basin Project which Carl Hayden was able to get through because it was part of the Yuma water allotment. We couldn't get anything passed. So I convinced Sid that there was no reason for Arizona to continue to fight the Colorado River Compact. I said, "Well now, don't just take *my* word for it, I want you to meet with me and John Mason Ross and Charlie Carson." So we all had a meeting in Sid's office and we convinced him that Arizona had to move as fast as they could to get the Colorado River Compact ratified but we also decided that before we did that, we should negotiate a contract for our share of the water set forth in the Boulder Canyon Project Act. So that was agreed to and Sid said that he would initiate negotiations immediately with the Secretary of Interior, Harold L. Ickes to get a contract for Arizona's share of the water. In the meantime, the Colorado River Commission, Alma Davis from Mesa and I don't remember who the others were.

**ZL:** How many were on there?

**BA:** Three members. I can't remember who the others were but John Mason Ross had been their attorney but he wanted to get out of it and he got them to appoint Charlie Carson as their attorney. Nellie Bush was appointed on it later but Don (I can't think of his name) had a blueprint company here. The governor got them to call a meeting and it initiated negotiations for a water contract, but in order to do this, we had to call in all the other Basin states.

**ZL:** Now this was the Lower Basin?

**BA:** No, this was the entire Basin. They organized what they called a Committee of Fourteen. Two members from each of the seven Basin states as a negotiating body to deal with not only our negotiations for a contract, but any other matters that came up.

**ZL:** Would you list those seven states just so it's on the record?

**BA:** Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. Those were the seven states of the Basin. Judge Stone was Water Commissioner, or Chairman of Colorado's River Commission. And at the time, he was the Special Master in a suit involving the Buckeye Irrigation District so he was





down here, and Charlie Carson had been representing the Buckeye District too. He brought in Judge Stone to meet with Governor Osborn. We got the states to set up this Committee of Fourteen and Judge Stone was appointed Chairman of it. He was really a great compromiser and negotiator. He served as Chairman through all those negotiations involving even the Upper Basin Compact. They started having meetings of the Committee of Fourteen to negotiate this Compact, so we had to get all the states to agree to it if we could. California never did agree to it but they did sit in on the meetings. It took two or three years of meetings--I covered all these meetings in Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Denver, Santa Fe, never did go to Wyoming, but we did have several meetings in Utah. They finally came up with a contract that everybody agreed to except California. Governor Osborn took this drafted compact back to Washington and met with Secretary Ickes to get him to sign it which he did in 1944. When Ickes signed the contract, Sid called me by phone and asked me to put a story in the paper calling a special meeting of the legislature within ten days--we had to give ten days notice to ratify the compact. I wrote a story on that and *The Republic* ran it on the front page. When the legislature met, because of the negotiations and the stories that we had been carrying, people in Arizona had become pretty well familiar with the situation, and in the meantime too, Governor Osborn had asked the legislature to establish the Arizona Power Authority because we had to have a state agency to contract.

This was becoming a hot issue because the Salt River Project and Arizona Public Service bitterly fought the establishment of an Arizona Power Authority and bringing in cheap power because they feared that it would undercut them. That was the summer that Governor Osborn kept the legislature in session for five sessions. Every time they'd adjourn one, he'd have a call on their desk for the next one. He also wanted to enact a ground water code which the Interior Department demanded that we do before we built a Central Arizona Project. So we had to fight over this ground water code...

**ZL:** Did they get that passed?

**BA:** They finally got it passed. It wasn't a very good ground water code but it was the first step to bring ground water under control. The establishment of the Power Authority and the ratification of the Compact which was all three very controversial issues. But Arizona was becoming pretty well educated in these matters and of course this was during the war too. The Power Authority issue came to a head pretty fast. The legislature rejected it and Sid called them back into session. Now I was in his office and he said, I know how to deal with those guys. He got on the phone, I was sitting there, and he called Lewis S. Cates in New York who was President of Phelps Dodge Corporation. He and Lou Cates had been drinking buddies back during prohibition days when Lou Cates was chief engineer of the mine down at Ray. So Lou Cates and Sid were just real close buddies. He called up Lou and told him what was happening in the legislature on this Power Authority bill and of course the mining companies had the stronger control over the legislature than the utilities at that time. When he hung up the phone, Lou Cates got on the phone to the members of the legislature and the next day the Power Authority bill passed. That's how you got things done in those days. Control of the legislature had its good points. So Sid was able to get that bill out of the way pretty fast. The ground water code didn't cause too much trouble and by the time we got to the ratification of the Compact, I think there was only fourteen members of the House who were really



filibustering against it. This was led by a Mexican representative from Tucson, Frank Robles who had been really conned by old Fred Colter who was a devotee of Governor Hunt's and had been fighting the Colorado River Compact for years. He was a professional anti-Colorado River fighter and he was fighting for some visionary projects. One was the Glenn Canyon Highline Canal which was to build a dam in Glenn Canyon and then run a canal all the way down and then a tunnel under the San Francisco Peaks and empty the water into the Verde River. The Grand Canyon Verde Highline Canal they called it. That was one of his projects. The other one was the Glenn Canyon Canal Project which would have built a dam in Glenn Canyon and tunnel through to the head of the Verde River and bring the water in. Well these were visionary projects. So they fought bitterly against ratification of the Colorado River Compact arguing that Arizona wasn't restricted and we could build these projects and take all the water out of the river if we wanted to. Frank Robles was a well-meaning young Mexican in from Tucson and he became really a rabid leader of this fight for Fred Colter. I think there was fourteen House members that they had lined up and they filibustered the ratification but they finally gave up and we got it ratified. The Bureau of Reclamation then immediately appointed an engineering study and this was one of the ways we got it ratified. We agreed to study all three of these projects: the Glenn Canyon Highline, the Bridge Canyon Project, and the Parker Pump Project. Those were the three alternatives we had.

**ZL:** Now what was the Parker Pump Project?

**BA:** Just the project we have now, the CAP, the Parker Lake Havasu Pump Project. So the Bureau of Reclamation set out and did pretty thorough engineering studies of all three of these. Of course they ruled against the Glen Canyon Project because of the uncertainty of tunneling under the San Francisco Peaks--that volcanic up thrust.

**ZL:** I wouldn't think the Native Americans would have been too happy about that one either.

**BA:** There was also the cost of tunneling from Bridge Canyon Dam site through the mountains to the head waters to the Verde River in Aubrey Valley. They ruled **for** the Parker Pump Project. One of the deciding points being that Arizona was entitled to all the power generated by its share of the water as it passed through Glenn Canyon Dam, Hoover Dam and what was later Davis Dam, they were entitled to a share of the water that went through all of the dams down to Lake Havasu, but if we took water out up above, we wouldn't get that power generation which already was in place. So that was one of the deciding engineering factors in favor of the Central Arizona Project. So it was finally approved and submitted to Congress for congressional approval.

**ZL:** Now that's after the Bureau of Reclamation finished their recommendations then they submitted it to Congress?

**BA:** Right. Through the Interior Department. That began the long fight in Congress for approval of legislation to build a Central Arizona Project. After two or three attempts, we had Carl Hayden back there and then Ernest McFarland had gone back. We had McFarland and Hayden in the Senate and John R.



Murdock had become Chairman of the Interior Committee in the House so we had some pretty strong people in Congress. But in the meantime, Sid Osborn had died, Dan Garvey who wasn't a very strong governor had taken his place and then Howard Pyle had defeated Dan Garvey and this is the first time we had a Republican Governor in a long time. When we got down to the showdown in the House and Senate in 1952, Earl Warren was Governor of California then and he got to Pyle and California made a stand in the House. They would not oppose the Central Arizona Project but first we should get court adjudication of our water rights. Well Earl Warren got a hold of Pyle and convinced him that this wouldn't take very long, it would be very simple, that California would agree to a statement of the facts and all we had to do was get a special master appointed and submit the facts to the court and we could get this settled right away. Well Pyle bought that and called off our efforts in Congress to get legislation passed. I think we had enough clout back there to have passed it even though California had 35 votes in the House, but Pyle wouldn't let it go to a show down. The end result was that as soon as we got into court, California immediately started every delaying tactic they could think of. The first one was that the suit between California and Arizona should be broadened to bring in all of the basin states. That was their first motion.

**ZL:** Now were you there covering all this?

**BA:** I was covering all this.

**ZL:** And this was in San Francisco?

**BA:** Well we hadn't got to the trial yet.

**ZL:** Okay.

**BA:** These were just motions that they were making. Well Ernest McFarland in the meantime had become Governor. Pyle had gone out. This thing dragged on.

**ZL:** Yes, that's an understatement.

**BA:** All the lawyers agreed it would be wise to have McFarland who also was pretty good on water law, to go back and argue before the Supreme Court because he was well acquainted with all the justices and so Mac agreed to do this and he called up Gene Pulliam. . .

**ZL:** Who was then publisher of *The Republic*.

**BA:** Yeah, and asked him to let me go with him. So Mac and I boarded a plane for Washington and we got a twin bedroom in the Hay Adams Hotel and the day before we were supposed to argue this case before the Supreme Court, Mac kept me up until two o'clock in the morning writing his argument. He would write out a paragraph on yellow legal paper and read it to me and ask me what I thought about it, then he'd walk back and forth reading it until he memorized it, he'd wad it up and throw it in the wastebasket and write out



another one. He kept this up until two o'clock in the morning putting his argument together against bringing in all the basin states. Well we went to the Supreme Court the next morning.

**ZL:** Was that the first time you'd been back there to the Supreme Court?

**BA:** First time I'd been to the Supreme Court, yeah. Mac and I went out the next morning and of course I sat in the alternates covering it, but that guy was--you can't believe. He had memorized everything that he wanted to say in his opening argument and he really had it down pat. And of course after his opening argument, California responded and then the justices started asking questions. Old Mac knew everyone of them by first name. But he stood up there and he fielded every question they had and the court never wasted any time, they ruled against California right off. I always marveled at McFarland. He tried to make people believe he was a hillbilly. He had a J.D. degree in law from Stanford University which don't come easy.

**ZL:** No they don't. And apparently he knew a lot about water law.

**BA:** He did but he had a very retentive mind. He could commit anything to memory real easy and he never forgot it. So it was a real experience to go back there with Mac. But that son of a gun never carried any money in his pocket and if we went to lunch or to get a cup of coffee, I had to pay for it. That was a habit he had. But I made more than one trip back there with him. One trip was something in connection with the Central Arizona Project, The Interior Department. We went over to the House to visit Sam Rayburn after it was over because he and McFarland were real close friends. I didn't know Sam at the time but he introduced him to me and Sam invited us to come to his place in Texas. The next day he was going to dedicate his library in Bonham, Texas. He invited Mac and I both to come and spend the weekend with him. So Mac accepted. I had no choice. Didn't want to any anyhow. It was a real experience. So in those days transcontinental transportation was by DC-3 airplanes. You had to land for refueling at least once between the west and the east coast. We boarded this DC-3 and it landed in Little Rock to refuel and there was a whole company of Navy inductees waiting there--the Korean War was on. I got booted off the plane and these Navy recruits filled the plane. Of course Mac was able to keep his seat to Dallas and I had to sit there in the airport until almost daylight before another plane came along that I could get a ride to Dallas.

