

The Teton Dam Disaster Collection

Harold Bean- Teton Dam Disaster

By Harold Bean

July 21, 1977

Box 5 Folder 15

Oral Interview conducted by Richard B. Stallings

Transcript copied by Sarah McCorristin—April 2005

Brigham Young University – Idaho

Harold B. Stallings: Mr. Bean, will you please spell your name?

Harold Bean: Harold Bean.

HS: Where were you born?

HB: Here at Sugar City.

HS: How long have you lived here at Sugar City?

HB: Fifty-three years.

HS: Mr. Bean, do you have a family?

HB: Yes, I have a wife and three children.

HS: How many were living here at the time of the flood?

HB: None of my children were here at the time. I have one daughter that lives in Seattle, one daughter that lives in Ucon, Idaho, and my boy was in Germany an LDS mission at the time.

HS: What was your address at the time of the flood?

HB: The present address was 222 South Cutler Avenue, Sugar City.

HS: Mr. Bean, what do you do for a living?

HB: I work for the Idaho Fish and Game Department and I run a little farm on the side that's about three miles north of Sugar City.

HS: Several years ago when they began considering the Teton Dam, there was a certain controversy that developed over it, were you aware of the controversy?

HB: Yes, yeah I had a lot of people, pros and cons talk to me about it.

HS: Did you have any feelings one way or the other?

HB: I was all for it. Accidentally, I am for putting it back.

HS: Why were you for it in the first place?

HB: For the irrigation water and the additional power generation and the recreation. We can always use those things in quantities around here.

HS: Did you or any member of your family have any premonition of the disaster of the dam breaking?

HB: No.

HS: Where were you and your wife when the dam broke?

HB: Well, the morning of June 5, we were up at the farm and we were branding calves. We had no knowledge of the dam breaking and when we finished branding the calves my wife said to me, "What time is it?" I said, "Ten minutes to twelve." She said, "Well, we are lucky. We got done before noon after all." And with that she got in her car and came down home and I went up in the field to change my irrigation waters, of all things I needed to do.

And while I was up in the field I saw her drive back in the yard. She came back pretty fast and came running up through the field. Of course, I wondered all kinds of things, someone was hurt or something and when she got up there she told me that the Teton Dam had broke. And I was pretty calm about it, it never really hit me the magnitude of the Teton Dam. I said, "Well, we're quite a ways from the river. It won't do us much hard here."

So we came back down and talked to the neighbors around and learned what to do. I was one of these people that was convinced that the water couldn't be more than 18 inches deep at the time it got here. I only missed it about ten feet. But we went through a flood years ago down at Idaho Falls and the only thing we really did to prepare for the flood was we banked up around the vents underneath our hose and that was one good thing because it kept water out from underneath our house. When we got back in after the flood the underneath part of our house was dry. And then we sat here, we would have had quite a bit of time to have loaded up a few things and taken them out and I had the pickup there and it was empty. I could have taken things out you know but we didn't really take anything. I took my guns and Jean took some papers. We had kept our papers in a little box and she took those. But we did, even at the late time we found out the dam had broken, we still would have had time to have loaded up some things but we were so convinced that it wasn't going to get that deep that we didn't take very much.

HS: Did you see the flood coming?

HB: Not right at that time. I drove up town to see what was going on and the town by then was pretty well deserted. One of the deputy sheriffs of Madison County who I knew real well came up and told me I should get out of town. I said, "Do you really think it is going to be that serious?" And he said, "Hal, just get out of town. It's a lot worse than you think it's going to be." So I took him at his word and I came back home.

Jean took her car and I took the pick-up and we went down to her folks' place down at Burton, below Rexburg. When we got down there I told her, "I think I'll drive back up to the farm because the cattle are in the very worst field they could be in." It was a field

that had net wire all around it and I thought if the flood should hit there the little calves couldn't get through the wire you know to get away from it.

So I came back from there and I was going up this Salem Highway and I got just to the village of Salem and there were animals running up and down the road and pretty excited. But I got just north of the Salem church when the flood waters hit the Salem Bridge. I was coming down the channel of the Teton River and it was somewhat ahead of the water that was out in the fields. And that was really the spookiest part of the flood as far as I was concerned, because when the water hit the bridge, I slammed on my brakes and started turning around immediately. But the thing that I always visualize when I think of it is the debris that was casually in the air above the water. I don't know, air pressure force but there was debris right in the air above the water, it was just carrying it.

