

**Colorado River Water Users Association –UTAH**

**Tape #6**

**JAKE GARN (TAPE #1)**

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

**August 20, 2008**

jg – Jake Garn

ps - interviewer Pam Stevenson, Agave Productions, Inc

bs - videographer Bill Stevenson

ps I'll start off by identifying on the tape that today is Wednesday, August the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. And, we're in, here in Salt Lake City to do an oral history interview for the Colorado River Water Users Association. I'll let you give us your name so we can have it pronounced correctly on tape.

jg (laughs) I'm Jake Garn.

ps And, is Jake short for anything?

jg Jake is short for Jacob. But if anybody said "Jacob," I wouldn't turn around. I've never been called anything but "Jake."

ps Okay. I always like to start at the beginning and ask you when you were born and where you were born.

jg Well, I was born in Central Utah in the small town of Richfield. It's now expanded to about 7500 people. It's really, really big. But, uh, great place. The only sad thing of it is, it was in 1932 when I was born there. I wish it had been less time.

ps Well, what was the, the town like in 1932 when you were growing up?

jg Well, very small. Mostly agricultural. My father was a civil engineer. He was a pilot in World War I, but he was a civil engineer. He was the District Engineer for the State Highway Department in Richfield, so he was responsible for building Highway 89 from Thistle, Utah, all the way to the Arizona border.

My mother was from a small town of Fairview, about 80 miles north of Richfield. Very small. Only about 1200 people.

And her diaries were priceless. She said, I love Ed Garn, but, is it possible to trust a man from the big city of Salt Lake? (laughs)

ps So were they a pioneer families? Or, how did they get together?

jg Well, my mother's family were sent by Brigham Young from Salt Lake City, her grandparents, to help settle the town of Fairview. My father was born in Salt Lake City, but his grandfather was one of the original pioneers that came here in 1847 with Brigham Young. So both families had that history of crossing the Plains and coming to Utah.

ps And you say your mother kept a diary? Do you have diaries from earlier...

jg Well, she's the only one that really kept one for a long, a long period of time. And, it's great to read because of personal comments like that, that you can trust a man from Salt Lake City. She loved him, but...you gotta be careful about those big city people.

ps Those diaries are priceless, I think... (jg – Yes, they are.) I've done some women's history....(can't hear) Tell me about growing up in...in Richfield?

jg Yes.

ps Did you go to school there?

jg Well, actually, no. When I was just five years old and ready to start kindergarten, my father being a World War I pilot as well as a civil engineer, was hired in 1937 to be Utah's first Director of Aeronautics. So, we moved to Salt Lake City. And then he was responsible for building most of the airports. All over the state of Utah. So, he was a real pioneer of Utah aviation.

But, I would go back every summer to Sanpete County and Sevier County, Richfield and Fairview, because I had so many cousins that I missed. And so, while I lived in Salt Lake, I spent a lot of time in those small areas.

ps In, in Salt Lake, you went to a public school?

jg Yes, I just went to public school. Grade school, junior high school. Oh, it's middle school now. But junior, junior high in those days. And high school. And then, graduated from the University of Utah here in Salt Lake City.

ps Were you a good student as a boy?

jg Well, it may sound like I'm bragging, but, yes. I had only three Bs in high school, all the rest were As. And I have regretted those three Bs all these years.

ps What were your best subjects?

jg Math and science type of classes. Chemistry. Physics.

ps What did you get the "Bs" in?

jg Social Studies, and (laughs) classes like that, that I was not too interested in. The easier ones were the ones that I got, got the Bs in.

ps So, growing up then, what did you think you wanted to do when you grew up?

jg Well, I knew that I wanted to be a military pilot because my father was such a hero. He got his wings in World War I. He was Utah's first Director of Aeronautics. He was the first native-born Utahn to ever hold a pilot's license. So, he was such a hero of mine that I wanted to follow in his footsteps and be a military pilot.