When I got to the hotel in Dallas, it was already daylight and I went up to Mac's room and they were just getting up, getting ready to go to Bonham, so we went down and had breakfast. I had to go to Bonham without any sleep. We stayed two days there with Sam Rayburn and attended his library dedication and he was really a character. He had two maiden sisters that ran his house for him. People from all over Texas would come to visit Sam. Mr. Sam they called him. There was a steady stream of people coming and going all day the day before they dedicated the library. Mac and I sat around and of course he knew nearly all these people too. We sat around visiting and I met a lot of Texans I've never seen since. Then the next morning we went to the library dedication and it was cold. We were all wrapped in blankets and the next day of course, Mac and I went back to Dallas and flew home. But it was a real experience. That guy with



his back-woods acting, he knew everybody in Washington and they all knew him and he had a way with him that he could almost get what he wanted. He was really a character back there.

Well the upshot of it was that we finally got into court and California continued their delay in tactics and it took ten years to settle that lawsuit that Earl Warren had promised Pyle would only take a few months. Of course this delayed the start of the Central Arizona Project. After the court ruled in our favor, we still had to fight California to get it through Congress, but we were able to get it through and I think it was 1963 before we were able to turn a shovelful of dirt on the Central Arizona Project. Then Jack Williams and I went over to the site above Parker Dam when they started work on the pump station and I was able to cover the start of work with Jack. Of course after that I continued to cover construction somewhat, but I retired in 1974 and somebody else took it over.

**ZL:** You were covering this when Mark Wilmer took the case. He's one of the other "Historymakers" this year.

**BA:** Yeah. I was covering it when they decided--well we had old Hub Moore who is not a brilliant attorney. He was a good old boy, but he wasn't a very good trial lawyer. Gene Pulliam and Frank Snell got into--Gene was the first to initiate it--decided we needed a better lawyer on this and so did the Governor feel the same way. So Frank Snell of course agreed to give them Mark Wilmer to take it because Mark's one of the best trial lawyers in the country.

**ZL:** And I guess he'd been working in water law already.

**BA:** Well he hadn't been working too much in water law, but this wasn't a job that needed that much skill in water law. He had plenty of others to help him as advisors but Mark handled all of the arguments before the court and he's a real professional when you get to arguing law. He really did a tremendous job. Of course Frank Snell and I had been friends for years, though he fought bitterly against the creation of the Power Authority and he and I almost got in a fight over that. He accused me of being a stooge for Sid Osborn and I made him take it back. But Frank started his law practice in Miami and Judge Faires helped him get started in the law practice, so Frank and I had real close ties through Judge Faires. We've always been real good friends. Frank Snell was a wonderful guy. There's no question about it. He was not a politician but whatever he undertook to do, he'd just concentrate on his every effort and his whole life on it 'til he got it done. He was really a tremendous guy and of course when he was in Miami, he was attorney for the old Arizona Edison Company over there. When he came over here, he became involved with the old Central Arizona Light and Power Company and he was instrumental in putting together Arizona Public Service Company. That became a mission of life for Frank to put that together. Of course in the meantime, we had created The Arizona Power Authority and the man in charge of that, a fellow by the name of Wingfield, I don't remember his first name, but he was a tremendous engineer and a man of real vision. He visualized the interconnecting of all of our utilities so that if one broke down, the other could fill the gap and that we could buy power where we could get it the cheapest and market it. He was able to make deals with all of the utilities and of course Frank Snell helped in that too. They created in Arizona



what's probably one of the best utility inner ties in the country at that time.

Then of course when we got the Arizona Power Authority, the farmers and rural people all over the state started setting up their rural electrification co-ops. Within a matter of just a few years, Arizona became well served by electricity and probably was able to get the best rate structures of anywhere in the country and through our inner ties with Hoover Dam and Parker Dam and then they built Davis Dam, this made it possible for Arizona to attract a heck of a lot of industry to the state 'cause we had favorable electric rates. Frank Snell was the guy that--he and Wingfield really engineered that though they weren't very good friends cause Wingfield was a public power man and Frank was bitterly opposed to public power.

**ZL:** I wanted to ask you about a couple of the dams that were under consideration and never built like Orme Dam. Were you in favor of Orme Dam?

**BA:** When Bruce Babbitt took over as Governor, he set up a committee because the Indians of course and a lot of environmentalists were bitterly fighting Orme Dam. He set up a committee to study the Orme Dam problem and he appointed me on that committee. I don't remember the members now. Margaret Hance was on it representing the City of Phoenix. There was about 18 members of that committee and we met over a period of a couple of years and finally decided it was futile to try to build Orme Dam in the face of all the opposition we had from the environmentalists and the Indians. We came up with this, I think we called it Plan Six, which was to raise Carl Pleasant Dam, to build Cliff Dam just below Bartlett Dam, to build Cliff Dam on the Verde to control the floods on the Verde, and to raise Roosevelt. This committee made its report and it was adopted by The Bureau of Reclamation and they dropped Orme. Orme Dam would have been the best solution to the problem, but there was so much opposition to it. And the opposition had some good arguments, so it just made sense to drop it. Of course then they started fighting Cliff Dam, the same people. If we had built Cliff Dam, it would have been a real savior to the Valley here in flood control and it would have provided an average of about 55,000 acre feet of water a year that we'll never have without it that would go on down to Painted Rock. I became involved in a lot of other things. This is one phase of *my* career as the Colorado River..

The way I became involved in a lot of these things, of course covering the legislature. One of the reasons I became so deeply involved in a lot of other things, to begin with of course I was involved in hunting and fishing and wildlife matters all along and covered the Arizona Game and Fish Department. But in covering the legislature, we didn't have a legislative counsel then. It was in the days we had the old nineteen member Senate. The legislature was pretty well controlled by the mines, the utilities and the railroads. The legislators relied on Mulford Windsor who was State Librarian then to help them write laws, either that or they would have some lawyer downtown write the legislation. But nearly all the legislature wanted to clear legislation through one place so that they could coordinate constitutional questions and stuff. Well Mulford Windsor was State Librarian and he was pretty old. He was in his seventies and he asked me if I'd help him because he wasn't very good at writing.

**ZL:** In the meantime, you're working for *The Republic*.



**BA:** In the meantime, I was covering the legislature for *The Republic* then covering the Capitol too, off and on. But every time Mulford got a request for a law, he'd call me up to come up and help him with it. It wouldn't take very long. I'd go up and help him with it. Sometimes they'd take quite a little while. But I started doing that and then legislators knew that I was doing this and then they'd start coming to me to help them write laws rather than going to Mulford. A lot of the legislators when something would come up, they'd want to introduce a bill on something or other, they'd come to me to get me to help them write it. I built up a real rapport with both the House and Senate. As a matter of the fact the Senate called me the twentieth Senator. I was covering the legislature and I had floor privileges and in those days if something came up that I wanted to speak to the President of the Senate about, I just got up from the press table and went up and sat down beside him and talked to him while they were in session, or any other member.

**ZL:** How many reporters would there have been?

**BA:** Usually only two of us, Bill Turnbow and I usually. And we both had privileges of the floor like that. We could go talk to anybody we wanted to during the session. And as a result of that, I built up a relationship with the legislature--both houses really, that was kind of unusual for a reporter. I never lobbied bills. I never in my life went around and asked a legislator to vote for a bill. They would have resented it probably if I had. But they would come to me and ask me, "Well what do you think about this bill?" I would tell them what I thought about it, give them my honest opinion about it. On some of this legislation, one of the legislative items that they always came to me on was firearms laws. We had gotten into a battle in Arizona over gun laws and in 1948 the Chief of Police of Phoenix was lobbied by the Arizona Director of the National Rifle Association, a member of the Board of Directors from Arizona, to enact a law requiring a one week waiting period to buy a pistol. I didn't know anything about this but the director of the National Rifle Association from Washington, in route to a meeting in California, stopped off at Sky Harbor and met with our Chief of Police who was Earl O'Claire at that time, and endorsed this legislation. And that night, Earl O'Claire took this city ordinance to the City Council and they passed it as an emergency measure which meant that it became law immediately and we woke up the next morning in Arizona with a law in Phoenix that required a five day waiting period to buy a pistol. Well all of the shooters and hunters and everybody was really irate about it. About 2,000 members of the NRA, and that's about all there were in Phoenix then, mailed their membership cards to the headquarters in Washington and told them they were resigning over this.

Well, we had a meeting of people who were interested in shooting and at that time, I wasn't a competitive shooter but I was a hunter, and I covered this meeting, and they decided to wait a while and find out how this thing was working. K.T. Palmer who later developed lots of the Pinnacle Peak area, he owned a lot of real estate out there, he had a swap shop out on East Washington Street handling fire arms, he was the leader of this and Glenn Taylor who was Margaret Hance's brother who worked at the paper then, was one of the leaders, he was a competitive shooter. I covered the meetings and a couple people from the American Legion were there and they were upset about it. So this went on and finally about six months, K.T. Palmer asked for a meeting with the City Council and they asked that the Chief of Police be there and



I went to the meeting to cover it. Palmer started reading off cases where people had been turned down by the Police Department for a permit to purchase a pistol and the only gun dealer left in Phoenix who was selling pistols was K.T. Palmer because he was a lawyer. Bell's Sporting Goods, and Pinyon Robinson quit trying to sell pistols because they couldn't get permits from the Police Department. Well when the City Council heard this, they were upset. One of the stock answers that the police would give anybody that asked for a permit was, "Who do you want to murder?" Of course the citizens didn't like this. As soon as the Council heard this, they immediately voted to repeal that ordinance.

