Boyd Hadden, narrator
Brenda Lawson, interviewer
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tape 1, side 1

BL: Okay, I' m here with Boyd Hadden today. And, we are going to start by discussing your work as the Water Master of Union County.
BH: Uh, uh.
BL So, I'd like you to, kind of, start from the beginning and let me know how you came into this position and what it entailed.
BH: Okay. Well, it started in, we were living in Pendleton at the time. And, I went to work with the Assistant Water Master over in Umatilla County, in Pendleton. Then, uh… Let's see, I worked for them, I think it was 3 years. And, then, the Water Master in Union County was going to retire. And, uh, so I had to go through a series of tests. Actually, what it involved was highway engineering, because they hired us under an engineering position. And, then later on, they changed it to Water Master. But, uh, I moved back from Pendleton and… Let's see, I took over, over here in 1970.
BL: At this time, did you have local, local office?
BH: Ah, yes, yes.
BL: A headquarters that you worked out of.
BH: Yes.
BL: Where was that at?
BH: It was in the, uh, U.S. Geological Survey and their office, at that time, was located down, oh, East Adams. I can't remember the address, but it was on East Adams in LaGrande.
BL: Okay.
BH: And, then, uh, later on they built the, uh, oh, 4-H and… What is the name of that building out there? Out at Island City.
BL: Uh, Ag & Soils Building.
BH: Yeah.
BL: I'm not sure what the full name of it is.
BH: Oh, I'm, not either right this second. But, uh, then when they got that completed we moved out there. And, I had an office of my own out there. USDS was out there. Soil Conservation Services, the 4-H.
BL: In that first, uh, location that you were in then, did you have more than yourself in the office? Did you have a staff?
BH: I didn't have a staff that time. Fact of the matter is, I never had a staff, all the years that I worked for them as Water Master here in LaGrande. And, uh, they kept promising that we'd get a, we'd get an assistant. But, uh, I had one, I think for one summer at the end of the 70's. When they had a real dry year. They let me hire a local person. They were with me for three months, other than that, why I was on my own.
BL: Just a solo operation?
BH: A solo operation, right.

BL: Tell me about, uh, a typical day meant for you. What did the job entail?

BH: Well, it's, uh, in the summertime, they restricted water distribution. And, _____ all the streams and the river, and wells. The irrigation wells. And, some domestic wells were involved. But, the typical day started in, going into the office and then if anybody called with complaints, why then you had to go out and take care of that problem. Well…

BL: What kinds of things would they complain about?

BH: Well, if they had prior water rights and somebody else was using the water, I'd have to go out and shut off the newer user. And, then get water down to the prior rights.

BL: Okay.

BH: And, then, it… Well, it varied, actually, from day to day. We had gauging station on the river.

BL: What's a gauging station?

BH: Well, it's a monitoring system that had a, a recorder set into a building. And, uh, it measured the amount that went by, it was operating 24 hours a day. And, at one time, I had, uh, what, 6, 7, 7 gauging stations. And, then, uh, at certain times of the month, why you had to go out and pull the record that was in the recorder. And, bring that in. It had to be worked up in the field and then it went to the Salem office. And, uh, at the same time that your removing your recording, your record from the recorder, we had to measure the water flow.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, that entailed getting out the water measurer, puttin' on you boots, and measuring the width of the stream, and, and, uh, measure the depth and then there was a meter that went on the, a rod. Then, uh, you had to count the clicks. There was a… Oh, what would you call it? I could show you one, but it's kind of hard to explain. And, uh, anyway you count the clicks that this revolution went on. And, then, you'd have to put that on a sheet of paper, which had the depth plus the width plus the, how many clicks you had of the water flowing and compute that. And, then you'd get the amount of water that was flowing in the river that day.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, uh, there were six gauging stations. It kept you plenty busy. And, then, uh…

BL: Where were these, um, monitoring, or gauging stations located?

BH: Oh, let's see. There was one, two, three, there was three on the Grande Ronde River, two on Catherine Creek, and one on Myrtle Creek. And, those are within the valley here.

BL: But, there still pretty spread out?

BH: They were spread out.

BL: So, time wise, that took quite a bit of time?

BH: Right, it took quite a bit of time.