So I turned around quick and headed back towards Rexburg and when I got down south of Salem I could look towards the main highway back to the east and I could see the flood coming across the field. It was about, well looking back into the vicinity of that Case Implement business and the flood was about half way between there and the Salem Highway. I knew that I couldn't make it back to Rexburg so I turned West and went down towards Hibbard and then turned south again and cross the river down by Chuck's Packing plant down west of Rexburg and when I crossed the river there, there was no sign of a flood. The water was just flowing along slowing, but within an hour after that the State Police came down to Burton where we were and told us to get out of there because the water was coming there too. So that's when we went down to Ucon where my daughter lives and that's where we stayed the night.

HS: Do you remember anything else unusual about the flood, were there animals in the water that you could see or running ahead of the water?

HB: I didn't actually see any in the water but I could see them running ahead of the water. I remember one mare with a little colt that was there on that Salem Highway and I remember especially this little colt whinney for his mother. Its mother would run ahead of it you know and the colt would whinney and then the mare would stop and get the colt and then they'd go again, but there were several horses there. I remember right down in Salem there were a couple of horses in a pasture there right north of John Ball's or Joe Ball's place and evidently they could sense it coming, because they were just going around and around in the pasture as fast as they could run and kept looking back to the east, the direction that water was coming from. But there were quite a few animals out on the road that had been spooked out or I don't know how far they had come from but they were staying ahead of the water.

HS: So after you and your wife left your home here in Sugar City you went on down to Ucon you mentioned to stay with your family. Did you have any unusual or miraculous experiences connected with the flood?

HB: No, not that I can think of. The closet call I had was the one I just mentioned about coming there. If I would have been on two minutes sooner I may have been right there when the water hit and if I had of been I would have really been in trouble.

HS: How long did the bridge hold, did you see it go?

HB: No, I didn't see it go. It was still holding when I turned around. I remember a car washing up on the road and, of course, at this time I didn't think about the water having enough force to actually wash a car up on the road. I thought somebody had driven that car up on the road and had stopped just looking at the high water and I thought to myself those people ought to get out of there. And then after I started back towards Rexburg it kind of bothered me because I thought to myself, I wonder if by any chance those people had got up there and their car had stalled. I kind of felt guilty for not checking on them. Later on I found out it was just the water, the water had just washed the car up on the road and for that short period of time that I was watching it, it was just sitting there because the water hadn't got quite deep enough to wash it off the road again.

HS: How long did you and your wife stay in Ucon with your family?

HB: Well, my wife stayed there or would go back there at nights, for about a week. I came back up to my farm. To get to my farm I had to go out through Doubois and up to Kilgore and back in across the desert. That was the only way I could get to it. And with me being on that side of the river, I stayed at a friend of mine's place, Bill Enget, for about a week. I ate and slept at his home and from his place over to my farm I could get there, and then I could drive as far as, well about a mile north of the Teton River and then I would walk from the Teton River down to Sugar City and help Jean clean up the house and do whatever had to be done, and also work around my farm. I was trying to take care of my cattle, the ones that were not drowned. I still had them there at my places and I was trying to keep track of them but I had no fences to do anything with.

HS: How soon after the flood were you able to return to your property, your farm and your home?

HB: Oh, I got back to my farm the following morning, Sunday morning. But it was Monday morning before we got here to my home in Sugar City. I do understand there were some people who got into Sugar City on Sunday, but we didn't make it in. I was trying to take care of my cattle, as I mentioned, all day Sunday and Jean didn't get in here Sunday but we all got in here Monday, and started to clean up.

HS: What were you anticipating as you started to come back to your home?

HB: Well, what I had seen of the flood up until that Monday morning was up around my farm and there was real havoc up there, but with being right on the edge of the flood, the buildings weren't washed away so much as they were down here. They were damaged and we had a tremendous amount of and some of the buildings were moved but not completely washed away. When I got to Sugar City and saw the houses that were gone

and houses that I knew should belong up on the north end of town and they were down on the west end of town and some of the houses tipped over and walls taken out of them and that why I didn't know what to think about mine. Because we had to walk all the way through town to get to my place, but when we got down here one of my friends said, "Well, Hal, your house is still there and there are a couple of tier buildings up against it. So then I didn't know what to think, about how bad it was damaged.