I was the only non-partisan there, so the mayor, it might have been Newell Stewart, but the mayor asked me if I would chair a committee to revise the Arizona gun laws because they had discussed a lot of other laws that were, on their face, not very practical, so I said, "Sure, I'd be willing to do it." So they designated the Chief of Police and the County Attorney to serve on this committee and we set up a committee of about twelve people to revise Arizona gun laws and I sort of was chairman of it. Over a period of several weeks, we went over all these laws and wrote new ones as recommended and repealed some. When we got through, the committee head told me, "You need to take them out to the legislature and see if you can get them through." They said, "Don't let them change a word or a period or anything." He said, "We've agreed on these and if you change them, we might disagree." So I took the bills out there and got them through the House without any problem without a single change. They went over to the Senate and Senator Bill Kimball from Pima County was Chairman of the Judiciary, and when he got these things, I hadn't had a chance to talk to him, his committee recommended passage but they recommended several changes. I forget who was President of the Senate then but as soon as that committee report was read, I went up to the President's chair and told him what had happened that they weren't supposed to change anything in that, and I asked him to have that bill referred back to the Judiciary Committee. Then I walked back around and told Bill Kimball what the situation was and he said, "Fine." So they referred the bill back to Committee and the Committee met right after the session and put everything back the way it was and we got it all passed. Those bills are still on the books today. Every one of them have proved to be real good bills. haven't been enforced too good.

**ZL:** Do you remember some of the specifics? Some of them

**BA:** One of the bills we recommended was a law prohibiting the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, anyone convicted of a felony. Well the police never arrested anybody for that. Usually when they arrested them, it would be for some other crime like burglary or something else, and they wouldn't prosecute them for having a firearm. I don't think there was ever an arrest made for that, but if they had charged them with that, along with the other crime, it would have been quite a deterrent to felons having guns if they knew they were going to get charged with it. So that was one of the laws that they never enforced. Another one that we passed a little later prohibited anybody from selling or giving a pistol to a minor. Well that was passed in 1964 I think. They never enforced that. Of course Paul Johnson came along and he got big publicity about an ordinance prohibiting minors from possessing firearms. Well if they would have enforced the law prohibiting anybody selling or giving them a gun, it might have made this problem unnecessary. But you can't really prohibit them from possessing them because they steal them





or something else. They're going to have them. Kids have got just as many guns now as they had before Paul Johnson's ordinance went into effect. So these people don't really understand the problem of regulating the use of firearms. That's what you want to regulate. It's not possession of them, it's the use of them and who may use them. So always after that, if anybody came to the legislature with some idea to pass a gun law, the legislators always come to me and ask me, "Well, do you people want this?" I would tell them no but then I'd go talk to the legislator who had this idea and talk him out of it. And as a result, we didn't have anybody in the legislature that wanted to pass a gun law. Then we began to have problems, people being stopped and having a gun in their glove compartment and the police citing them for having a concealed weapon. Sandra O'Connor was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate and I told Sandy about this. I said we need a law in Arizona that spells out how you can legally carry a firearm so that people will know and the police will know. Of course one of the things I wanted to get in there was that they could carry it in the glove compartment. Well Sandy and I worked this bill over and we got a bill together. I wanted to get in there that a woman could carry one in her purse but she wouldn't go for that. She said it would be abused. So anyhow, we didn't get that in the bill but the rest of the bill we got together and it all passed. One of the things I added was that you could carry it in a back pack if you were going hiking cause you might need it. Over the years since then, they changed that back pack to pack in revising the criminal code. All the rest of the laws that we passed pretty well have stood up and they're on the books today. They had a little trouble over that pack thing. Another thing that Sandy and I agreed to, was that you carry it in a holster as long as at least the holster was showing, that it wasn't concealed. They had a little hassle over that here recently but all those rules have stood up and have served the state well.

Our problem with kids is that parents have no supervision much over kids anymore. In many homes, both parents have to work and the kids are growing up like wild animals. The result is we've got kids out there that are wild animals. They shoot people just for the fun of shooting at them. This is not the gun's fault, it's our society's fault and how we change it is a real job and it's not going to be easy and it's not going to be quick but we should somehow set up some sort of a program to see that children are properly raised. In Germany during the Nazi occupation when they made both parents work, they took the kids and made them into a youth corps and gave them Nazi training, but we don't want that. But somehow in our school system we have to inaugurate a parenting program for kids.

**ZL:** You have always been an advocate for gun safety.

**BA:** Very much. As a matter of fact in about 1960, I got the legislature to pass a law creating a Hunter Safety Training Program. I wrote this little short bill and got Senator Udine from Coconino County to sponsor it and passed it through and it authorized the Game and Fish Department to set up a Hunter Safety Training Program. At that time, we were having as many as nine or ten people killed every year in hunting accidents. After that program got underway, the rub-off from it, as much as anything else, our hunting accidents dropped to zero and for nearly thirty years they've been zero. I think last year we had one person killed in a hunting accident. But that training program almost immediately eliminated hunting accidents just through the training of the kids and we got the parents to go with them, or just the rub-off from the kids that took the training influenced the parents to be more careful. Education is the way you really solve these



problems and that has really worked, and it's still working.

**ZL:** You became involved in wildlife management in Arizona in 1928 which is 66 years ago.

**BA:** Yes, that was when we set up the commission form of government. Well I came down to Phoenix when Governor Phillips signed the law and he appointed Karl L. Bayliss as State Game Warden, who's the administrative head of the department along with three commissioners. Lee Bayliss and I left the governor's office and walked over to the Game Department for him to take over the office, and they'd been cleaning out their files. There was an old colored man there, his last name was Washington. He was the janitor in that old annex building. He told Lee that he carried all this stuff out to the garbage--the receptacle in the back, so we went out there and I went through the thing and picked out a lot of stuff. Governor Hunt had given pheasants and turkeys and quail that the Game Department had been raising to all of his friends in Phoenix for Christmas presents and I got a list of all the people who were to receive them out of the garbage. That's another thing that made me a little bit unpopular with Governor Hunt. I published that in the *Wildlife Magazine* that we were publishing then.

Shortly after the commission was appointed, of course people became aware of wildlife problems all over the country. Deer had been exterminated in many of the states. Indiana didn't have a single deer left. Many of the states back east had no deer left. And of course water fowl was in real trouble. Nationally there was a boom underfoot to start a scientific game management program. It was led by people like Aldo Leopold in Minnesota, and Dean Darlington in Missouri and of course many other organizations got behind it. Ducks Unlimited was just getting organized and the Audubon Society. It wasn't however until 1937 that we finally got a bill passed in Congress to provide money for wildlife restoration and training of biologists, and they adopted the Diegle Johnson Act. Johnson was a representative from Virginia I believe, and Diegle from Michigan, is the father of the present John Diegle. They placed a ten percent tax on the sales of ammunition and fire arms to establish a fund that the states could match to inaugurate more scientific management of wildlife, and they also authorized the establishment of wildlife units at the state universities, the land grant universities. So the University of Arizona established a wildlife training unit to train biologists. We got our first biologist in the fall of 1937. Dave Gorsich from the University of Arizona was hired by the Game and Fish Department. This was a tremendous job ahead. Dave was assigned to do a study on wild turkey on the Kaibab National Forest south of Williams. That was his first job. Gradually, we began to build up the staff of trained biologists to manage our wildlife.

Of course I was covering the Capitol then and covering the Game and Fish Department. I was very close to it and in fact I got the legislature to pass a bill and Representative Jimmy Babbitt from Flagstaff, Bruce's uncle, was Chairman of Appropriations in the House then, and I got him to put through a bill appropriating eighteen thousand dollars out of the general fund to match these first federal funds that we got. You can see how small this project was, but it grew. Shortly after that, the legislature--at that time the Game and Fish Department was appropriating their own money. Their license fees was all they had and through some of those years they weren't over eight or nine thousand dollars. About all they could do was hire a couple of people. Jimmy Babbitt told me and Fred Favour who was... meantime we had expanded the



commission to five from three people--that we ought to change the law and clear the budget through the legislature rather than just the commission adopting the budget because the legislature really resented having any one department operating under an independent budget. So we agreed to that. Some of these sportsmen really got mad at us over it. In fact, one of the old timers wouldn't even speak to me for a year because Fred and I had agreed to go along with this. But it gave more public interest into the wildlife management process when they had to go before the legislature. The legislature began to get more involved and this was necessary because in the body politic, the people really make the final decisions. The legislators really work for the people, so this worked to our benefit.

**ZL:** You've always favored multiple uses of the land.

**BA:** Oh, very much. Land management is one of the most pressing problems we have, and of course it's affected by population explosions, by the pressures of economics, but the land and the water and sunlight are our basic resources. Those elements grow the timber, they grow the wildlife, they provide for the farms, the land and the water. These are the basic resources of our country. The wise use of those resources is absolutely the most important thing that should be on our agenda. It's hard to get people to see this and it's not a simple matter to manage land and water and wildlife, so yes, I've always been a strong believer in multiple use of these resources for the benefit of all the people. I've served on Tonto National Forest Grazing Advisory Board, the Phoenix BLM District Grazing Advisory Board, The Arizona Strip District Grazing Advisory Board and the Safford District Grazing Advisory Board and on the State Multiple Use Advisory Board and The National Public Lands Advisory Board. I was appointed on the National Board by Jim Watt and I was the only conservationist on there with a bunch of miners and cowboys, so I did pretty good, I got them to endorse our wilderness bill.

**ZL:** What do you think about the current uproar over raising the grazing fees?

**BA:** Well there needs to be an upward adjustment of grazing fees but you have to take into consideration that we want to retain our public land as public lands and they need somebody to live on the land and manage it which are the ranchers. The rancher gets the permit to raise cattle on public land. He has to share that land with wildlife and some of the wildlife is direct competition with the cows, some of it is destructive like mountain lions and bears who kill the cows. He has only available what water is available there and what can be developed which they let him help develop it. He's at the mercy of the weather both in winter storms and in droughts and it's not comparable in any way with a private grazing lease on a farm or someplace where everything is provided. So the grazing fees should not be competitive with private fees. Bruce Babbitt probably understands this better than some. I see it better from both sides because my folks were ranchers and up on the ranch we were able to make a little money about every year. The other years we sometimes lost money. So ranching is not a very stable industry when it comes to making money. Of course some big ranchers make a lot of money but it's because they are big enough that they own farms or feed lots and other things as well as their ranch.

The man who depends on his ranch and grazing the public lands certainly deserves consideration of a



number of things in fixing grazing fees. One is the fact that he has to buy his grazing allotment. They don't give it to him. He has to buy it from a previous owner and they charge almost as much for a grazing allotment as they do for private land. He has to provide water for this public land. Very few of these water projects or these wells are dug by the Forest Service or the BLM. The rancher usually has to dig them. They sometimes get help from the Soil Conservation Service or the Agricultural Adjustment Committee. When you figure the interest on his investment and that permit, his investment in water, in fences, corrals, and other things that he has put on that land in order to use it, that amounts in some cases to more than it would cost him to rent private land but private land isn't available, so all he has to rely on is public land. So people don't understand the expenses connected with grazing livestock on public lands. Certainly he should pay some fee, but the fee that he pays is not as important as the fact that he is taking care of the land, he's paying taxes on his livestock and improvements and you have to rely on him to reduce his livestock when weather conditions are bad and that isn't sometimes easy for a rancher to do. In fact, sometimes it's almost impossible. That is an expense that he has to face. So taking all of these things into consideration, the fee charged for grazing is not as important as it is to have him taking care of the land and producing food for the table and paying taxes. People don't understand these things. I'm afraid Bruce don't understand it entirely. I've been trying to get a chance to talk to him but he's hard to get a hold of.