BL: Okay, tell me what was the significance of knowing the, uh, the revolution… Is that what you called it, the revolution of the water?

BH: Well, that's real amazing on how fast the water was flowing. And, when you computer all of this together, the width, and the depth, and how fast the water was flowing, well, then you come up with a stream flow. How much it's flowing that

day in the river. And, then you compared that to what was on the recorder, and this was done, of course, 365 days a year. Not the measurements, but the recorder. And, then that was all computed and at the end of the water year was ran from October to October. From October 1 to September 30 was the water year.

BL: Why the difference in the, in a regular calendar for a water year?

BH: That I couldn't answer.

BL: Okay.

BH: It's just, that's the way it was done, and, and, it was set up by the US Geological Surveys. It actually started as water recordings. And, uh, the State of Oregon… Well, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, all of them are went with the water year that US Geological Surveys had. And, then, you'd have to go out, if you got a complaint, then you'd have to go out and measure the small streams and, uh, see how much water was flowing in there. And, then distribute the water out accordingly to water rights. The oldest in time got the water first. And, the oldest water right was recorded in Union County in 1863. That's over on Little Creek, over by Union. But, then after you compute these flows, I, uh… Then you knew who would get the water and who didn't. Then you continue on and, and, uh, go to whoever was using the water and, and… If they were to be shut off, you'd shut 'em off so that it could down to the oldest rights.

BL: Uh, uh. Do you recall who had those oldest rights?

BH: Oh, (whispers) uh… Zaugge. Z-A-U-G-G-E. Oh, my lands, what was his name? He passed away just a few years ago. He was 100 years old.

BL: Wow.

BH: I can remember one time he called me from over at Union and he says "I want to use water." He says "they're using it all above me." So, I went up there and I started shutting everybody off. And, uh, it took better than 24 hours, it was a real low stream flow. But, it took better than 24 hours from the time that I shut the people off from up above, for the water to get down to his place. So, I went out the next day and, and, uh, asked him if he was gettin' his water. He says "Oh, ya'. I said "where've you got it goin'." He showed me a little spot there that he was irrigatin'. And, I said "How come you wanted to water." I says "You normally don't use it." He says "I just wanted to see if you can shut everybody off so I could get it."

BL: Oh, no.

BH: Yeah. He says "Go ahead and turn it back up above again." He was just checkin' me out.

BL: Checkin' the system.

BH: Yeah, right. See if it worked.

BL: Now, how'd the other people react to being shut off.

BH: Well, they knew that they were going to get shut off. Because, it happens every year. And, uh, because the stream flows around here are, without any dams, why, uh, the water just drops out and then you start. But, normally I set my _____ on a rotation basis. We try to rotate what water you have. And, uh, most of the time the, uh, users would call one another to say "Hey, I'm done today. You can start irrigatin' tomorrow."

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: It worked out real well up there. There, once in a while, you'd get somebody that would be mad at the next guy and… So, then, you had to go by, strictly by water rights.

BL: Uh, uh. Did it, did it escalate into a, uh, major problem or a legal issue?

BH: Uh, yeah. It does. Uh, _____ had, uh, had one state representative, one state senator, and a local county commissioner. He, uh, every one of them was gonna' take me to court because I'd gone and shut their water off. When they got through, uh, none of them ever involved the lawsuit. They found out that the water was distributed by water rights, and that was the way it was. One representative, at the time, state representative, this was when I was over in Pendleton, I went and shut his water off and, uh, he told me, he says "Well, I, you done the wrong thing. I'll have your job." I told him "Well, go ahead, I'll find another one." And, uh, it ended up that he found out that I was in the right and he was in the wrong. And, he never talked to me for over seven years.

BL: Wow.

BH: I'd have to talk to somebody else to, anytime I wanted to turn his water off.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: I was down there at Wallowa Lake one time, and he apologized, finally. And, uh, then I was going to through one of the county commissioners in jail because he dammed up Catherine Creek. And, I told him to remove the dam and he wouldn't do it. So, I went to the District Attorney and, which we have to go through, and, uh, wanted to issue a warrant for his arrest. And, they wouldn't issue the warrant. So, I went to Salem, and Salem called back to the District Attorney and told him they wanted a warrant so we could arrest him. And, they said "Oh, no, we can't do that. We can't do anything about it." So, it finally ended up that, uh, at the time when this happened, the State Engineer called the land owner and told him he's gonna' have to remove those boards. And, he did. And, then he had a big laugh out it.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: But, I was, I surely was disgusted because I was going throw him in jail, have him thrown in jail. Cuz this went on for, oh, I don't know, a week, 10 days, something like that. He was using water he wasn't entitled to.