We did have two, the roves off of the two buildings, they were wedged between our garage and out house and I think that was what saved our home was the fact that those buildings landing in that position diverted the flow around our home, so it didn't get so much of the force of the water.

HS: How much water floated through this general area where your house is established?

HB: Well, on these windows here standing inside the house, the water mark was just eye level with them. That would be something like four and a half feet here. Now when I stand on the sidewalk outside the home, the water was over my head. So at this particularly location it must have been at least six feet deep. And we had a distinct water mark across these windows you could tell just exactly.

But we were very very fortunate in the fact that our doors and our windows all held. So we only had dirt and mud and water about one foot deep in our home. My mother's home was over on the next block, it broke out the big picture window out on the west side and it was just flowing right through her house and it was probably five feet deep going through the house. But her home was just completely demolished.

HS: What did you think about as you came back into the area?

HB: Well, I think the thing that I thought about most was just, what will people do? What will any of us do? Myself or my mother or my friends, what will any of us do? Because it just looked like a hopeless job. The cleanup just looked like it would be a hopeless jog. The big piles of debris and dead animals and everything that you've ever seen around a home or farm, you could find an example of it in the piles of debris and then it was all mixed with this mud and grass and tree limbs and all around a home or farm, you could find an example of it in the piles of debris and then it was all mixed with this mud and grass and tree limbs and all wound around each other. It just looked like there was no way to cope with the problem. But that was the first impression. Of course, with all the homes gone, you wondered where will these people go? Where can they find room for all these people to stay? The fact of these HUD trailers coming in never entered my mind. I didn't even think about any relief along those lines. Of course, as far as thinking about receiving any compensation from the government as we have, we had no idea that there would be anything like that. It just looked like it would be on our shoulders at that time. Another hopeless looking vision. Just one of these things, which way do I turn? You didn't know, you didn't know.

HS: What kind of damages did you suffer; you mentioned your farm, your cattle?

HB: I had a four head of cattle drown. I didn't have any machinery left that was useable. There was one or two machines I have fixed up since that could be fixed up that I could get spare parts for and fix them up. My tractors and my truck, or course, all had dirt and water in the motors and transmissions and everything. They were gone. There was not one fence on my farm left, except my farm was the last farm hit in that section and my north fence, my partition between me and my neighbor, it was mostly still standing. But all of my pasture fences, my corral fences, all of them were gone. I mean gone, they weren't just knocked down. They just weren't there anymore. Being right on the edge of the flood water where the current would take it to the edge, and then in the shallower water the debris would collect there on the ditch banks and brace against trees or anything. But as an example of how much debris I had on my particular place, when the soil conversion came in about a month later to clean it up, the crew that came into my farm, had three loaders, and eleven ten-wheeler dump trucks and they worked on my farm for nine, twelve-hour days. By the time they got to my farm those guys had had a lot of practice, they were experts at cleaning up that debris. And those trucks just came and went continually, but it still took them nine, twelve-hour days to clean that us and to haul the debris away.

HS: What kind of things did you find in those places of debris?

HB: Well, there for a while we kept track number wise of some of the things and I had seven deep freezers, two campers off pick-ups, I think eight refrigerators, three electric stoves, three television sets, and those were the big items. And Tupperware, I could have run competition with the Tupperware Company. It seems like that floated beautifully. We found toys, incidentally those toys kind of made me feel bad. I just kept thinking here are those toys and some poor little boy or girl someplace have lost their whole worldly belongings and I've got it here and I wish they had it back. But there were a lot of logs, lumber, machinery, and all kinds of things like that came down. I had several complete buildings float onto my farm. I had probably 25 or 30 barrels or various sizes, 30 gallon barrels, 55 gallon barrels, I have five of these big fuel tanks all the way from about 200 gallon, there was one of them that was a 500 gallon, and evidently that 500 gallon tank must have been completely full of diesel fuel because I've got a spot in the field where it landed that is bigger than this house and the ground is all killed where the diesel fuel leaked on the ground. Nothing is growing there, none of the grass or weeds or anything is growing there, none of the grass or weeds or anything is growing there were that spilled. And I had air compressors and gas pumps and you name it and we had it. I had a farm supply, yeah if it had all been workable boy I would have been in clover.

HS: Did your farm undergo physical damage other than the debris piling up?