**ZL:** And you and Bruce Babbitt have been good friends for a long time.

**BA:** For a long time, but he's called me a time or two and I wasn't here. He and I just haven't been able to get together. But I'm on both sides of the question. I don't think the rancher has the right to restrict public access or to interfere with wildlife. I think he has a responsibility to properly graze the land and reduce his grazing when it becomes necessary and to develop in cooperation with the government, good grazing plans.

**ZL:** And they're learning new methods all the time.

**BA:** Right. I've served on grazing advisory committees and multiple use advisory committees for all the public land agencies in Arizona as well as the nation. I have developed a pretty good understanding of both sides of the question. It isn't an easy question to answer but it just requires common sense. But the general public knows so little about the problems of the land that it's hard to convince them of anything. And of course our environmental radicals distort the picture so bad that it's hard to get anything done that needs to be done. That's my feeling on public land. In my years with the Game and Fish Department, I started writing my column in 1945 mostly just telling people where hunting and fishing was good, but also taking an advocate position on some matters relating to wildlife management, land management and other problems. I had to fight ranchers a time or two. In fact, I fought them over their efforts to buy the public lands for five cents an acre back in the fifties and I bitterly fought them over the Sagebrush Rebellion when they wanted the state to take over all the federal lands but when they were right, I've also defended them. I think I have the confidence and friendship of nearly all the ranchers in Arizona even though they don't trust me one hundred percent. This goes beyond taking private property.



**ZL:** You're talking about Proposition 300 that's on the ballot this year.

**BA:** It's always been part of our constitution and laws that if you take private property, you have to pay for it. That's one of the reasons the Phoenix Mountain Preserve costs so much money. We had to condemn some of those parcels in order to take them from the owners but we had to pay for them, and the jury decides the amount you pay. It's not a matter of the market. We've had to pay through the nose in many cases for private property but that's always been the law. That's not what Proposition 300 does. It goes beyond that and says that if a bird flies in and eats your tomato, because the state is responsible for managing the birds, the wildlife, the state should pay for that tomato. Now this is going a little bit too far. Of course it was really instigated by some of the ranchers where elk are eating a lot of the forage off of their land, both private and public, and they feel that the state is taking forage that really belongs to them and the state should pay them for it. That's really the heart of this issue and it's wrong. But it's hard to get conservative Republicans to see that. It was easy for Fife Symington and the Speaker of the House, Mark Killian, to change Barry Goldwater's mind because Barry didn't understand it. But this is one of the issues in the thing.

**ZL:** One of the items on the table right now is the re-introduction of wolves into Arizona.

**BA:** I think it's a mistake. It's an experiment and it may work. But they won't be able to control the wolves. They're going to introduce them in the Blue Primitive Area and if wolves thrive there, they'll be all over the state in a few years and wolves are very destructive animals with certain livestock. They're not too bad on killing cattle, though they will kill some cattle but with sheep, goats and even with pets, they're very destructive. A wolf will kill a dog, of course they'll also kill coyotes. I used to have a dog that was half wolf. He would go with me every place I went, and one time we jumped a fox. That wolf caught that fox within fifty feet and killed it. He would kill coyotes. They'll kill almost anything. It's really a mistake I think to re-introduce them because I think there will be a lot of people that if they get a chance to kill one, they'll kill it. But I think they'll cause a lot of trouble with the state.

**ZL:** Apparently over the years your attitude about rattlesnakes has changed.

**BA:** Well it has in a way. I don't think you should kill a rattlesnake unless it's around where there is a lot of people and children. You've either got to kill it or move it somewhere else, and it doesn't do any good to move it. Snakes are pretty much creatures of the balance of nature. If there's food for snakes, you're going to have snakes. Their food is rodents mainly and they even eat other snakes but if there's rodents, you're going to have snakes. If you kill a snake, all you'll do is make room for another snake. So you don't really accomplish anything. So the main thing is watch for them.

**ZL:** Let's talk about the parks in.

**BA:** One or two other things on wildlife that I would like to add. As we went along I of course covered the Fish and Game Department and at times I was on the outs with them. Governor Pyle for instance, he



appointed Fish and Game commissioners who were subservient to cattlemen his friends. We got a commissioner that was against a lot of things that they should have been for. But one of the things that came up was Page Springs Fish Hatchery up on Oak Creek. The Page family decided they wanted to sell it and they wanted to sell it to the Game and Fish Department because we were leasing it for a hatchery. The Game and Fish Department refused to buy it because they didn't think the state should buy any private land under the Republican administration. So they turned it down and Page was only asking fifty thousand dollars for it. So the director of the Game and Fisheries Division came and told me about this. This was all on the quiet, they never let it get out. He came and told me what had happened so I went to the legislature and got a bill introduced appropriating fifty thousand dollars to buy Page Springs for the Game and Fish Department and it passed.

**ZL:** No wonder you wanted to mention that.

**BA:** So that's one of the things. Other things came up. When I got the legislature to pass the Hunter Safety Training Law, the Game and Fish Department at that time was against it. They thought it was more than they could handle, but they found out that they could handle it real easy. There were other times when I got crossways with them. When I developed the shooting range out here, I had to have a public agency to own the land. I couldn't afford to buy it nor the shooters I represented. So at that time under the Pittman Robertson Law, the Game and Fish Department could use Federal money for shooting development or training of hunters. So I went to the Game and Fish Commission and told them what I wanted to do and I talked them into it and they agreed it was a good thing to do. So I went out and negotiated with the cattleman who had the lease on that land and owned the water tank there, Bob Lockett.

**ZL:** Describe the location for the Ben Avery Hunting Range.

**BA:** Well it's just west of Interstate 17 and north of Carefree Highway. I sat down under the tree out there and talked to Bob Lockett and he agreed to give the Game and Fish Department his lease on the land and that little lake that we have there without charging them anything. I made a deal with him that we would let him continue to run his cattle on the range as long as they didn't interfere with the recreational uses and that when we took his cattle off, we'd provide him some water across the road for his cattle. The Game and Fish agreed to that. So he gave us the leases for it and we continued to lease it for a time until America got a chance to get the 1970 World Championships. They had been awarded to Bangkok, Thailand but because the Vietnam War was going on next door, the International Shooting Union didn't want to hold them there and they were looking for someplace and the National Rifle Association director called me and asked me if I thought we could hold them here and I told him sure, we could hold them. So the secretary general of the International Shooting Union flew down here from Canada and spent the weekend with us and went over to the range and everything and we took him up to Orme Ranch Rodeo to give him a little western flavor which he really liked. So they awarded the 1970 World Shoot to us. Well this meant that we had to spend some money on the range. I went to the Game and Fish Commission and told them what we had to do and we decided we shouldn't spend the money on the leased land, we ought to buy the land. So I went to the State Land Department and Obed Lassen was not very keen about selling it, but he said that he would



sell it to Game and Fish for appraised value. Game and Fish appraised it for seven hundred fifty thousand dollars and so did Lassen. That was more money than Game and Fish could pay for it, so I went out and hired a private appraiser, one of the best in the Valley, to make a real appraisal of it--they were just appraising it at the top of their head. This guy went out and made an appraisal of it..

**ZL:** Do you remember who that was?

**BA:** I don't remember who it was. At the time he was working for the State Tax Commission and he was doing appraisals for them but he was also a private appraiser and I don't remember his name. But he made a very detailed appraisal of all the sales in that area and he came up with an appraised price of three hundred dollars an acre for about 1,000 acres. That's three hundred thousand dollars.

**ZL:** Big difference there.

**BA:** Big difference. Obed Lassen, I took the appraisal to him and he objected to it. He said, "No, we ought to get more money than that for it because they're going to build that freeway." That was before the freeway was built. So we argued back and forth and finally agreed on three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. I went over and got the legislature to introduce a bill appropriating fifty thousand dollars, and then fifty thousand dollars a year for the next five years to pay for the land.

**ZL:** Now didn't Fred Udine help you with this?

**BA:** Fred Udine helped get that bill through, yeah. All of the legislators supported it except Sam Steiger and Ev Meacham. They opposed it. They were the only two votes against it in the Senate. So the bill passed and the Game and Fish bought the land. But again, I had to go talk them into it, and then they didn't want to operate the range. I had to get the law amended so they could lease or own land for shooting ranges. I also had in that law that they could operate it, but they didn't want to operate it so I went to the County Parks Department. Ken Smithy was Director then and he was really enthusiastic when I told him that they would operate the range. Their lease though at ten dollars a year for the range has expired and we're having a real problem trying to get this Board of Supervisors to renew the lease. I don't know what's going to happen on it. They want to make the range a revenue producer for the county rather than a park that would serve the public. So these are philosophical differences. I got some other laws passed involving wildlife. One of them was a very important law when Dr. Wendell Slank was Director of Game and Fish. We were having a lot of trouble on the lakes with accidents and no money to police the lakes and of course the duty of policing was with the sheriff's office. So Wendell came to me over at the Capitol one day and told me that we needed to get a source of revenue for our lake development and we decided to try and get the tax on gasoline paid by boaters set up in a special fund for lake improvement and law enforcement. Well this meant taking money away from highways. So we decided that it was my job to go to the highway commission and get them to agree to our plan. So I went over and talked the highway commission into going along with us and their only provision was that we come up with an equitable way of determining how much gasoline was sold each year for boaters. We did come up with a formula that they accepted and



set up the State Lake Improvement Fund. But at the time, this involved recreation and State Parks wanted to run it. They wanted to have it under State Parks. I didn't want that, I wanted a separate agency to handle it because I knew that State Parks would be taking all the money for parks rather than lake improvements. Fannin was Governor then and I got Governor Fannin to set up this Recreation Coordinating Commission to administer the State Lake Improvement Fund. Paul went along with that and we got that through.