One of the interesting things...when I got my Navy wings down in Corpus Christi, Texas, my wife was about to pin my wings on. And then she stopped, stopped the whole line of all these young ensigns coming across to get their wings - said something to the Admiral. And I thought, what is she doing, interrupting this whole ceremony? And then she went like this, (makes motioning gesture) after the admiral nodded, and motioned my father to come out of the audience and pin my wings on.

And then, my second wife....my first wife died in an automobile accident... I got off my space flight, space shuttle *Discovery*, and she had gone to NASA, got my father's World War I wings, my Navy wings, my Air Force Command Pilot wings, and my astronaut wings, and had NASA put them on the space shuttle. So, all four sets of wings flew on the space shuttle with me.

And, I've always felt badly and said, oh, if my dad just could have seen his little boy fly in space that would have been the ultimate. And, I'm always told by my family, he was closer to you, Dad, than anybody else while you were in space.

ps Sounds like you were always close to your dad. How many children were in your family growing up?

jg Only three. I have two older sisters. And they've always said that because I was the only boy, and the youngest child, I was spoiled. And, I said, you're probably right, and I enjoyed every minute of it. (laughs)

ps So that's probably....you were dad's son.

jg Yes. Yes.

ps Well, tell me about...when did you first learn to fly?

jg Well, I actually started taking lessons when I turned 16. I had my private pilot's license before I entered the Navy. So primary flight training was easier for me than, than most of them, because of having had the previous experience of learning how to fly small airplanes.

ps And, why did you join the Navy if you wanted to be a pilot?

jg Well, naval aviation appealed to me, and so, that's what I wanted to do. So, I made sure before I ever signed up for the Naval ROTC at the University of Utah, that I could pass the flight physical. (laughs) And....so, I thought the combination of being able to be a military pilot, and carriers, and sea planes and all of that, was really exciting to me.

And, it proved out to be. But then I also had the opportunity, after I got off of active duty, to spend 20 years in the Air National Guard. So, I ended up being both Navy and Air Force.

ps What years were you on active duty in the Navy?

jg I was active duty in the Navy from 1955 to 1960.

ps So, you managed to miss most, most of the wars. (laughs)

jg Well, yes. I was in college getting my degree and my commission during the Korean War that ended just before I went on active duty. But, I ended up spending a great deal of time in a Navy patrol squadron in Iwakuni, Japan, and Sangley Point in the Philippines, flying all the way around the coast of Korea, and the east coast of China from Tsingtao down to Hainan Island - doing shipping reconnaissance and anti-submarine patrols.

So, while I was not there during the Korean War, I spent a lot of time in that area of the world. I undoubtedly know the Chinese coast better than 99-percent of the Chinese people, (laughs) having spied on them.

ps Sounds very interesting. So, um, did you have an idea what you wanted to do when you got out the Navy then?

jg Well, originally I had planned to make the Navy a career and be full time, stay in the entire, 20, at least 20 years. But my wife said to me, said, Sweetheart, I know how much you love the Navy and flying, and that you'd planned to make it a career. And, that's fine, if you want to do that. But, I'm going back home to Utah. (laughs) So.

Well, I thought, well, yes, I got that right. So, I finished my five year commitment and came home, and was fortunate enough to, as I mentioned, to get into the Air National Guard and continue my flying career. So I had the best of both worlds. My wife was happy, my kids were happy, I was back in Utah, and I was still a military pilot.

ps But during the, the five years in the Navy, was your wife and your kids following you? Where were they?

jg Well, I was actually home-based in the Navy. With San Diego and then Alameda, and Whidbey Island, Washington, north of Seattle. And then we would deploy to Iwakuni, Japan, or Sangley Point in the Philippines. And, while they were six month deployments, and then you'd come back to your home base and be there for a year, and then go back for another six months, you could take your families with you. If you paid their way, and rented space in town.