HB: Very little. On one field that was in grain, the soil conservation service determined that I had lost approximately two inches of top soil on that field and ironically on almost all the rest of the fields I had a deposit of silt. I didn't lose any, I gained some. I don't now whether it will be any good or not but at least it is there. But that one field that was

in grain and the other fields were in pasture and hay but that grain field they determined that I had lost about two inches of top soil.

HS: What about your home in Sugar City? What kind of damage did you undergo there?

HB: Well, the floors were warped real bad. Of course, we had to take all of the carpet out, linoleum, tile; we had to bore holed in the walls. We'd take up the baseboard and we had bore holes in the walls all the way around it because the moisture had gotten in the walls and we had to get air in there to dry them out. There was on place on the roof is quite a mystery to it. It looks like maybe a big log was rolling over it or something and it hit the roof and didn't do a lot of damage but that was the only damage to the upper part of the house. Of course, some of the furniture in the home was damaged. Anything that had fabric on it that was down low enough for the water to hit, not these two chairs were sitting in there, we've had them recovered since the flood. Our clothing, most of it was all right except our shoes in the closets. We just stand the shoes on the floor in the closet and nearly all of our shoes were ruined because they were down. Even though the water only got a foot deep that was high enough that we were just about barefoot.

Going back to what happened the first day of the flood. While we were up there branding calves, we had the oldest clothes we owned on and then in all the excitement, when we left here, neither one of us changed clothes and there we were down at my daughters and we looked like the Grapes of Wrath. We had plenty of time, we could have taken clothing, but in all the excitement there we were practically in rags.

HS: When did it finally dawn on you the damage that the flood was going to do? When you saw the bridge go or when you saw bridge hit?

HB: Yeah, I guess that's when the magnitude of it really got through to me. And then after I turned around and I could see that water coming across the field and there was a small dust cloud going ahead of the water, but I could see the debris rolling in that initial wave of water. You could see things like barrels and I'm not sure this is what it was, but it looked like maybe the hoods off of cars and stuff like that just rolling in that initial wave. It was just like a big window of debris, rolling along in head of the water. And the dust cloud was just kind of floating about it. Then I really got spooky.

Then we went down and the police told us we would have to get out of Burton and we left. We were going down to my daughter's and I stopped in Rigby to get some gas and while I was stopped here, a couple of young fellows came driving in and they had been on the hill up above Rexburg watching it with field glasses. They started telling some of the stories about seeing houses floating away and stuff like that and then, well my heart just sank, because I knew that Sugar City would have to be right in the path of it, being in between the two forks of the Teton River. I knew it was too late to do anything then, the water had already passed but my heart just sank. I had just this helpless feeling. Even then I didn't really think about us leaving without any extra clothing and leaving valuables in the house, but I guess it really hit us that night when we went down to our daughter's. she didn't have a television set and my son-in-law went over to the

neighbor's and borrowed a portable television set so we could watch it on the news and my daughter said, "You know Mom," she said, "The least you could have done was put your colored television set in your pick-up and brought it down to me." I guess that's when it dawned on us what we had left and the things we could have put in that pick-up, because with an empty pick-up we could have put a lot of stuff in it.

HS: What was the most cherished item you lost in the flood?

HB: I'm afraid you'll laugh if I tell you, but I'll tell you anyway. A set of saddle bags. Some years ago I worked with the 4-H. We had a lot of children around here with horses and the highlight of the summer we used to take them on a pack trip. We'd get up in Beckler Meadows or some place and take the kids on a pack trip. Of course we had to carry everything we owned on pack horses or our saddles. I always kept saying, I want to get a good set of saddlebags. And my wife would listen to me talk saddlebags and she knew exactly what I wanted, so this one year for Christmas she had a saddle maker over in Rexburg make me this set of saddlebags. She had them made to order, just like I wanted them. And I think that was the first thing I missed when I got back in here was that set of saddlebags, it was gone. One of the least expensive items we lost but it meant an awful lot to me.

HS: How did you go about cleaning your property?

HB: Well, of course, at the house we just came in and my son-in-law and I were the first two in here and we just took shovels and shoveled the mud out and got the worst of it. Then we took buckets of water, incidentally, water was still flowing past the house because the canals and the river and that was leaking and we were in the part of town that the water was still coming past. We would just get buckets of water and throw on the floor and try to dilute the mud and we would just take squeegees and squish it all out the door. Then we had to take up all the baseboards so that we could get the carpet up and got that rolled up and went out and gathered up enough people in the neighborhood to help us carry those rolls of carpets out. Boy that carpet can soak up a lot of water. By then my wife and my daughter were here and well we just started at one end of the house and started cleaning.