Then after I retired, State Parks immediately moved into the legislature and got them to turn the fund over to State Parks and now we're having a big fight over that because the legislature, being as this in the State Parks Department, five years ago, took some of this money and gave it to the general fund to balance the budget and we accumulated money in the State Lake Improvement Fund. So then the last couple of years, they have put the pressure on to appropriate that money to operate the State Parks Department rather than taking money out of the general fund, so we wind up with the voters paying to administer the State Parks Department which is wrong. The State Lake Improvement Fund is supposed to be used for any water related projects involving parks or anything. And of course a lot of our municipal park lakes have been built with State Lake Improvement funds and of course they're available for limited boating use but they're available for fishing and for the kids. This is another law that I was able to get through that really, I think, benefitted. I did get another law passed by the legislature and this was strictly between me and Senator Knolls from Flagstaff. There was a little lake that had been built up on the Coconino National Forest by Wid Fuller. He was just out using his bulldozer one day and he dammed up a little canyon there and created almost a hundred acre lake in a little meadow. It was really good fishing. Word got out about this and the rancher down below made him take the dam out because they were damming up his water. Well Tormny came to me and wanted to know if there was some way we could get money for developing this lake or others up on the rim. Well this was right after we'd gotten a court decision on the Central Arizona Project and the court gave Arizona the leeway of using waters flowing into the Little Colorado River up until the deadline date of I think ten years. So Tormny and I got together and I drew up this bill to appropriate a million dollars out of the general fund to a Water Recreation Fund. At that time, the general fund was pretty flush we got that passed through the legislature appropriating a million dollars to the Game and Fish Department to develop lakes. That helped get our Rim Lakes developed. They also of course could get federal matching money for it and they developed Knoll Lake, Woods Canyon Lake, Black Canyon Lake, Bear Canyon Lake, and Chevelon Lake using parts of this money. They also were able to spread it out enough that they used it on building Patagonia Lake down in Southern Arizona, Arivaca Lake and I don't know whether they used it on anything else or not. They finally used it all up, but that was a million dollars that came out of the general fund that very few people knew about. But Tommy Knolls and I engineered that together. He got it through the Senate and I got it through the House. That pretty much covers my activities in wildlife.

**ZL:** Let me ask you this one. There was the Gila River Green Belt Channelization?

**BA:** I wasn't directly involved in that. I helped promote it, but that was a project that was really--the guy responsible for it was Fred Weiler who was then state director of the Bureau of Land Management. Most of that land was BLM land and Fred was a very dedicated hunter and fisherman. That area contained most





of the prime dove nesting habitat in the state. Fred really carried the ball on setting that up. It was set up by the Bureau of Land Management. Of course we had to do a little trading of state lands to get it blocked in. One other thing in the area of land management--when Bruce Babbitt became Governor, we had around 200,000 acres of land that was owed to Arizona under the Enabling Act but the state had never selected it. I don't know whether you understand that or not, but when the Enabling Act was passed, the state was given four sections out of each township and the revenue from those four sections was supposed to finance our public schools and some of our state institutions like the Pioneers Home, the prison, and the university, even the courts. But the state had never selected all of that because though some of it was in the open domain, a lot of the public lands had been reserved for national forests, for parks, wildlife refuges and other things and all of these four sections in each township was really taken away from the state but the state was given the option of selecting lieu lands outside of the parks and the game refuges and military reservations and national forests, but the state had never made those selections. So I told Bruce about this, and in the past, every time the land department would make a move to select a section, somebody would object for some reason or other, so Governor Babbitt decided to appoint a Lieu Land Selection Committee to set up guidelines for selections. They appointed me as chairman and appointed nineteen people representing livestock industry, farming, just about every facet of Arizona community life, and he told us he wanted to get that report within a year. He didn't want to have a committee that went on forever. So we went to work on the thing and there was a lot of divergent interest when it comes to exchanging lands or changing the uses of lands and ownerships. But in a year, we worked out a set of guidelines, I think twelve guidelines for the governor and the State Land Department to follow in making these selections. It worked out beautifully. The Bureau of Land Management was involved in it and when we finished, we never had a single objection to any of the lieu selections that were made.

They established a state policy on selection of lieu lands and in our work, we also recommended the exchange of lands to clear up land problems and titles to land. Arizona is a real checkerboard area as far as lands are concerned. We have thousands of acres where the state owns the sub-surface mineral rights in oil and gas and somebody else owns the surface. We have areas where the federal government owns sub-surface, and someone else owns the surface. And we have areas where the government owns the surface and a private individual owns the sub-surface. So this requires a broad program of exchanging sub-surface rights for surface rights all over the state. We also ran up against the problem where the state owns sections of land in national parks and in game refuges, and also where the state owns a piece of land that is very important from the standpoint of ecology or recreation. The state is mandated by law to sell their lands for the highest dollar or get the highest amount of revenue from them, and yet some of these lands are lands that their highest value would be public use. So we recommended a program of exchanging state lands that have high public values to the Bureau of Land Management for lands that would have high development values to benefit the school fund and the state first went ahead rapidly making their state lieu selections all over the state. They got that completed, and then the State Land Department, the Bureau of Land Management, and in some case, private individuals, began a program of land exchanges to clear up these other areas and put lands of high public value in BIM ownership because they were open to multiple use, and putting lands of high development value under state ownership to benefit the schools which as far as the whole state is concerned, is of benefit to everybody.



Well this went along and we made quite a number of exchanges but then somebody objected and went to court over one of our exchanges and the Supreme Court ruled that no, you can't do that. They didn't disallow the exchanges that had been made, but they said in the future, state lands can only be disposed of at public auction. So we've got a proposition on the ballot. We had it on last year and it got defeated. Got it on again this year to change the constitution and the Enabling Act so that these exchanges can be made. Already the exchanges we've already made have been of tremendous benefit. We got all the state land out of Grand Canyon National Park. The state couldn't use it in there, couldn't get any benefit from it but we traded it for land that they can get benefit from. We exchange state lands out of a lot of other areas where the state couldn't really use the land at all. But now we've got to try to get the law amended so that they can complete this program of clearing up titles to land all over the state. It's very important to the future. But this again is something that's hard to get the general public to understand. One guy can come out with some wild statement/ some radical and upset the whole program.

**ZL:** There needs to be a lot of public education and what happens in an election year 1 they focus on the candidates.

**BA:** Well it's hard to educate the public on some of these things 'cause the general public won't pay any attention. They're not interested/ they just don't give a darn. Take the guy across the street. What does he know about or care about? So it's really hard. But it takes strong leadership to get these things done and if you have a real strong governor 1 he can get some of these things done but most governors are not very strong in that respect. You wanted to talk about the parks.

**ZL:** Are you ready to move to the parks now?

**BA:** Yeah. As I said way back there/ when I was covering the federal beat 1 I got involved in covering the development of South Mountain Park and. . .

**ZL:** Was that the first county park?

**BA:** No that's a city park.

**ZL:** That's right 1 that's city.

**BA:** We didn't have any county parks.

**ZL:** There weren't any county parks.

**BA:** Not in Maricopa. The only county park was in Mohave County/ Hualapai County Park. Anyhow 1 I became more or less interested in the park question there and I guess I didn't get really--well I did at one point there, right after the war, the leadership of Maricopa County set up a committee of five hundred to



develop plans for the future of Maricopa County under which we would issue bonds to do certain things, building highways and a lot of other things. But one of the subcommittees was on parks and I was a member of that subcommittee, and Phil Clemmons who worked for the Salt River Project was chairman of it and at that time, we had a Republican Board of Supervisors, I believe they were all Republicans, Jim O'Neil was a Democrat--I think he was the only Democrat, but they all worked together, and they set up this huge committee of citizens that worked on different things that was important to the county's future after the war. Ed Rowland was state director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Game people and the so-called conservationists and everybody more or less considered Ed as sort of a tool to the ranchers, but he really wasn't. He was a pretty dedicated public land manager, but under the law at that time, was the old Taylor Grazing Act. Public lands were managed for the benefit of the ranchers more or less. They had to be, under the law.

But we had passed a little law when Stu Udall first went back to Congress, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, and it authorized the state directors of the Bureau of Land Management to make sort of an inventory of their state lands and determine which lands were valuable for recreation purposes and which lands were valuable for other purposes. This little law went through and nobody paid much attention to it. I think they called it the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Stu Udall was the author of it and got it through. Well under that law, Ed Rowland came to our subcommittee and suggested that we make selections of some areas around Phoenix for regional county parks. He sat down with us and we went over all of these areas and we made selections for Estrella Mountain Park, White Tank Mountain Park, Cave Creek Park, McDowell Mountain Park, and the Userly Mountain Regional Park. The Bureau of Land Management approved them and at that time, they could lease this land to the county for a very small fee, but they could sell it to the county for two dollars and fifty cents an acre. But the law restricted them to selling only one section a year, and this involved over a hundred thousand acres in the entirety. So I went to Senator Hayden and told him about the deal. He was really a great guy. He said, "Oh, that's simple, all it takes is a little bill through Congress." He said, "I'll get it through." And he did. We got a little bill together authorizing Maricopa County to buy.

**ZL:** And you helped write that?

**BA:** I didn't help write it, no, Senator Hayden got it written in the Library of Congress, but when I told him what the problem was, why... of course everybody in Maricopa County supported it. And it went through like that, and that's how Maricopa County acquired our regional parks. But even before that, I got involved when I first started covering the legislature when Bob Morrow got the law creating the county parks commissions composed of the Boards of Supervisors, and one of the reasons that that didn't spread very much was that most of the Boards of Supervisors were against parks to begin with, and under the law, they didn't have any guidance or incentives to create parks. In Maricopa County, we had one supervisor, old Ed Oglesby who really believed in parks, and he got the Board of Supervisors to buy certain parcels of land just to hold it. He bought Chaney Park, Hayden Park down in South Phoenix, and one or two other parcels of land around the Valley. Arizona really needed a state parks law. So I got Bob Morrow interested and Bob and I put together a law creating a State Parks Department and he introduced it in the legislature



and it was referred to the Agricultural Livestock Committee and they immediately killed it like that. We introduced that bill for eight years in one form or another, we'd revise it every time. We couldn't get it out of one committee and finally, I got my dander up and I decided that the only way we were ever going to get a State Parks Department created was to create a State Parks Organization to fight the cattlemen to bring them to the table. So I wrote a column about it, but I wrote to Conrad Worth who was then Director of the National Parks System and invited Connie Worth to speak to an organizing meeting of the State Parks Association. Then with my column I called a meeting of people interested in organizing a State Parks Association. I made arrangements with the Westward Ho to meet down there. It was amazing how many people around the state were interested. We had about three hundred people at that meeting and at that time, the National Parks Association had authority to help states set up state park organizations. So Connie Worth came out and spoke to our meeting and at the meeting, we organized a State Parks Association. I didn't want any office in it because I was too much in the limelight on it already. But we got Bob Jap, the Vice President of Valley Bank to serve as president, Burt Fireman as secretary, and somebody from Tucson was vice president I think. We set up a board of directors and started County Parks Department to work.

