

THE MARIA ROGERS  
**Oral History Program**

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2003



## New Interviews

The following six interviews have been processed into the collection and are now available to the public. Stop by the Carnegie Library to listen to and/or view them—or any of the other more than 1,000 interviews in the collection.

**OH 1092V A-B: Al Bartlett, Kurt Gerstle, and Ruth Wright** discuss their involvement in PLAN-Boulder County, including work on issues such as the Blue Line Amendment, the Greenbelt tax, the city height restriction amendment, the Boulder Creek path, and the Danish Plan. By Guy Errickson.

**OH 1117V: Patricia Mosch**, daughter-in-law of Betty Mosch, talks about Betty's life in Nederland, focusing on her house and gardens; her family ties; and her community work. Includes video of numerous photos. By Beth Simmons.

**OH 1120V: Nancy Tanaka** describes growing up at Tanaka Farms, a Longmont-area farm owned by her father and his brothers. By Amy Fieling.

**OH 1121: Roland Wolcott** discusses Wolcott family history from the time of the arrival of his paternal grandfather (Horace Wolcott) in Boulder County

## FEATURED INTERVIEW



Jess Alexander, a ditch rider, is seen here at one of the ditches that he manages, the Lower Boulder Ditch. In OH 1124V, Mr. Alexander demonstrates the use of ditches for agricultural irrigation. He also talks about the effect of development on ditches and water rights in Boulder County.

to the birth of Roland (1917) and his siblings. By Boyce Sher.

**OH 1123V: Raymond Johnson** talks about student life at CU-Boulder during the 1940s and his jobs as assistant manager, then manager, of the CU Bookstore and Director of Purchasing for CU. By Jewel Wolcott. Filmed by Susan Becker.

**OH 1124V: Jess Alexander** talks about his job as a ditch rider. Includes an tour of the Lower Boulder Ditch and a demonstration of ditch operation. By Anne Dyni. Filmed by Liz McCutcheon.

## What Oral History Volunteers Are Up To

Interviews recorded in the past month include:

- Daniel Ellsberg, interviewed by Dorothy Ciarlo
- Carmela Wolf, interviewed by June Howard
- Jason Midyette, interviewed by Anne Dyni
- Bud Ames and Cheryl Eden, interviewed by Marvin Woolf

Daniel Ellsberg, whom Dorothy interviewed about his involvement in protests against the

Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant when he was in town for the Conference on World Affairs at CU, plans to include a copy of the interview on his website.

New volunteer Pennie Magee plans to interview residents of the Leonard's Road neighborhood and also will be interviewing residents of Nederland.

## News for OH Volunteers

At our May meeting we watched part of OH 1092V A-B in which Ruth Wright, talking about the early years of PLAN-Boulder County, tells the inside story of how Boulder came to have a limitation on the building height. The idea for the amendment to the city charter was developed by Wright in

response to an assignment to write a paper for a law school class she was taking in 1971.

**We also listened** to a portion of a recording made at a Conference on World Affairs session titled "The Art of the Interview." If any volunteers would like to listen to this recording, it is in the OH wire basket and may be checked out (by OH volunteers only).

**From the camera school of hard knocks:** Marvin Woolf reports the following: "I was interviewing Bud Ames.... I would begin and the camera was working well. After a few seconds, the

"record" light would turn to "pause." So we began the interview again." This sequence of events repeated itself quite a number of times until Marvin realized that the lever on the front of

the camera had been nudged too far so that, instead of being set to "movie" it was pointing to "photo." The camera was taking 6-second still photos instead of continuous video! Camera operators beware!

**Why we do it.** As reported in the *New York Times*: "The purpose of oral history," says Studs Terkel, the renowned 90-year-old historian and radio interviewer, "is to tell the story of the world through the voices of the salt of the earth."

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Next Oral History meeting  
**Saturday, June 7**  
at 9:00 a.m.

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# Oral History Program

A Boulder Public Library Program

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