HS: Were there any problems that were very difficult or were very frustrating for you?

HB: Not here around home so much, but up to the farm there were many problems. It was real difficult. One problem that I was having was caused really by people trying to be nice. And that was the fact that they had these volunteer groups gathering up all the loose livestock and taking them to collection points and trying to take care of them and see that they were fed. If they had any cuts on them, they were doctored and stuff like that. That first day that we got in, my son-in-law and I fenced off a little piece of hayfield and I had my cattle there, all on my own property, and I was taking care of them and about three different times these people who were gathering up this loose livestock came onto my farm and took my livestock to head them towards those collection points. Fortunately,

one of my neighbors stopped them each time they did it and got them back home, but they were just about making a nervous wreck out of me after I had got all my stock and had them gathered up and it was just a case of where they were trying to help but they didn't realize that I was taking care of myself. To them they were strays because they were in the flood area.

HS: Did you receive any help in cleaning up your property?

HB: Much help. The big help came from the soil conservation service. They had heavy equipment come in and dozed all this debris up in piles and then at a later date they had these trucks and loaders come in and load it up and haul it away. Then we had many many hours of help from volunteer people who came into town and they came down and helped clean up the house and helped clean up the garage, and the yard.

But one day there was a group of electricians, I believe it was members of an electrician union from Salt Lake or some place in Utah. All the electricians came up here to help the people check out their wiring and get things going again. After they got the power back into town then those electricians came around and out for the wards they checked out all the plug-ins to make sure that they didn't have debris in them that would short them out. We had electric heat in the house and they checked out the electric heaters to see that there was no danger of them causing a fire if the power came on. They were very good help.

And one of the LDS Wards from Ucon, incidentally it was hard that my daughter belonged to, they were assigned to help our ward out. One of the nicest things that happened to us is one of the members of the Ucon ward had this tank truck that he hauled water to his livestock in. so he had my son-in-law fill it up with nice fresh water and they brought that up here and we just parked it here on the road and the whole neighborhood could come over and get fresh water to wash or whatever, pure water they could even drink it if they wanted. Of course, we did have drinking water here because the National Guard had those tanks up for drinking water, but this gave them all nice clean water so that the ladies could start washing out some of their dishes that they had gathered up and whenever the tank truck would go dry, someone would climb in it and take it over to Rexburg and fill it back up and bring it here and it was real handy. It was really a big help to us to have it here.

HS: Did you have any unusual or uplifting experiences during this cleanup?

HB: Well, specifically I don't believe I could mention any one. It was more just one great big uplifting experience just to see how the people rallied together to solve the problems. Willing to help, even though they had problems of their own they were always willing to come across and help you with a problem and no bickering. None of this greediness, nobody was grasping for more help than they were willing to give or anything. It was kind of a nice feeling to be associated with the people who were so willing to give of themselves and their time to help you.

HS: Did you suffer any vandalism or any other forms of looting or lawlessness?

HB: Well, very little. I did lose some horse halters that I'm sure were stolen because it was far enough after the flood that people weren't going around trying to gather up their belongings. And there were two halters and a log chain. Other than that I didn't lose anything or have anything damaged that I know of.

HS: Did you receive any help from either church or independent groups such as the Red Cross?

HB: The church groups, of course, there were many of them as I've mentioned. This Ucon Ward, people came in and helped us clean up and helped us sort salvageable items and these electricians and that I've mentioned. The Red Cross gave us, well of course they had the cafeteria up here where we could get meals and medical attention for minor cuts and things like that. Then a short time after the flood when things had kind of dried up around here and my wife was talking to the Red Cross man, he was asking her if there was anything she needed and she said, "Well, the only thing I need right now real bad, is a vacuum cleaner." Because you know after the mud had dried up and it was that fine silt and of course her vacuum cleaner was one of those tank-type that sat real close to the floor and it was ruined. So they gave her an amount of money that runs my mind that it was \$125 to go towards a vacuum cleaner. And then, of course, the food stamps, I guess probably it was the Red Cross that was handling them, but I'm not quite sure who was in charge of that. But right early there in the flood, she got some food stamps and that was about the amount of financial help that I know of that we got, but I could sit here and talk all of the rest of the day about they physical help we got, the cleanup and the good neighbor policy.