So I did. So, my wife and ...first deployment to Japan I only had one son. He spent his first birthday in Japan. By the time I got out of the Navy, we just had two...two children. Two Navy babies. (laughs)

ps That's when she decided she wanted to come back to Utah.

jg Yes.

ps So in coming back to Utah then, what...how did your career progress?

jg Well, interestingly enough, my degree in college was in banking and finance. So, I'd always planned to be a banker. I was interviewed by several banks, and, gee, I was just so discouraged by what their pay was. This one manager said to me, he said, well, within a few years you could be an Assistant Manager. And you might make eight to ten thousand dollars a year. And...(laughs)

That was an improvement over my Navy pay, but still...I had bigger aspirations.

So, I actually chose a much more difficult role. I decided to, uh, sell life insurance and pension plans. With no guarantee. Well, that makes a very hard-worker out of you when you don't get paid unless you sell something. So, it was straight commissions.

So, the first year in the insurance business, I would have made more at the bank. But, the second year, I made twice what I would have made at the bank. So, it turned out very well to make that hard-working choice.

ps And, of course, with the, the Air National Guard... (can't hear)

jg Yes, I had the base pay from the Air National Guard. I think it was four or five thousand dollars a year at that time, but that was big money. That'd buy a lot of things in those days.

ps So, you were back at home in Salt Lake. Did you have political aspirations at that time? Or...what were your goals?

jg No, I really didn't. But having never been out of the state of Utah until I was 19 years old...next year when my first midshipman cruise to Edinburgh, Scotland, Oslo, Norway, and La Havre in France. And then the senior cruise was in the Mediterranean and so on. And then to be stationed in Southeast Asia.

When I got out of the Navy I thought, how can I be so lucky? To be an American? To have the opportunities that I've had, compared to what I've seen around the rest of the world. And so, I need to be involved.

So I joined Kiwanis Club and got in Junior Chamber of Commerce at that time. And it was just...I need to give back something. I have been so fortunate. So lucky. All the opportunities that I've had, that I can't just work and ignore all these things. So, I was involved in a lot of charitable things as well.

And, interestingly enough, my political career, as I mentioned, was not planned.

But...the Air National Guard was having a problem with the city, as far as their lease on the east side of Salt Lake International Airport, with a huge increase.

And, because I've always been willing to say exactly what I thought, the Commanding Officer said, Jake, would you go up and appear before the mayor and the City Commission, and explain to them how much money comes into the city coffers, through sales taxes and other resources, other than just the rent we pay. And, we might have to move to Hill Air Force Base and they'd lose it all if they don't get more reasonable about the, the rent.

And, so, it was really interesting. And I appeared. I was not rude, but very direct in trying to point this out.

And one of the commissioners said to me, he said, well, Major. If you don't like the way we run the city, why don't you run against me? And I said, maybe I will, because any damn fool could run it better than you're running it.

This appeared in the paper and on TV, and the next day my mother called me, and she said, oh, son. You've embarrassed the whole Garn and Christianson family. I just can't believe my child is quoted as saying "damn," in the paper. And everything. (laughs) So, it got rather big publicity.

So, again he repeated, well, if you don't like the way we run the city, run against me. Well, I hadn't thought about it, but that appearing in the press, a bunch of people said, that's a good idea.

And, I was only 34 years old. So I did run...and defeated him. So his comment (laughs) cost him (laughs) the election.

And then, I was very frustrated as a commissioner in those days because I thought...well, if I really want to make things happen and change things, I need to be mayor. So I ran for mayor, and defeated another commissioner. (laughs) And I was all of...the age of 38 now.

And I must admit there are some advantages to being bald. Because in this city, would they have trusted a 38-year-old to be mayor? So, the bald head...they thought I was a lot older than I really, (laughs) really was.

And then I got involved in the National League of Cities. And was on the Board and met a lot of prominent mayors from around the country. Joe Alioto, Dick Luger of Indianapolis, and others, from all the major cities.

A lot of them said that...well, we get so sick of the federal government trying to tell us how to run our cities. And Houston is different than Salt Lake, and Salt Lake's different than San Francisco. And, yet, they come out with these uniform programs that waste a lot of money. And, uh...you ought to run for the Senate.