BL: So, how were those initial water rights established?

BH: They were established through the courts in 19… 1909. And, uh, people had to go to the, uh, a designated attorney and prove when they started using the water. And, uh, then this all, went through court proceedings and it is decreed to the State of Oregon that these were the water rights.

BL: So, it really was a first come, first served.

BH: That's what….

BL: The policy.

BH: And, then after that, instead of going, uh, the water rights that were claimed on later, they had to go through the Water Resource Department in Salem. And, they had to send in a map and the date that they started using the water and, uh, then this permit was issued by the State of Oregon.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: With a date. And, then, that's, up to the present time that's how it goes now.
BL: Are there fees required, or permits?
BH: It started out, when I first started, I think it was $30.00 to file the water rights.
BL: Annually?
BH: No, no. Just one time.
BL: A one time fee.
BH: A one time fee. And, then when I left it was something like $900.00.
BL: Wow.
BH: Plus, you had to pay a surveyor to draw the map of where you were going to use this water. And, uh, I have no idea what the price is now. But, I am sure (to soft spoken, couldn't hear him). And, then, it changed, oh, in the late, late 70's, early 80's, a lot of people went to wells. There were very few wells in the valley at the time. But, now, why, uh, a lot of people have given up their old decreed water rights and transferred it to wells. Because, they had a known source of water.
BL: Uh, uh.
BH: And, there's wells out here that are, uh, well, running 1700-2000 feet deep, the irrigation well. And, out around Imbler, and that area, they, uh, biggest share of those are artesian wells. And, it's warm water.
BL: Uh, uh.
BH: And, I remember, I think it was the Eisminger, well, yeah, it was Eisminger's, drilled one around Imbler and at 1700 feet they brought up wood.
BL: What does that mean?
BH: Evidently, at one time, 1700 feet down there used to be a forest or something.
BL: Oh.
BH: Because, we sent samples out to, uh, Oregon, University of Oregon, I guess it was. They wanted some of the wood samples sent out. Because, they figured it was just an inland lake in here.
BL: Wow. While you were checking measurements daily, with the, um, _____, at the gauging stations, and so on, how long, how far back does the data go. How long have people been taking the reports and making (BL talks to softly to hear her)?
BH: Oh, let's see. I think it goes back to 19, was it around 1909 on some of them. On the Grande Ronde, the Grande Ronde right now, I think they use all of them. But, there must be. Let's see, I've been retired, 13, 11, 12 years. 11 years. And, at that time I think we had… Oh, it would be close to 90 years there's water recorded.
BL: Uh, uh. Um, and, how significant are those recordings?
BH: Uh, people use them all the time. Um, over the, they take the average over the years, then… Well, it's actually a comparison. And, uh, for water distribution purposes, we can almost come up with a stream flow for the average year. And, uh, you'll know where, actually, be pretty close to what you work with for that summer. And, then the fishermen, the call all the time. They want to stream flows in lower Grande Ronde when there's steelhead, or the Wallowa River.
BL: Uh, uh.
BH: Or, you can call almost any place in the state and you can find out the date a stream flows.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: Whether it's up or down. Uh, one big significant of it, that, uh, we used it to prediction flood. Compared to snow fall to _____ water in the rivers. And, then you could make comparison and figure out what you might have for distribution during the summer.

BL: Uh, uh. And, have there been any major floods in the Union County area?

BH: Oh, yeah. There was, uh… Well, the one I remember the most, of course I wasn't working for the Water Resources Department at the time, is, uh, 64, it was in December of 64 and January of 65. And, it, uh… That was/occurred in the whole state of Oregon. Washed out the John Day Bridge, on I-84, and there was major highways that were out, inland routes were out. And, uh, there was quite a bit of destruction.