HS: Where did you live during most of the cleanup operations?

HB: Well, with it being just Jean and I and no little children to worry about or anything, after the first week, we stayed right here in our own home. Camping. I think is more of the word than living, but we were here in our own home. Incidentally, after spending that first week or ten days living in other people's places and we were treated just like royalty. We couldn't have possibly been treated any better but, gee, it was nice to get back to our own home. And we had a couple of neighbors who had got back in. Roberts across the street and Shartps and another family of Roberts up the street, there were us four families that were living in our own homes and we felt pretty good you know. Even though the homes were damaged and had a peculiar odor and we didn't have any water, but at least we were home and there is just something about being home that's different than anyplace else. We couldn't have been treated any better where we were staying but still it was nice to get home.

HS: Was Sugar City different with the four families living here than it had been when it was fully populated?

HB: Well, now these folks across the street, we had lived here across the street from one another for ten years and when they got the power installed back in our hose we had the television set on one night and they came over and sat and visited and watched television, theirs was ruined. Mr. Roberts made the comment, "It's a fine thing when it takes a disaster like this to get neighbors to spend the evening together," because in all those years we never spent one evening together. As good a friends as we are, we'd visit across the road all the time, but we never actually spent an evening together until that night.

One experience I might mention that turned out real good but it was the hardest thing I had to do when I first got in after the flood. I had left my little dog locked in the barn up at the farm, he was in a box stall out in my barn up there and the hardest thing I had to do when I got up there was open that barn door. But when I did open it, she was all right. And the water had been about four feet deep in that box stall and I don't know for sure how she survived but she was all right. Now, the way the braces were on the wall of the barn they had six inch studding, I imagine she could probably get on one of those six inch boards to perch there to rest, but she was all right and boy, she didn't let me out of her sight for about two weeks. I'd head towards my pick-up and boy she'd run and jump in it and if it I'd get out of the pick-up she'd jump out and be right at my heels. But for a long time I would have to pick her up and put her in the barn when I'd put her in for the night. Ordinarily, all I'd have to do is whistle to her and she'd run right in and I'd close the door, but for about two weeks. I'd had towards my pick-up she'd jump out and be right at my heels. But for a long time I would have to pick her up and put her in the barn when I'd put her in for the night. Ordinarily, all I'd have to do is whistle to her and she'd run right in and I'd close the door, but for about two weeks I'd have to catch her and actually carry her and put in the barn, but it turned out good.

HS: In dealing with the federal government, you mentioned the Soil Conservation Service, did you deal with any other agencies?

HB: Well, also the ASCS office, we went to their office too, well I went and bought fencing supplies and I went through their office and they had this problem. This 80-20 program that you had no doubt heard about where the government would pay 80% and the farmer would pay 20%. And then also the ASCS office gave us considerable help on giving estimates of crop damage and soil damage and stuff like that. Then the Soil Conservation Service was very good about coming in and cleaning up the debris, dozing it up, and they're still being of help to us now. Like my claim on land damage, we're just in the process of getting that verified now and the Soil Conservation came in and made a survey of the farm, as a service both to me and the Bureau, kind of a disinterested party sort of thing. It has been very helpful to me. Those men being experts in the field so to speak, they can see things and have shown me things, like they discovered this soil loss on this one field. I wasn't really cognizant of having a loss. But they could recognize the signs like the crowns on the grain sticking up above the field and things like that. They've been very helpful and also very impartial. Some of the things where I thought maybe I was hurt pretty bad, like this silt deposit, they are making a study to find out whether we are or not. Of course, my silt deposits were shallow enough that we think we

can deep plow it and incorporate that silt with the other soil and who knows it might even be a help to me.

HS: Then you evaluate them as being very effective in the help they gave you.

HB: Yes, I would, very helpful. And they have all been very courteous. And I can't criticize them in any way. They have been very good to me and most of my neighbors that I've talked to say the same that they've been very good.

HS: How about state government? Did you find any need to deal with any state agency?