So, a lot of my former mayor friends, both parties, were encouraging me to run. I thought, well, maybe I should.

Well, it wasn't too smart because it was 1974 after Richard Nixon and Watergate, and there were only two new Republican Senators...elected in the entire country that year. Paul Laxalt of Nevada and I. And, we showed up in the Senate with 62 Democrats and only 38...or 60...yeah....62 Democrats and only 38 Republicans.

But, Mike Mansfield was the Majority Leader, and you could not find a nicer, more fair human being than Mike Mansfield. Even though he could have run roughshod over us, he was always the gentleman.

And so, my political career was not planned. It, it evolved. And my second...

ps Was it difficult to become Senator? I mean, was it a tough race here in Utah?

jg Well, it, it was at the time, just because of the Richard Nixon Syndrome, of, whether you're a good Republican or not, you're responsible for what he did. I'd tell people, I said, I've never even met the man. Don't blame me for whatever he is doing.

And, I had an opponent who was an incumbent congressman. And everybody told me that it was impossible to win. That I should run for his seat. That he was vacant...vacating it. I said, no, I don't want to be in the House, run every two years. I'd rather run for the Senate and lose than be elected to the House.

And so, I started out 30 points behind the congressman, and ended up winning - and again, in 1974.

ps What do you attribute that to? Why did you (can't hear)

jg Well, I think a couple of reasons. First of all, my entire political career, the whole 25 years I was in political office, I really enjoyed meeting people personally. And so, I knocked on a lot of doors. And walked around streets and went to parking lots and baseball games. Even after I was elected to the Senate, I loved to walk around the state, and I mean literally walk, and say, hi, I'd like to know what you think about the issues. Oh, well, Senator, what are you doing here?

And, I said, well, the same people come to all the public meetings, with all their complaints and gripes. And I'm interested in what everybody thinks. And, particularly, this is a compliment, you ordinary people who aren't the big mouths that are going around yelling about everything. I'd really like to know what you think. That's very helpful to me to get a broader perspective about what my constituents think.

It was not only very helpful to me professionally, politically I...my second and third term got 74-percent of the vote both elections. And, I think that's still an all-time state record. I may not have even had an opponent for a fourth term. Governor Cal Rampton, Democratic governor of Utah for three terms was a very good friend of mine. We'd known each other for a long time, before either of us ran for public office.

He was saying to the Democrats, don't run anybody against Jake. Can't beat him. Leave him alone, spend the money on other races. So, I may not have had an opponent for a fourth term.

But, I feel so strongly about term limits, that how...I have to practice what I preach. So, after three terms, I said, nope, that's it. I said I'd love to see a three term limit on Senators and change House terms to four years. Cause in today's TV environment, they're continually running for re-election. It never stops. I think we'd improve government a lot, cut down the partisanship, if we had term limits. So, I limited my own terms.

ps Not many people do that. Once they get into office, it's too tempting to stay.

jg Well, but you have to get it in perspective. I couldn't have afforded to restore my airplane on Senate pay. So, you gotta get your priorities in order. I...(laughs)...I'd rather fly airplanes than anything else in my life.

ps Let's go back and talk about when you were first elected...That's 1974?

jg Yes.

ps You went into office. And what were the....you mentioned Nixon. What were the other big political issues back there at that time?

jg Well, obviously the biggest political issue was Richard Nixon. And his comments and the way he handled the entire situation. And, all the talk among Republicans...he just said, that break-in at the Democratic Headquarters...was ridiculous. It shouldn't have happened. I didn't know about it. So, the whole issue was more of...he's covering up for it, than just admitting it happened. Because I'm sure the President of the United States was dictating that kind of, of detail.

And, that's one of the things that bothers me about politics in general, is guilt by association. I really feel very strongly that people in public office should be judged individually, and not have a label that brands them one way or another. Because there are a lot of very good people in public office in both parties.