The main leader of the livestock opposition was Harvey Platt from St. Johns. He's a lawyer and he's a real hard nose on public lands. So Bob Jap wrote him a letter and asked the Cattle growers to appoint a committee to meet with them, which they did. So these two committees sat down and started working out a state parks law. I already had several drafts which I gave them for our people to start with. But over a matter of two or three months, they worked out a state parks law. They had to make some concessions for the cattlemen. One was, they wanted a member of the State Parks Board to be a cattleman. They wanted a limit of one hundred and sixty acres on the amount of land that the State Parks Department could buy for a park and a requirement that they couldn't buy it until the legislature approved it. A few little things like that that made it kind of hard.

**ZL:** Why were they so opposed?

**BA:** Well they didn't want all their range lands made into state parks.

**ZL:** And they thought you were going to take more than. . .

**BA:** Yeah, they thought we were going to set up some big state parks. I was really mostly interested in getting places like the Old Butterfield Stage Station down near Maricopa and things like the Tombstone Courthouse and things like that set up as state historical parks rather than recreational parks. We don't really need recreational parks because we got all the BLM in the world, we got all the forest service land in the world are open to the public and you can think of a better park use than those lands. So we didn't really need big recreational parks, but we did need to preserve some of these historical sites and archaeological sites, and we have preserved some real good ones. Shipolovi up by Winslow is now a state park. It's a real valuable Indian ruin up there and probably, well there's no question that it was the forerunner of the present Hopi villages. They lived there before they moved up north. And we've preserved a lot of other



things that really needed to be preserved. So we got that through and the first cattlemen on the state parks board was Virgil Mercer. Virgil was the first cattleman and the first park he wanted to establish was Tubac because his grandfather had surveyed Presidio of Tubac. That was our first state park. Virgil wanted that right off. Virgil made a pretty good park board member too. We didn't have any trouble with the cattlemen on the park board. We got the thing moving. Then the county set up their first County Manager in 1953 or 1954 and the first County Manager was Tom Sullivan, and of course old Ed Oglesby had acquired these little sites, so the county wanted to create a county parks department which they did. Under the law they had, they went ahead and created a County Parks Department, appointed Dennis McCarthy as the director and their office was down at Hayden Park. We got the legislature to broaden the law a little bit to allow the creation of a larger county parks board of citizens instead of just the board of supervisors and gave them a little more authority in development of parks. It didn't take very much, but we got that done and I went down and talked to Tom Sullivan. I was actually covering the county beat. It was during vacation time in 1954 and in addition to my work in the legislature, they asked me to cover county parks while somebody was on vacation. I knew Tom Sullivan real good because he was a lobbyist down at the legislature and around out there a lot and we were real good friends. So I dropped into his office one day and put my feet up on his desk and we got to chewing the fat about different things and I made the comment that Maricopa County ought to get on the ball and set up a park in the Phoenix Mountains on the north comparable to South Mountain Park. We talked about that a little bit 'cause at that time, that was all in the county and it was just open desert. And Tom said, "Well, why don't you do something about it?" I said, "Well, by gosh I will." So I told him that I would look into it with the state land department and see what we could get out there. But the first thing we would get right off was North Mountain Park. I think we leased that from the state land department because the National Guard had already started using part of that parcel for an armory so we asked the county to get the other part for a park.

So then I went and looked up the ownership of some of this land and I found that Squaw Peak was owned by the state land department and half of it was leased to Wrigleys for the Biltmore for their riding trails and the other half was leased by Howard Smith, a former State Land Commissioner who had died but his widow still held the lease on it, Viola. So first, I went and talked to Wrigley Olfield who was then managing the Wrigley property. I didn't even know the guy but I went to his office. He had an office upstairs in the Biltmore Hotel, and told him what I had come for and who I was. Of course he was familiar with my column and knew who I was. I told him what we had in mind. We discussed this and wanted to create a park in the Phoenix Mountains. He said, "Well, we have a lease on half of that section. If you can get the county to create a park, I'll give it to the county and won't charge them anything for it. They can have it." So then I went to Viola Smith who her husband had been a real good friend of mine, and told her about it and she said, "Well the reason Howard took a lease on that was he wanted to be sure that it was used for public purpose before he died." She said, "I'll give the lease to the county," but she said, "I'll appreciate it if they would repay me as I don't have much money for the lease fees that I've been paying on it." I said, "Well that's easy to arrange." So I went back to Tom Sullivan and told him that this land was available for Squaw Peak. It took a while for Tom to get the board of supervisors to approve everything and to get the releases of the existing leases.



One of the things that delayed it was the Land Commissioner O.B. Lassen wouldn't give up all of the lease on Squaw Peak. He said, "We want to retain some of that 'cause that's valuable land. We can sell some high priced lots there, particularly if they make a park out of it." So he deleted I think forty acres around the base there that he wouldn't let us have so he could sell it to real estate developers. But he finally approved it and the leases were transferred to the county and the county started development of Squaw Peak Park, but they hadn't much more than gotten started on development of it until the city took all that area into the city limits. At the time we created Squaw Peak Park, the Western Saddle Club had stables just a block north of Glendale Avenue on Myrtle and just east of 16th Street. They had a clubhouse there and some riding stables and I think there was another commercial riding stable there. After we got the park created, I had become in the meantime, wrapped up in saving the top of Camelback Mountain too. The Western Saddle Club though really became interested in helping get more land for the park. They didn't get very much done until-- it was several years. I think they did get the BLM to restrict mining claims and to really go in and start examining some of the old mining claims to invalidate them and a few things like this. But it was in the late sixties before much else got done.

Paul VanCleve, a landscape architect and also a member of the Western Saddle Club, they got Paul interested in making a site plan for the whole Phoenix Mountains. They went to the City Council and John Driggs had become Mayor and the Council approved of that idea and they appointed VanCleve to make this site study of some fourteen thousand acres in the Phoenix Mountains, including Lookout Mountain, Mummy Mountain and all of the mountains in that range. Paul went to work on the thing. He put in a year or so on the thing. He came up with this report. This was submitted to the City Council.

**ZL:** Mr. Avery has a book called *Open Space Plan*.

**BA:** It takes in a lot of different ownerships. (*He's reading this information from looking through the book.*) On city council, John Driggs is Mayor and John B. Wentz was City Manager then. It was prepared by Paul W. VanCleve. Anyhow, in 1972, which is right after this plan was submitted, the city council adopted an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds in the purchase of these lands. They started out without any really defined area except this fourteen thousand acres that VanCleve had studied. Of course this area had been taken into the city and developers were beginning to develop. They adopted this plan. They voted a bond issue and got started and they of course acquired the BLM lands that were available for very low price, and the Western Saddle Club created the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council. The Western Saddle Club was one of the leaders in this. I was one of the charter members of it and Dotty Gilbert was a member of The Western Saddle Club and I think she served as chairman of that thing for I don't know how many years and still was active in it. In 1972, the council adopted a ten year plan for acquisition of these lands. They issued two or three different bond issues in buying up lands. They had to go to condemnation on some. By 1982, the ten years had passed and in adopting this plan, the city council had restricted the development of lands within this area. A lot of land owners had been sitting there for ten years unable to do anything with their land, though some of them went to the council and from time to time, to get the council to let them develop their land, and we were beginning to see things fall apart.



In about 1980, the voters voted down a bond issue because we had gotten in to a recession and our paper opposed it. Gene Pulliam opposed it because he thought at the time the city was too financially strapped to vote another bond issue at that time, though he had been supporting this all the time. For two or three years there, or probably more than that, we were just sitting on dead center. We couldn't buy any more land, developers were moving in all the time and the Phoenix Mountain Preservation Council and Dotty and I were really concerned about the thing. We organized a private foundation to try to get private donations to buy this land but we didn't have much luck, people wouldn't donate much money to it. We did get enough to buy one or two little tiny parcels. Norman McClelland was chairman of that foundation and we had a land acquisition committee, Dotty was chairman, and I was a member of the thing, and we would go and talk to people trying to talk them into giving us land and everything else. We weren't getting anywhere. So I went down to Margaret Hance who had been real active as a member of the parks board in 1972 getting this going. Margaret was mayor and I told her what we were up against. I said if we don't do something, the developers are going to gobble up all this land and we're not going to have a viable Phoenix Mountain Preserve. I have the correspondence on this thing. Margaret agreed with me and got the council to set up an ad hoc committee for the acquisition and preservation of Phoenix Mountain Preserve land. She appointed me chairman of it and appointed nineteen members and they were from various walks of life. She had fallen out with Dotty Gilbert and she wouldn't appoint Dotty on this committee, which was a mistake, and it made Dotty mad, and when you get two women mad at each other, you've got a problem. Anyhow, the council appointed this ad hoc committee September 2nd and the council told me to have a report back to them by the first of December or the middle of December. A lot of them were going out of office in January. So John Driggs was on this committee and John was a great help. He and I have always been good friends. He was vice chairman, I believe and I was chairman of it. We went to work. Of course a lot of these people didn't know much about the situation. So the first thing we did was to get the parks department people that had been handling this land acquisition to take the whole committee on a tour to show us all the different parcels of land that were involved. We went and looked at every one of them to decide which ones were essential to a viable Phoenix Mountain Preserve and which ones we could delete and let them go ahead and develop them. So we got that done and then we sat down around the table and made decisions on which lands to let go and which lands to keep and which lands to acquire that we didn't have.

Of course there were some that objected to deleting anything. They thought we ought to stand up and fight for every acre. One of them was Ruth Hamilton. She was on the committee but she was always a dissenter.

But anyhow, we went to work and we worked up a report for the council and made a report to them on what lands to acquire, what lands to delete. We recommended that they issue a new bond issue to buy the lands--after they acquire the acquisitions and the deletions were approved, that they set a permanent boundary and the issue bonds to buy all the private lands within that permanent boundary. This is the only way that you could really pin it down-- this is the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. The council approved the report but then Dotty Gilbert and Ruth Hamilton immediately started fighting all deletions. Well we went



along. We got a few things done, some we didn't. But the council took the matter of the permanent boundary on the ballot and everybody supported that, Dotty and Ruth and everyone else, and we got that passed by the council.

Then it came down to trading. We had to trade some lands . We didn't have the money to buy all these lands, so we had to start doing some trading. We had some lands that weren't mountain, they're flatland, that we could trade for mountain lands. We had several fights over that too. They defeated some of our trades. But then the council did approve a ten million dollar new bond issue which we got passed. I think we finally acquired all of the lands within the boundaries, but it's been a real long fight to get the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. I didn't do all the work, but I got it started and I got it finished. In between there was a lot of people that did a lot of work, and of course The Western Saddle Club and Dotty Gilbert probably did more than anybody else. In between, I was working making a living, but every time they called me, I went down to the city council and we would object to somebody developing a piece of land. So that's a pretty long history of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve but that's one of the things that I feel was a real accomplishment in my life. Of course because I had become so involved in parks, Rogers Morton appointed me on the Western Regional Advisory Committee for the national park service and I served on that for five years while they were revising all their management plans for Yosemite, Death Valley, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, all these parks. We really had some hot issues over some of those which I think I was able to help the park service quite a lot on.