HB: No, I didn't, other than I worked for a state agency, the Fish and Game Department and naturally they were very good. They gave me time off to get things going again. I had about three weeks, what they call administrative leave, with pay to get my things going and of course the personnel they took up a collection and it helped out getting some of the things we needed right quick. But the organizations itself, they were pretty good, they allowed me to take some of the machinery, the loader and a couple of dump trucks, to haul gravel back in and fill up my corral. Where my corral was washed out it washed a big deep hole and one of my friends that collected a mountain of gravel down on his farm, told me that I could have the gravel if I wanted it. So I took the Fish and Game loader and two of their dump trucks and we hauled gravel for two days and filled that hole back up and that was a real help to me, so but that was the only state agency that I had anything to do with.

HS: How about local authorities, your county, your Sugar City officials?

HB: I found the ones I had any dealings with to be very good. We would have to get permits to get into the flood area and after I got up to St. Anthony and got in the courthouse and got my permit they would just wave me on. Of course, I've lived in this country all my life and I know most of the police forces, you know, the sheriff departments in both counties, but the state police I guess that's another state agency I had quite a lot to do with, you know they were on all the road blocks. They were very good. The big majority were very courteous, trying to be very helpful. Once in a while there would be one that might get a little sharp or a little sarcastic once in a while, but very very few. I thought they all did a darn good job.

HS: Did you feel that any who assisted in the recovery might have taken advantage of individuals or the government?

HB: I don't feel like there was any advantage taken by any of the organizations, church, civic, government organizations. I don't know of any advantage they have taken. Some of these individuals and our individual companies that came in to do some of these cleanup projects and land reclamation with carry alls and stuff like that, I believe that they inflated the prices completely out of reason. Not all of them, but of course the majority of them because if one man is getting \$30 an hour, the next man he wants \$30 an hour and the third man he wants \$30 an hour, be it a trucker, a tractor or whatever, and

the price of carry all work and land leveling work just went up tremendously in a period of a year. Much more than inflation would have made it up ordinarily.

HS: Without divulging any names are you aware of anyone that filed a fraudulent flood claim?

HB: No, I'm not.

HS: How did you see the flood, as some type of divine punishment or a natural occurrence or a man-made disaster?

HB: I think it was just a man-made occurrence. I have never held with this idea that God is going to punish everybody for somebody's mistakes; I heard that comment a lot after the flood. In fact, one lady, a good acquaintance of ours, says "Well, I don't just understand it. How come Hal and Jean's house was left standing and ours was washed away. We lived just as good as they do." And, in fact, that lady if she just knew the facts she probably lives a lot better than I do, but I don't look at it as anything divine.

And I'm not a fatalist. I don't think that everything is for-ordained. I don't think that these things happen. I think it was strictly a man-made disaster and I don't say that trying to put blame on any group or any individual. Everybody makes mistakes and someplace in the construction of that dam there was a mistake made. I don't know who made it or just what the mistake was. With all of their tests and all of their investigations I don't believe anyone can point their finger and say such and so caused the dam to break. Maybe they can, I didn't, I don't, in my opinion, I don't think they can.

HS: You don't hold any ill feelings then towards them?

HB: No, I don't. And as I mentioned earlier, if they asked me right today I would vote to put the dam back in. For one thing I think it would be the best dam in the whole world if they ever put it back, but that's my feelings on it.

HS: Has the disaster changed your life at all?

HB: Oh, yeah, yeah. Mainly in just my attitude towards a lot of things. You know when we were talking earlier; I mentioned how things affected me. Some things just climb the wall over, if I couldn't get my fences repaired right exactly on time or if I had trouble with machinery when I should be mowing hay and I couldn't get my tractor started or something. Those kind of things used to really bug me. And now I can take more of a philosophical look at it, what difference does it make; the sun will come up tomorrow. And as far as changing my life in a financial way, it hasn't either added to it or taken much away. We were treated quite fairly on the settlement. With the exception of machinery I think we can replace everything we lost. The machinery is a little different story because the machinery I could but I bought new machinery. So with that exception I think, speaking from a financial point-of-view, I think we will be a par of what we were before. It's going to take me several years to get my farm back into production because

I'm going to have to plow up all of my pasture that I had established and things like that and reseed it and it's not that it's such a hard job, it's just a time consuming job.

HS: How did the disaster change the community?

HB: Well, in this particular community it's changed the physical appearance of this town about 100%. Because there are very very few homes, pre-flood homes that are left today. And they are building beautiful homes, some big ones, some not as big, but they are all nice. And within the next two or three years when they get all their landscaping established and their lawns back in their shrubbery and all the homes are completed, we are going to have a beautiful little town here.

HS: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Bean.