And, uh, I wish we had more involvement of average citizens, and doing more of their own homework rather than listening to the TV ads and so on, and finding out what their Representatives and their Senators really believe in. That personal contact, as I mentioned, was incredibly helpful to me.

ps What were the, the issues that Utah was concerned about?

jg Well, Utah...biggest issue has always been being a public land state. Two thirds of the entire state is owned by the federal government. And that was something that I was always trying to explain to my colleagues when I was trying to get water projects or other things solved for the state of Utah.

And I'd explain to my Eastern colleagues from Pennsylvania and New York and all those states...I'd say, what would happen to your tax base if two thirds of it were removed from local tax revenues? No local property taxes. None of those things that you get. Oh. Hadn't thought about that.

We need federal aid to pay for that two-thirds being removed from local taxation. We would be so much better off if the federal government didn't own it at all. The local property taxes and so on would produce far, far more revenue than we ever get in terms of, of federal grants.

But, that's not just true of Utah. It's true of any of the heavily owned federal property.

Arizona has a lot of public land. Idaho. Wyoming. Alaska has more than anybody else. And so, that was always a prime issue of trying to explain, two thirds of our state doesn't get any tax revenue.

ps You mentioned water projects. Were there major water projects at the time when you went into office? The Central Utah Project had already been approved at that point.

jg Well, interestingly enough, beyond the federal land issue, we are a very dry state. As is Arizona. And so, as the population grows, you need more and more water. And that was another thing we always had to try and explain to our Eastern, uh, colleagues...you've got lots more rainfall.

We haven't had any measurable rain in Salt Lake, for two and a half months this summer. Zero. And so, most of our water comes from snow melt. The vast majority comes from snow melt.

Well, it's wasted water if it melts and just runs with the Great Salt Lake, and evaporates. That's something I always had to try and explain...the practical side of water issues.

Yeah, we got a lot of water up in those mountains. That's where it falls. But, if we don't have an ability to store it during those dry summer months, it's wasted. Isn't it better to be able to have human beings use it than go into the Great Salt Lake and evaporate? And be 27-percent salt, which makes it useless.

So, any Utah Representative or Arizona...any of the dry states...has got to try and make that position understandable. We are different. We have a, a very different climate than you do. So these water projects have to come about. It doesn't do any good to have the 1922 bill passed, unless you have the ability.

They say, okay, Utah's got 23-percent of 7-and-a-half-million acre feet. But if you can't store it, you can't use it. So the allocation is worthless. And that's true of all of the states involved in this Compact. They've got to have the ability to store that water so it can be used during the dry periods.

CRWUA - Utah  
Jake Garn – Oral History

ps When did you first get involved with the Colorado River water issues? Had you known much about that before you became mayor, or was it a big issue as mayor?

jg Well, the reason that I knew a lot about it... When I became a commissioner of Salt Lake City...that was in the days when you were full time and you actually ran a department. And I was assigned to run the Salt Lake City Water Department.

After I'd been sworn in, I walked down to the office of Charlie Wilson, who was the Water Superintendent. And, a man who majored in engineering at the University of Utah. Worked there part-time for the Water Department while he went to college. Came back full-time, and had been head of the Water Department for 18 years.

He was Mr. Water in Utah. He knew everything about every issue in the entire state.

So, I walked down after the swearing in, and I said, Mr. Wilson. He said, oh Commissioner, please call me "Charlie." I said, I'll call you "Charlie" if you call me "Jake." And he said, oh, Commissioner, I can't do that. I said, okay, Mr. Wilson. Took two or three days and finally he said...came into my office and he said, Jake. I'm Charlie. And I said, okay.

I said, I'd like you to know all I know about water is that you turn on the tap and water comes out of it. Now, you teach me, because you are the expert in Utah.

So, literally started at that point. Not just the practical side, but showing me all the dams and reservoirs. And, and the legislation. I'd be asked to go back and testify because of that position.