Then of course I became involved in getting our wilderness area set up too. At the time when our first wilderness act came up, I was on the Arizona Strip Grazing Advisory Council and the district manager up there--the Strip District for the BLM took the problem to the advisory council because they had earlier made an inventory of all the area that were road less and they were directed by law to make them wilderness study areas. When an area was designated a wilderness study area, under the law it had to be managed as a wilderness even though it wasn't a designated wilderness.

So the Strip District had a number of these and the strip manager then was Billy Templeton. He took the issue to our Multiple Use Advisory Council. Well we went and looked at all these areas. We took ranchers with us. We met with the ranchers and we met with the people that had mining interests up there. We sat down with them and I really went to bat on the thing with the ranchers because they all liked me and I got along good with them. I'd been on the advisory thing for several years to help get them to re-establish antelope up there and big horn sheep and so our council--we made some revisions on boundaries and things, but we got the ranchers and the miners to agree to support these areas up there, I think there was nine of them. They agreed to support them if we made these changes in boundaries and things which we did. That was the first agreement in Arizona between the ranchers, miners and the wilderness people on the plan. That was in the first wilderness bill that we had. The people in the rest of the state, the ranchers and the wilderness people, took their cue from what we'd done up there and then within a years' time, we had a statewide agreement on wilderness designation.

At that time, I was serving on the National Public Lands Advisory Council. I was appointed by Rogers





Morton on that--no, I was appointed by James Watt on this one. So I took our wilderness plan to this advisory council who were all against wildernesses. I finally pointed out to them that the ranchers and everybody in Arizona agreed on this and we wanted their support. Well they finally took a vote and all but two of them voted for it, out of nineteen. Two of them said they would die before they ever voted for a wilderness bill. But anyhow, they endorsed it and the Congress passed it and then we got our Desert Wilderness Act passed pretty much the same way, though the agreements weren't quite as positive on it as they were on the original National Forest Wilderness Act. So I didn't play a leading role. I did have some influence in getting an agreement in Arizona on establishing wilderness areas, though I'll have to admit that I didn't agree with all of them, but the wilderness people were too greedy on a lot of these areas, but nevertheless, they would give enough that we were able to get an agreement. We were the only state at first. . . and most of the states still haven't got an agreement on establishing wilderness areas. But we got our people here all together to agree on it, we got them set up and there was some advantage in this to the planners and the people with grazing rights because a lot of land had been tied up in wilderness study areas, and we were able to agree on the designation of real valuable areas and then release all of this other land for mineral entry and other things. So the wilderness areas were

**ZL:** One of the interesting things to me is how you've been such a consensus builder. A lot of these issues you worked on, you have very opposing factions and yet you've been quite successful.

**BA:** Well that's one of the things that's been a matter of great satisfaction to me, and the reason I've been able to do this a lot is because I never have had a personal axe to grind in any of these things, and I think the people on both sides and the dealings I've had with them, I think on both sides of these issues, they respected my integrity. They knew I wasn't out to get anything for myself and that I was never radical in favoring one side against another. Rather than doing that, I tried to get both sides to sit down together and work out their differences. Nine times out of ten, if you can get people to trust each other, their differences disappear. This is usually the key to getting something accomplished. One of the problems in our exchange as a state land, we got the State Land Department and the Bureau of Land Management to trust each other, and this was very important, in establishing values of different lands if you wanted to trade. Because we did work out this climate of trust, we were able to do things, make decisions quick without a lot of red tape and bureaucracy. This is the way you get things done. That's how nearly everything that I've accomplished got done, by getting people to work together.

**ZL:** You obviously have a real ability to do that.

**BA:** Well I enjoy doing it. In my writing of my outdoor column, I always felt that I shouldn't write about anything that I didn't know anything about, and if I didn't know anything about it, I figured it was time I found out something about it. And I've dealt with a lot of controversial matters in my outdoor column which really gave me a lot of power in the state that any other person wouldn't have had. But it gave me this power because I was always trying to be fair. If I made a mistake, I tried to correct it as quickly as possible. And you can't help but make mistakes as you go along. I dealt with so many different subjects. I felt that I should be knowledgeable in all matters relating to the outdoors. Of course I love to fish, I got to



be a pretty good fisherman. I tied my own flies, I organized the Arizona Fly Casters Association--me and one of my buddies. And I organized the Arizona Desert Big Horn Sheep Society which has been one of the greatest conservation organizations that we've ever had. I called a meeting with my column to organize that. But I've never really taken much of an active part in these organizations after I got them organized. I organized the Arizona Varmint Callers Association through my column. I got people together and got them to working together. There's a lot of things that you can see needs to be done and if you get the right people, you can do them.

**ZL:** And you had the vehicle to do it.

**BA:** Well I had a broad range of friends and people that was interested in these things and you get them to working together, why they'll do things.

**ZL:** But by having your column, you could bring people's attention to it.

**BA:** And building the gun range out there, the sportsmen here in the county, the Phoenix Sportsman's Association, the Arizona Rifle and Pistol Association, Phoenix Rod and Gun Club all decided that they needed a place where they could shoot. They didn't have enough shooting facilities. So they got together and they told me, "You know more about these land things, you find us a place and see if we can't get it." So I went to the state land commissioner and under Howard Pyle then was Roger Earst who was a good friend of mine and Roger and I got in his car with a bunch of maps and went looking for a site for gun ranges and we picked two or three and finally decided on the one where we built the range. That took a lot of doing to finally decide on a site and then I got the game and fish department to agree to sponsor it, and the parks department to agree to operate it and then we had the land but the parks department couldn't take it over until the next year they got a budget. A friend of mine, Frank Cannon who was a retired Marine Master Sergeant who had run the Camp Matthews Range over at San Diego during the war, agreed to go out and run the range for nothing. I got the Marine Corps Reserve Engineering Unit to go out and build us some birms to shoot into and we opened a range, Frank Cannon and I. Frank moved his little trailer out there and stayed there and ran the range.

Then in order to get some development done, I got together with the county and agreed on how we'd develop this land. They had an engineer and he and I went out and surveyed it and then I went to Walter Bimson--well first I put a piece in my column appealing for donations so that we could buy diesel oil for this Marine Engineering Unit. Within a week I had three thousand dollars. Mostly in five and ten dollar contributions. I put it in the bank, then I went to Walter Bimson and told him that we needed to build a shade out there and he said, "How much money do you need?" I said, "I think I can buy with about five thousand dollars," and he wrote a little slip. He said, "Take this down to the loan department," and we created a State Rifle and Pistol Association Range Improvement Fund. I still have it. But I built this canopy with--we used county prison labor for part of it. Cal Boice was Sheriff then and he let us use his prisoners to help build this canopy. But I and a lot of other shooters helped on it too. I got up there and helped put the roof on and we built that thing within a couple of months and held the first match out there



in February 1960 I believe it was. I had my wife and daughters come out and help run the match, the Western Wildcats is shooters from all over the west. We had one hundred and nine shooters. They really enjoyed it. They let us use what money we could make to continue building the range.

Then when the county took over in July, I sold them the canopy for enough to pay off my loan to Valley Bank. That's how we got the shooting range started. And then of course when we got the World Shoot out there, that really made it necessary to build a fine range. But I got Maricopa County to agree to put up one hundred thousand dollars. I got Stuart Udall who was Secretary of Interior then to dig up one hundred thousand dollars out of the land and water conservation fund, and Stu took one hundred thousand dollars away from the Allagash Forest in Maine and gave it to Maricopa County, and with that two hundred thousand dollars, we built that range. Every place else that ever tried to build a range like that, it cost five or six million dollars. But we got the whole thing built with donations of labor, contractors would loan me bulldozers. There was two weekends, we had over three hundred volunteers out there working on it. And the shooters really built that range. The county helped out some here and there, but this little range fund I have is earmarked for building and developing the range. Some of the ranges the county hasn't put a dime into. We've got about seven or eight ranges out there. We even built one house out there with volunteers and donated concrete blocks before the county took it over. So there's been such a grass roots volunteer project. Of course I put in thirty years building that doggone place. It's all finished now, just about.

**ZL:** Let's talk about running in marathons. When did you start running as a form of exercise?

**BA:** I really didn't start running until about 1966, when we moved out here. I used to go over about a half mile over here to a dirt road that went out north. It wasn't built up here like it is now. I used to go over there in the evenings after I got home from work and run. I started out running a half of mile, then I got up to a mile and I just ran a mile and my grandkids sometimes would run with me, and then when Bruce Babbitt was attorney general, they decided to have a race down here on the Arizona Canal, 10K, and Bruce and I decided we would run in it. Donda and I went down to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument for a weekend in the camper and I got out and ran three miles down there every morning. It got easier and easier as I ran. So I ran this first 10K down on the Arizona Canal bank with Bruce. Of course I was pretty close to last but I ran it and finished. And then I started entering 10K's here and there and I was climbing Squaw Peak all the time, at that time. I met a lady climbing Squaw Peak and we used to climb together nearly every morning. She said one day that she would sure like to run a marathon. She was running 10K's too. I said, "Well I would like to, let's start training for it." So we started running on the canal bank down there and training for this marathon. We'd run from Central Avenue over to Scottsdale Road and back which is about fourteen miles I think. Those were about the longest runs that we made, but we'd run nearly every weekend twelve, fourteen miles. And we entered that Fiesta Bowl Marathon.

**ZL:** That was in 1970?

**BA:** 1977 I believe. No, it was 1978. It was 1978 'cause some friends had invited my wife to with them to Rome and the marathon was the day they left and my wife wouldn't leave Kennedy Airport until she found



out whether I died or not. (He displayed his medal saying: This is the medal from my first one). This girl was Patty Week, she was a married woman, that was the next year...

