

Palisade Historical Society
 Oral and Video History Project
 Interview

Mesa County Oral History # 794
 Place 3706 G Road, Palisade, Colorado
 Interviewee George Bunte
 Interviewer Justina Nelson

Date: March 1 & 6, 1984
 Length: _____
 Phone: _____
 Phone: _____

This is a summary of a handwritten Tape Index, which contains notes from an interview with George Bunte on March 1 & 6, 1984, conducted by the Mesa County Oral History Project. The interview was recorded on three cassette tapes. This digital rendition of the Tape Index follows the original format as closely as possible, in order to preserve the document as it was originally created. Syntax and spelling errors were corrected and abbreviations were spelled out, as possible. The original document can be viewed at the Museums of Western Colorado library.

(Clarifications and comments from other sources appear in parentheses and italics and are not a part of the original document.)

Time	Subjects Covered	Names & Places
Tape 1, recorded on 3/1/84 Side 1 0-10 min.	Date of birth – 1911 Education – Business courses. Studied to be a horticulturist, 1930 – 2 years. Father purchased peach orchards in 1910. Worked for father in two orchards. Seepage ruined land in second orchard. Drainage District. Hauled peaches to town in Model A truck.	Palisade, Colorado. Ross Business School Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins. 3740 G Road Highline ditch John Gross, Lawyer
10-20 min.	Involved in trucking business for thirty years. Rented peach land and did construction. Hauled gasoline, etc. Operated bulldozer, front-end loader, and backhoe. Agricultural business. Mule camp - Hauled fertilizer. 15,000 mules in camp. Ice brought back from mountains for railroad and stored in ice houses for refrigerated cars.	George Bunte Transportation and Construction Company Associated Grocers. Camp Hale – World War II Tennessee Pass Pando Lake City Produce Company

Time	Subjects Covered	Names & Places
20-30 min.	<p>100 carloads of peaches hauled out per day by the Co-Op. Re-iced cars in Denver. Reminiscence about father cutting ice. Horse and buggy transportation. <i>(Illegible)</i> roads to Grand Junction from 30 & F Road. County roads discussed. Markets for peaches. Cost of shipping. Fruit organizations. 1,000 carloads a year shipped. Irrigation systems built. Dam built on Colorado River. Bureau of Reclamation Project. Price and Stub Ditch. First Orchard Mesa pump.</p>	<p>Colorado River Midwest states United Fruit Growers George Bowman Highline Canal Roller Dam Mr. John Price Orchard Mesa Canal</p>
Tape 1, Side 2 0-10 min.	<p>Poor soil in the valley. Apples grown with water and fertilizer. Shale underlay. Water allocations. Lower Valley – fruit became popular. Spraying of fruit. Shipping of fruit until 1963. Three platforms in Clifton for loading. Fruit hauled by wagon.</p>	<p>Appleton Holland Fruita Grand Junction Fruit Growers Association Pacific Fruit and Produce</p>
10-20 min.	<p>Largest shipment of peaches. Grand Junction and Palisade platforms. 2,000 carloads in peak. Freeze of 1963. Better peaches now.</p>	<p>Schoene (?) Bridges Switch Henry Hickman</p>
20-30 min.	<p>Took cases of peaches to convention. People impressed. High altitude gives better flavor. Sour cherries becoming popular as a crop today. Weather – best frost-free area above Highline Canal. Breeze is important. Dry cold. Spraying with water. Smudging with coal and oil pots in the old days.</p>	<p>National Peach Convention, Atlanta, Georgia Paonia Skyline Canning Palisade Orchard Mesa</p>

Time	Subjects Covered	Names & Places
Tape 2, recorded on 3/1/84 Side 1 0-10 min.	Became County Assessor (in 1966) – 12 years in office. Sold business. Knew evaluations and mill levy. 44 different tax evaluations. Mosquito District discussed. Appraisal methods used. Researching building costs. State law changes. Left office 1978. Method of determining taxes.	Orville James
10-20 min.	All farm land assessed according to ability to produce. Commercial property vs. agricultural. Assessment of utilities and railroads. Staff of twenty people in Assessors Office.	
20-30 min.	Depreciation on his house built in 1904. 55,000 parcels of land now (<i>copy illegible</i>)	
Tape 2, Side 2 0-10 min.	Taxes – judgment factor. Men better appraisers than women. Methods of assessment. Levy assessment in Mesa County Mill disbursement according to districts. 48 different taxing agencies. Decided to leave Assessor's Office at age 65 years.	Vineland
10-20 min.	Changing of times. Differences of America and Russia. Taxes in Sweden. 26% of Mesa County on tax rolls, 90% in Weld County.	Weld County
20-30 min.	Various taxes discussed. Property taxes spent in Mesa County. Use of computer in assessment today. Objection of tax use.	Uranium Downs
Tape 3, recorded on 3/6/84 Side 1 0-10 min.	Parents came to valley in 1910. Bought two peach orchards. 1918 - \$1.00 / bushel. Parents able to make a living from peach growing. Consignment of peaches. Fruit platforms. 1930 – 15 cents / bushel. 5 cents / bushel for picking.	Pope Patterson United Fruit Growers Vineland, Colorado Part (<i>port ?</i>) John McDowell

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10-20 min.	Committee of twelve formed for price stabilization. Price-fixing legislation. Weighing of truckloads inaugurated. George Bunte served on board. Advertising by Board. Peach growers assessed for (<i>illegible</i>). Members elected by growers. Still have manager. Inspection of peaches. Raising and studying insects – medfly, Oriental fly, brown spot, Lygus bug, aphid.	Peach Board of Control, Oscar Jaynes Peach Administration Committee Palisade Insectary, Albert Merlino
20-30 min.	Dusting of trees and liquid spray. Arsenate of lead was only insecticide used originally.	Dr. Sickenberger
Tape 3, Side 2 0-10 min.	Peaches sprayed with arsenate of lead were ordered by the Government to be washed. Insect control. Inspections – uniformity of size Peach Board inspections to keep quality.	Peach Board of Control
10-20 min.	Colorado peaches compared. Changes of variety names. Standard Elberta (<i>variety</i>) best shippers.	
20-30 min.	Peach industry representatives met once per year. 36 states raise peaches. Smudging. 1923 United Fruit Growers formed as a co-op. Peach farmers signed notes and borrowed money on note. Inspection of all fruit. Allergy to peach fuzz.	National Peach Council Alan Jones Larry Clark Dale Ferguson United Fruit Growers

Summary written by Gary Hines - 10/12/2015

Reviewed and edited by: _____

(name)

_____ (date)