BL: Uh, uh. And, was there something in there that was predicted? Could you tell that it was coming by…

BH: Pretty much so.

BL: Okay.

BH: Yeah.

BL: Even, though this was before you were working as Water Master

BH: Uh, uh.

BL: Okay.

BH: Right, right.

BL: But, that sort of data gives them_____?

BH: Yes, um, um, right. And, that's with new recording stations. After, uh, well, about, the early 70's, they put in a telegraphy (sp) system. And, uh, they put in a system that, uh, you could call the gauging station and they would tell you what the flow was. Well, it would tell you what the heighth of the river and then we had charts, that after we computed the stream flows, you could come up with an average figure and you would know… Say, you had a 7.1 reading on a gauge at the station, then you could go to what you recorded all year, or over the years, and figure out what 7.1 was. How many, how many cubic feet per second was flowing in the river.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, uh. Then, we had it set up that when it reached a certain point, then this is the beginning of the flood. And, uh, then people were warned, of course, by radio and everything, to be on the lookout for floods.

BL: So, the local Grande Ronde Valley depended on the forecast.

BH: Uh, uh.

BL: But, no only for, uh, for flooding purposes, but for recreational…

BH: Right.

BL: Purpose, also.

BH: And, then in the winter time, why, uh… Of course, it's, uh, the streams would, uh, most of them would freeze over in the during the winter. And, then we had to go out and chop holes in the ice and take our measurements, so we knew what the stream flow was underneath the ice.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, uh, then, as the springtime arrived, why, uh, we would know whether we were going to have major ice flows and this type of thing.
BL: So, in the wintertime, your job was quite different than…
BH: Yeah, right.
BL: Taking measurements would be obviously a lot different with ice over the…
BH: Oh, yeah. It was different. And, uh… Then, we, uh, in the wintertime, we had snow surveys. Which started out, uh, we were using old army equipment, or ski's to get to the gauges, or get to the snowtel sight. And, then, uh.
BL: Were you physically skiing into them? Or,…
BH: Um, um. Right.
BL: You had to be in good shape to do your job.
BH: Oh, yeah, right. And, then, uh, later on they went to helicopters. Well, snowmobiles first, and then helicopters. They found that they could actually hit most of the gauging stations in two days. Where if you went on the snowmobiles, you were looking at five days. And, if you had to ski into 'em, why you were looking anywhere from seven to ten days.
BL: Uh, uh.
BH: To do the snow levels. And, then, that, all the snow survey stations were put in by the US Geological Surveys. And, uh, their equipment went to, their, whatever we found on the snow corkers, the amount of snow, and that went into Portland and they, um, computed stream flows from that.
BL: Uh, uh.
BH: And, again, we were looking at, probably, 50 to, it'd be more than that. It would be more like 75 years worth of snow information. So, that…
BL: So the snow stations were different from the _____.
BH: Yes, um, um.
BL: They were in different parts of the…
BH: Oh, yeah, they were all in the mountains. Like here, we have them at Beaver Creek Reservoir and, and, up on the, oh, Taylor Green, on Catherine Creek. And, then, uh, we had, the, several of them over in the Umatilla District. We took care of those. Several in the Anthony Lakes Region. And, uh, the Tollgate Region. So, we were actually, uh… The snow surveys were actually, well they'd be for Baker, Union, Wallowa, LaGrande, and Malheur. No, Malheur was a different one. That was taken care of by the people in Ontario. But, uh, it was vital information.
BL: And, that would collect all by you also, or did you have a team?
BH: We had a team, the USGS and, uh, usually two of us went on these snowtels.
BL: You went together on them.
BH: Yeah, um, um. Yeah. And, then after I took over Wallowa County in, uh… Oh, let's see, that was about the middle, middle of the 80's, I guess it was. Uh, then we also had to take care of the snowtels in Wallowa County.
BL: Uh, uh.
BH: And, then they came up with, later on they came up with alarms on what they all a snowtel. They were set up underneath a tower, with automatic recording and they could, by radio telemetry, they'd just call into the snowtel and it would tell them the amount of snow that was on the ground. And, then they could compute over

the years the information that they'd gathered, they would know how much moisture was in the snow. How deep the snow was? How much moisture content? And, then every once in a while, we'd just go out and check these just to make sure the snowtels were all operating.