And then when I became mayor, I continued to run the Salt Lake City Water Department, so I had that position for seven years, before I was elected to the Senate. So, that's why I tried very hard to get on Appropriations Committee, so that I was there where the water resources were.

ps So, you already were pretty much of a Utah water expert.

jg Well, and...beyond Utah. Because you can't just look at Utah. You've got to look at the Upper Basin, and the whole situation of the Green and the Colorado River. And the flows, and the allocations made way back in 1922. And then I guess the Santa Fe Accords were in 1952. So, it had been a long time allocating and setting up how this water should be used.

ps And then the Central Utah Project. 1964?

jg Yeah, originally. It didn't move along very fast. (laughs) Most of it was the 18 years while I was in the Senate. Because, with the background I had, I understood. It wasn't just a parochial interest -- that I'm trying to serve my state. So, having been Water Commissioner all those years, I knew the real need. Forget the politics...the real need.

Because, today's population...just here in Salt Lake Valley. If we didn't have Jordanelle and other pieces of the Central Utah Project, we wouldn't exist...this size. It would be impossible to handle the population.

ps And, obviously they knew that back in the 60s when they got the project approved and started planning it.

jg Yes.

ps What took so long for them to get it to being built? (jg laughs)

jg Just the internal fights in Appropriations. And, President Carter, at one point...I think it's 76 or 77...decided that, we're not going to support those water projects anymore with federal legislation.

Well, there were several of us, including Barry Goldwater and I, who were down in the Oval Office saying, Mr. President, with all due respect, being from where you're from, with all that water that runs in all those streams, you don't understand our problem.

After we had that conversation, I came out with President Carter on Air Force One. He was coming out to give a speech, so I rode out with him. And, on the way back, I said, Mr. President, may I give you a tour of the Central Utah Project?

So, I went up and told the pilot where to fly, and showed him the dams and the water resources. I said, looking at it on a map is not the same as realizing what our problem is. The water allocation is fine. How do we store it? To get through the summer?

And so, he said, thank you. Now I uh understand where you and Senator Goldwater are coming from. (laughs)

ps You and Senator Goldwater being Republicans, how much influence could you have on President Carter?

jg Well, in those days it wasn't as partisan. And this is certainly not a Republican-Democratic issue. It, it never has been. The need for water has nothing to do with partisan politics.

ps So, did you team up with some of the, Democratic representatives from the West?

jg Oh, of course. Yeah. Absolutely. It was always a, a by-partisan effort, because, again, what's Democrat or Republican about the need to have a drink of water? Or to water your crops? (laughs)

ps And, the Secretary of Interior at that time with Carter was...

jg Oh. Now you're really testing my memory.

CRWUA - Utah  
Jake Garn – Oral History

ps (can't understand) ...Bruce Babbitt talked about him when I interviewed Bruce Babbitt.  
(can't hear) ...all of that came down through Carter, but through...

jg Yes. Yeah. Obviously you had the bureaucracy to work with.

ps So, was that...how long did it take to get that turned around? I'm sure that airplane trip was very meaningful, but how long did it really take to get that changed?

jg Well, not very long. Just a few months and the appropriations process went ahead, and, and President Carter was willing to sign them.

ps It was very short. Because everybody talks about that hit list.

jg Yeah.

ps But it was a short-termed...

jg Well, it had to be for the next appropriations process. (laughs)

ps Okay. Were there other legislative issues, dealing with water, that you remember dealing with in the Senate?

jg Well, not just in the West. But there always were water issues of one kind. Most of them not huge, like this issue we're talking about. The whole Colorado River, Upper and Lower Basin, and all of that. But most of them were not controversial.

Most of the House and Senate would sort of trust those of us who were involved in both parties...well, do you think this is a good idea, because it wasn't some big political issue to be involved in the normal process. But, when you consider, without water, we don't exist, it is an important, (laughs) important issue.

ps And, I think it was in the mid-80s that the Central Utah Project Completion Act, CUPCA, was proposed.

jg Well, there was always continuing legislation. Interestingly enough, the final completion act (CUPCA), was in 1992, just before I left the Senate. And that was one of my disappointments because the legislation I proposed was passed. And one of the things that it included was a share of water for irrigation, because what's happened over the years, more has been taken away from the farmers and given to the cities.