**ZL:** The next year, 1979 Marathon.

**BA:** Well I ran this one pretty easy, except the last couple of miles was kind of hard. So I decided that I was going to do a little better the next year so I really went out and trained but the lady that I ran with was working and she couldn't run with me anymore. But I ran with the Arizona Roadrunners and we did a couple of twenty mile runs preparing for this Fiesta Bowl Marathon. But then two weeks before the race, I had to go somewhere for the office on a trip and I was gone for two weeks and didn't get to run and came back and I entered the Marathon. The first one we started up just beyond the Carefree Airport and ran down to Scottsdale Railroad Park. The next one we started on Carefree Highway near Cave Creek and ran over to Pima Road and then down Pima Road to Scottsdale Community College. But I ran the first twenty-two miles in three hours and fifteen minutes on the second one. I was running pretty good 'cause that's the pace I'd been running when I was training, but then I stopped to get a drink of water and then stopped a minute, and when I started out again, I could hardly move. I just had to struggle. I'd run a little ways and walk, run a little ways and walk. This lady that I had run the other one with, was going to meet me at the twenty-two mile mark somewhere and run the last part with me and she met me at Hayden Road. Anyhow, she brought some oranges and I ate a couple of oranges and she begged Gatorade and stuff along the side to try to get me over this and she ran with me and kept me going. I finally finished the thing but I only gained five minutes over the first year and I planned I was going to run that in under four hours. But I ran both of them and finished them. But I decided at seventy years old that I'd better save my joints for my old age. I didn't run any more marathons but I ran a lot of 10K's.

I've got a lot of 10K medals and things around. I won Fifty and Over in some of them. The Capitol had a SK and I ran that and won Fifty and Over and Rose Mofford gave me an award on that, she was secretary of state then. The last race I ran was the Beta Breakers up in San Francisco with my daughter. Of course we couldn't run about the first three miles, but we ran about the last four and a half. I decided I better save my joints so I started hiking then.

**ZL:** You have a penchant for hiking mountains on your birthday.

**BA:** I've been doing that for the last five years I guess. My seventy-eighth birthday, I climbed Mt. Humphrey with my hiking club and we decided to do it every year on my birthday. A couple of years we didn't make it all the way on account of storms but I made it last year all the way to the top of Mt. Humphrey.

**ZL:** When you were eighty-four.

**BA:** When I was eighty-four. But that was getting kind of hard at that altitude and my daughter wanted to go with me this year and she couldn't do that at all so we decided to climb Spruce Mountain up at Prescott



to celebrate my birthday instead of Mt. Humphrey. But every year for a good many years, we've been doing something like that to celebrate my birthday. The first one was the first time I hiked all the way across the Grand Canyon. Then when I was sixty-eight I think it was, my daughter and grandson and I climbed Mt. Whitney. Then another year, we hiked across the Sierras.

**ZL:** Is that Marjorie?

**BA:** Uh-huh, Marjorie and her son, Andrew and I and Jack Casserly's son went with us on that. We hiked fifty-two miles across. Another year, Marjorie and Andrew and I hiked the Highline Trail up under the Rim. Every year we've been doing something. It's getting less and less every year. One of these days I'll just sit in the rocking chair.

**ZL:** Would you talk about your family a little bit?

**BA:** Well my wife and I got married in 1937 and she was in nurses training then so we had to go down to Florence to get married because they wouldn't let her be a nurse if she was married. But she decided she would rather be a housewife than a nurse so she quit shortly after we got married. Our first daughter was born the next year in April 1938. We were married April 4, 1937. She had a real tragic life. She was born with muscular dystrophy. But she had a will that wouldn't stop. She wanted to everything that anybody else did and she had kind of a rare form of muscular dystrophy that lingered. She lived to be fifty-five before she died. She graduated from ASU with honors and got married and had three children. But she was an invalid all of her life. She had a hard time getting around. She had two daughters. Her son went back east and we've never heard from him. Her two daughters have real nice families. One lives down at Casa Grande now.

Our middle daughter, Marjorie, as soon as she graduated from ASU, she and her sister Mary were pretty close together. They were a year apart. They both graduated from ASU *summa cum laude* and as soon as Marjorie and her husband graduated, they got married the next day, and then they joined the Peace Corps the next day. They had to go to New York, Syracuse to train for the Peace Corps, and then they went to Africa for two years. They came back here and had their son and then moved to San Francisco to teach school. Marjorie taught school for eleven years and she got tired of fighting over here over salaries so she bought herself a computer and taught herself computer programming and quit teaching and she and a couple of other fellas formed a little computer software company, but they didn't get along, so she sent her resume around and got offers from three different big banks and she elected to take a job with Wells Fargo Bank. She's been with them ever since and has a pretty good job.

Her sister Mary, when she graduated, she wanted to join the Peace Corps but she first got a job frying hamburgers and then as soon as she could, she got in the Peace Corps and she went to Malaysia for two years. I had to make her come home. She loved her work so much. But she wanted to go to the University of Chicago for a Ph.D. So she had saved her money in the Peace Corps and she went back to Chicago but the only place she could get a scholarship was in the Chicago Theological Seminary. She was interested in



that anyhow from her Peace Corps work, so she transferred to the Theological Seminary and the next summer they sent them out on field work in Chicago slums and she met her husband there, he was also going to Theological Seminary. They worked together in an organization called the Ecumenical Institute. It was an order created by the World Council of Churches. They decided to get married and continue working in that order and they sent them to Malaysia. They were over there for two and a half years, then they went to Korea for about five years, then they came back and spent a year in Oklahoma in a little Indian community, then they sent them to Jamaica for a couple of years, and then they transferred them to Venezuela, and they were down there for two or three years. Finally, they had adopted a Korean boy when they were in Korea. Their boys were growing up and they decided they had to get out of that missionary field and make some money so they decided to go to New York City which is always the best job market, but they had a pretty tough time. I had to help them a little bit when they first got back there but Mary's husband got a job with the United Nations in the same kind of work pretty much as he'd been doing all these years, working for the United Nations Development Program. He moved up pretty good and he travels all over the world nearly all the time for the United Nations. Mary's back in school trying to get a degree in family counseling. One boy graduated from a two year college and is now in Pace University in New York studying to be an accountant, and the other one just got out of high school. So that's pretty much our family. But our girls all turned out good. I taught them to shoot when they were about five years old and they all became shooters. Marjorie and Mary both were on Phoenix Union and ASU Rifle teams and Mary shot in the national matches two or three times and almost won the Women's' Championship. And my wife and I struggled along trying to support our kids and keep ourselves going.

**ZL:** If you could give a message to the young people of today, what would you like to share with them?

**BA:** I would like to tell young people that the most valuable thing they can acquire in life is their reputation for industriousness and integrity, and if they have those two qualifications, they can do just about anything they want to do. And they should realize that God gave all of us a good body to start out with, and we should all take care of it. In my opinion, there never was a bad boy or girl born, if they turn bad it was because their parents weren't good parents. Too many people never--they don't know how to parent children and it's a shame.

**ZL:** I think that concludes the interview. Thank you very much.

**BA:** I think we've covered everything.

**ZL:** Mr. Avery remembered that he hadn't told me about his rock climbing experiences.

**BA:** Well, I started rock climbing a little late in life, I was almost sixty-five, about the time I retired. The PAK Foundation, Pateman, Aiken, Kachina Foundation which had been started as a Boy Scout Explorer Troop, one of the leaders worked for me at the paper. They wanted me to become involved in helping train young people of high school age in outdoor skills including rock climbing. So I started working with these kids. We taught them back packing and hiking and camping skills and then they taught me rock climbing



over at Camelback Mountain. The main reason, they wanted to make an expedition to Wyoming to climb Gannett Peak which is the highest peak in Wyoming in the Wind River Range which is covered with snow and ice the year 'round. There's two glaciers on Gannett Peak. So this involved snow and ice climbing. We went up there, I was sixty-five then and they appointed one of the more experienced climbers to make sure I didn't die on the trip. (Chuckle) Anyhow, we got organized into four-man climbing teams and had twelve high school boys. We went up and took the two days school and went snow and ice climbing and climbed Gannett Peak. I became more involved with the boys and climbing. I climbed Baboquivari a time or two, and one day, I got a telephone call from Dr. Bernard Fontana, Bunny Fontana. He was vice president of the University of Arizona and he was in the anthropology department and the Arizona Museum, and he had a friend who was a Papago Indian who wanted to climb Baboquivari. That was their sacred mountain. His friend told him that if I would take him up to the top of Baboquivari, he would take us to visit their sacred cave where their creator, I'toi had created the Papago people in this cave. That was their place of origin. So Bunny and I went over to Sells and picked up Danny Lopez, he's a school teacher over there. He took us over to the cave which is a secret location and I wouldn't tell anybody where it is, and very few white people have ever known where it was. But we went with Danny and he took us inside the cave. We sat there in the dark while he told us some of the Papago legends. This cave was lined with everything imaginable; things that people who visited have left there as mementos, offering to I'toi. After we left there, we had to drive all the way around the Baboquivari Mountains to the other side to make the climb up to the peak and we camped around there and then went up early the next morning. Climbing Baboquivari really is a technical climb though a good climber can climb it without aid. But if you're not an experienced climber, you really need some assistance. First time I climbed it, I climbed it with one of Dr. Fontana's sons, just the two of us, and we ran into two school teachers who one of them had climbed up part way on a cliff and couldn't go up or down. I had to go up and rescue her. But anyhow, I took Danny and Bunny up there and you have to climb three rock faces to get to the top of Baboquivari from the east side. They won't let you go through the other side because it's Papago Indian Reservation. But one of these rock faces is about one hundred and sixty feet high and it's a pretty difficult climb. I had to climb up with my climbing rope and anchor myself and then throw the rope back down and have Bunny and Danny tie it around their waist and then when they came to a place that they couldn't make, I had to pull them up. I got them to the top and this Papago Indian was actually enthralled. He just walked from one point of the compass to the other looking at it all. We didn't stay very long because there was some kind of a fly up there that was apparently breeding and every bush was just covered with these flies.

Anyhow, the culmination of that story is that yesterday, at the meeting of Arizona Clean and Beautiful, Arizona Clean and Beautiful presented Dr. Bernard Fontana with the Ben Avery Award for his work in restoring San Xavier Mission which is one of the most beautiful buildings in Arizona, and Bunny has really lead the effort over the years to restore the old mission buildings and they're not finished yet. But I nominated Bunny for this award. This award was set up five years ago when Rose Mofford was governor and they were looking for somebody to make an award to for their outstanding contributions to Arizona's beauty and the highway department recommended me because I had been instrumental in getting legislation to pass to set up the Pinal Parkway and the Joshua Tree Parkway up there. The legislature had to authorize the highway department to do this and I got a bill passed to do that. So in recognition of that,



the highway department recommended that I receive that first award and Rose Mofford, it was supposed to be a governor's award, she went and named it the Ben Avery Award, presented by the Governor. They've been presenting it ever since. Bruce Babbitt got it one year and they gave the first one to me which I have in their on the divider. (Laughter by both) So I was able to see Bunny get it yesterday and when he received the award, he said that his most memorable experience in his life was when I literally dragged him up to the top of Baboquivari on the end of a rope. So that was quite an experience.

**ZL:** Well thank you for sharing your rock climbing experiences.