BL: Uh, uh. So, that was a, strictly, computer, computer generated information.

BH: Yeah, um, um, right. Right.

BL: Uh. So, then at the same time you were doing the snow, you were still having to measure the water?

BH: Oh, yes.

BL: In all the other places?

BH: Um,um.

BL: ____ round the clock?

BH: Well, actually, we normally, on most of the gauging stations, uh, (coughs). Excuse me. We'd go out, and, uh, the measurements would be made once or twice monthly. Actual measurements. But, the recorders we had to go out and check and make sure that they were operating. Of course, then you had all the bookwork and paperwork and everything else in the office.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, uh, we had lots of people come into the office wanting to check water rights. Uh, because of sales of properties, or people buying properties. They wanted to know dates and where the water rights were located and how much water they might entitled to.

BL: So, how many hours did they _____ out on the field and then the office? What was that breakup like?

BH: Well, it, actually, you didn't know from day to day. Whether you were going to be out on call or whether you were going to be in the office most of the day. But, I would imagine that, uh, oh, it was probably, 60% I imagine would be in the field, and 40% in the office. Somewhere in that neighborhood.

BL: Uh, uh. How long did you do this job?

BH: Well, let's see. 20, 28 years and… Call it 28 years.

BL: You had mentioned before, um, someone had retired in this area. This a position that is kind of a one man show. So, unless someone retires, there is only one for a whole area.

BH: Right, it's broken up by districts. And, uh, there was, when I first went to work, I think there was 12, 12 districts in the state of Oregon. And, then as the Willamette Valley started increasing population, and what not.

BL: So, there were initially 12 districts in Oregon, and now there's about 18.

BH: There's about 18 Water Masters. And, uh, the Willamette Valley, Bend area, Pendleton area, usually had Assistant Water Masters. But, uh, I don't know why they thought we could operate without them. And, I think right now, that the Water Master down here now, the present one, he does have an assistant, or maybe two. And, then Baker, they finally ended up with , I think they have 2 now. Assistant Water Masters. So, they're coming around. But, uh, still there's a lot of work that's done in the field that, uh, should have extra personnel.

BL: Was there any sort of, uh, extra training that you had to go to after the equipment, and then, the kind of mode to collecting data changed?

BH: Uh, yeah. We had a… We'd have a Water Masters Conference in Salem every year. And, they'd call the Water Masters and Assistant Water Masters down there. And, we'd usually have a week of training. And, then if something special came out, that the, they would… Sometimes they would come out of Salem and bring the information to you. But, most of the time they expected us to drive to Salem.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, uh, probably in a normal year, I would, people from Salem, I probably wouldn't seem them over maybe, oh, 8 or 10 times a year. They said _____. They always told us that, uh, if we don't hear from anybody in your district, you must be doing alright. So, we aren't going to bother you.

BL: Well, good.

BH: But, every once in a while they'd get a letter from… Somebody would write a letter and say that we were speeding down the highway. And, then we had to explain this. And… (laughs).

BL: Well, can you think of anything, um, anything that happened in your job that really just sticks out in your mind?

BH: No, I don't… Other than people getting on the phone and call you at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning and wanting you to come out and try to settle their problems.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: But, a lot of times, when we had… We had several irrigation districts that, uh, our, the Water Masters jurisdiction ended at their point of diversion from the river. But, these people would keep after ya', because they figured they were getting' the wrong end of the deal. And, these irrigation districts and, and, uh, so we'd tell them "That if you want us to distribute the water inside the irrigation district, that you had to go petition Salem and then, you'd have to pay all the expenses to hire somebody to come in and do this." And, normally, these people would back off and they'd finally work out their problems themselves. But, uh, a lot of times, I'd go in and, uh, just call a meeting of the irrigation district and tell them what the situation was. Now, if you do this this way, you won't have any problems. And, uh, we'd set up and actual time schedule that irrigator one would get water for a certain, certain period of time. Irrigator two would get it for a certain period of time. Because, normally under an irrigation district, their water rights are all the same anyway. And, uh, as long as you work with people and explain the situation to them, normally, their really good people. I know a lot of times when I'd have a farmers that think they had a real problem, you'd just pick up a phone and call the guy. Cuz, I known a lot of them for years, just pick up the phone and say "Hey, this is what's going on, turn you water off." And, they'd go out and do it. But, uh, there's several instances that, uh, people, they didn't feel like that they were, they were getting their share of the water. So, you'd have to go out and measure their water and find out who else is using water up the streams. And, then go right back to the old adage that first in line, first in time is first in line. After they finally got this through their head, then things would work out real well. If they didn't think they were getting the right deal, instead of calling me they'd call direct to Salem. Then my boss would get on the phone to

me and say "Hey, what's going on." Well, you explained it to him then everything was all right. He say "Just go out and tell them." I said "Well, I told them." He'd say "Well, go out and tell them again." And, uh, so then it would start working out.

BL: You really had a lot of, a good role in dealing with people.

BH: Oh, all the time.

BL: Yeah.

BH: Yeah, anytime you go over something in the office, why you're dealing with people. Several, well, then you go back to the appraisers, go out and appraise a piece of property. They come in to check to see if there's water rights on this piece of property, what the dates were. They were always wanting the maps. So, here we were going through these big volumes of, of, that showed the water rights.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: And, then make copies of that and give it to them. Same with the assessors office. They'd call down and want information. Attorneys would call. So, it kept you busy. Real busy, in fact.

BL: Can you think of any specific equipment that you used over the years that, that was challenging or interesting to you?

BH: Well, (laughs) probably on snow survey's is when we had the most problems. Uh, working with old equipment from World War II.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: That the counties had. And, uh, breakdowns, this type thing in the old equipment. I know one time we were on a snow survey up on the Pendleton and Battle Mountain. They had an old, what you called a… What did they call that old vehicle? Anyways, it was kind of like a 4-wheel drive. We always took snow shoes and, uh, skis with us. And our… We got in almost to the snowtel and the machine broker down. So, we had to ski out in probably a half mile to the snowtel. And, then we came back, we had to ski all the way back down to the highway. (laughs). So, it happened quite often. But, uh, then we got into helicopters. Of course, that was the nicest part of the snow surveys. Cuz you'd get to go up and fly all over the mountains and see all the wild life and everything else. Cut down on your time, because they kept extending out. Well, from here, I think the farthest flight we had was over to, uh, Battle Mountain, out of Heppner. Then we took over all of the Elk Horns and we went… Was it John Day? Just above John Day, we had snow surveys over there. And, then, uh, then the Wallowa's. We went over on the Snake River. We went to the Imnaha, all the Wallowa river veins.

BL: You mentioned wildlife. It sounds like you spent a lot of time up in the mountains, and in the streams, and…

BH: Oh, yes

BL: _____. Tell me about some of the wildlife you encountered over the years, if any.

BH: Oh, just, just a normal run it seemed like. There was deer and elk and, and coyotes. One bobcat, I think. At least it sat on the stream bank watching me measure water one day.

BL: How'd that make you feel?

BH: Oh, it didn't bother me, cuz he was feeding, and their not that big anyway. But, uh, coyotes, I used to seem them quite often. They, uh, came down along the river banks and they'd sit and watch ya' for a while. And, then they'd leave. And, in the summertime, when you were checking stream flows, even though there was no recorders on the, a lot of the streams, we still had go out and take measurements on them. And, uh, I can remember one time we were up, or I was at the… What was it? Up towards _____, _____ Reservoir. And, uh, this coyote was out there chasing grasshoppers. (laughs) You'd see him go in the tall grass and you'd see the grass move and them pretty soon you'd see him jump up and he come down, chasing grasshoppers. I went up to see what he was doing. And, then, another time I was watching a, oh it was a Golden Eagle, had killed a ground hog and, uh, there was a coyote trying to steal the ground hog from him. I mean I wish to this day I had a camera to take pictures of that. But, uh, I can still see vivid in my mind. That big ole Eagle, he'd, had the ground hog in his claws, sitting on the ground, and the, this coyote just kept going around and around and around. And, every time he'd get behind him, the Eagle when he couldn't see far enough, why he'd jump up and turn. And, this went on for, oh, I bet 15-20 minutes. Finally, I had to leave, so I don't know how it came out. But, uh… And, then you, I don't know, you saw all kinds of things like that. Winter time, you 'd see Bald Eagles up the Grande Ronde. It was an interesting time. And, I've taken' lots of pictures of old flood pictures, and pictures of wildlife and stuff over the years that, uh… Saw one big old bull Elk at the Grande Ronde on day. He was, oh, he was about 30 feet off the road. He was standing and it was kind of cloudy. And, about the only place there was any sunshine, he was standing, between two trees with the sun shining on him. And, uh, I took pictures of that. Oh, I took several pictures of him. And, uh, brought them down and had them developed and they lost the pictures. (laughs)

BL: Oh, no. How awful.

BH: Yeah. So, I just see that in my mind. And, then, of course, you saw all kinds of fish, salmon, steelhead, and people. Always saw people, stop and visit. Wondering what you were doing and why you were doing this and why you're doing that. So, it was a…

BL: Were these people just out hunting, fishing, or…

BH: A lot of times, they're… Well, normally, not hunting, no. Fishing, yes. They wanted to know what you was doin' out there, why you were measuring water, and this type of thing. So, uh… And, then, even if you were along the road, uh, just the tourists going by would stop and want to know what was going on. And, in the very high flows, the rivers high, we used weights to take the meter down. And, they varied in, from 15 pounds up to, uh, a hundred pound weights. Which were lead weights that hold the, the, uh, meter from going, going at an angle out from you. It would help us down, so you could get the depths of the river. A lot of things wondering how. They'd stop and say "How's fishing." And, (laughs)… And, then you'd see people out fishing, like on Catherine Creek, or Grande Ronde, you'd be driving by in your state rig, and you'd see them scatter and then

you knew they were just out there, illegal fishing. And, uh, so, it was interesting. It was also a lot of work.

BL: Did being out there inspire you to want to come out and do some fishing, or did you want stay away from the life?

BH: Just stay away from it.

BL: Too much time…

BH: Yeah. Right. Yeah. Even the snow was a, after you'd done snow surveys and stuff, you didn't care to go out and wade around in it, play in it. But, I'm, after I retired, why, yeah, I went back to doing a little fishing and wondering around hunting in the snow and this type of thing. But, uh, I don't miss the job any. But, it was fun while I was doing it.

BL: Do you recall any changes as far as pollution in the streams, or, uh, decreases in certain fish, or any other changes like that over the years?

BH: Well, pollution wise, uh, they really didn't, when I first went to work for them, they weren't really monitoring too much for pollution. And, then the last, probably 10 years that I worked, yes, DEQ came in and done the pollution monitoring. And, uh, there were certain areas that they were having pollution problems. But, uh, when they started in fencing streams and keeping cattle out, this type of thing, why, uh, there's still, uh. Well, they set up a daily maximum load that they, in the streams and if it exceeded that why then they went out and, DEQ did and was looking for these points of pollution. So, yeah, it's changed. Fishing wise, fisheries, uh, I don't know as, it's changed some, uh, due to dams that have been built. And, uh, but it seems like now that, uh… Well, the last , what 5 years, probably I worked with, in the water, they, Fish and Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife, all set up monitoring systems and, uh, then they started in fencing of streams, and doing this and that and another thing. And, uh, it seemed like its, that the fish runs are, they starting to pick back up. Plus, they went to hatchery fish. But, uh, it's going to continue to be a problem.

BL: So, you say you don't miss the work.

BH: Not really, I don't miss the work. I miss a lot of the people I worked with. The farmers and ranchers, and people that were using water.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: But, uh…

BL: Do you still see a lot of the people, or?

BH: Oh, yeah, I see them. Yeah. Mainly, downtown I run into them, or go out to Island City and drink coffee or something like that. But, uh, I don't see them on a regular basis like I used to. But, uh, I don't miss the paperwork. It was terrible, the paperwork. It just continues to be more and more all the time.

BL: Uh, uh.

BH: But, other than that, why, uh, it was a good job. One that I enjoyed because if I wanted to be in the office, I could be in the office. If I didn't want to be, I could leave and go out and do any kind of work I wanted to do. And, you always had something going on. Sometimes, it was six/seven days a week, and other times the office is open five days a week. Especially, when you get into floods and any major problems, it was 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

BL: Uh, uh.