And so, I wanted rural Utah and rural areas in other states, not just Utah, to be protected. And it passed. And within six months after I left the Senate, they took that section out. So that's one of the things that I've been disappointed about.

Not that we don't need the money in cities, but farmers need it, too. It almost made me wish I'd stayed another term to keep them from doing it. (laughs)

ps So, what, what was your role in the passage of the CUPCA?

jg Well, I was...had a lot of co-sponsors...but I was the prime sponsor of it. I had been on the Appropriations Sub-Committee that included natural resources and water and everything.

And so, it's not that I didn't have a lot of help from my western colleagues in, in both parties. It just happened I was in the position where I was sort of the lead. But...again...without the help of Democrats and Republicans from all the states involved, it wouldn't have happened.

ps Well, it seems like one of the unique things about it though was that the money doesn't go through the Bureau of Reclamation. (can't hear rest)

jg Yes.

ps Most water projects I'm familiar with were going through the Bureau of Reclamation.

jg That's true. We wanted more local control. (laughs)

ps How did that come about? Where did that idea come from? Why did you decide to do...

jg Well, it was a general consensus among...particularly us westerners. That's, that's not, not unusual. Particularly the inter-mountain West -- was different.

Getting back, what I was explaining to our colleagues from the East and the West Coast, and so on, you need to understand that the U.S. is geographically different. And it wasn't that we were just trying to be selfish with the inter-mountain states. It was, we have particular problems that don't exist in some of the others, so trust us. Understand what our problems are. And you've got issues in your states that don't affect us. And we will try to understand what your local issues are.

ps But the Bureau of Reclamation, from the time it was formed, had been the agency that built all of the big water projects. So, this was very different.

jg Well, it was, because we felt we could build them much faster and more inexpensively if we had more local, local control.

The last, big dam I got appropriated for in Utah, is called Jordanelle. And, it's only about 50 miles from here. But I had some real problems internally. Not as much from Congress, as internally, with that.

ps Internally...as to in the state?

jg No, no. In Washington. And with the bureaucracy back there. And a lot of the opposition was that it was unsafe to build the dam there. Geologically speaking and so on.

And so, I had to prove that it was not. Geological surveys and so on...it will be built. Interestingly enough it's, it's a very large reservoir. Without it, we would be in trouble today. But, it also has turned out to be an incredible recreation area. With great boating, sail boating up there -- fishing and so on.

And that's something that people also don't realize sometimes. Yes, we need the water to drink, but it provides recreation for a lot of people as well. And, of course, you get revenue back from that recreation. They pay to use the boat docks and so on.

ps So, was that dam built through the Bureau of Reclamation? Or was it built independently.

jg Well, no. You can't build totally independently. The answer's sort of in between.  
(laughs)

ps I know with the Central Arizona Project being built through the Bureau of Reclamation, they had (can't hear)

jg Yeah.

Well, to a certain extent, you never totally avoid that. You can't totally escape the Bureau of Reclamation. That's not possible.

ps Well, looking back at the water legislation that you were involved in, what were the biggest problem, or the hurdles that you...challenges you faced in getting that passed?

jg Well, the challenges were two. First of all, just the money. You were always competing against something that had nothing to do with water. The whole budge process was difficult. But, the biggest problem was the extreme environmentalists. And never quite understood.

If you're talking about some magnificently beautiful area, that's one thing. But, like Jordanelle is pretty, but it's an open area, up in Wasatch County, and so on. And most people would agree that it dramatically improved the county. From the recreational standpoint. From the viewpoint of looking at this magnificent lake up there. But they didn't care.

And fortunately I had a couple of local environmentalists who agreed. They were ostracized by their clubs because they thought it was a good idea, and could be done environmentally safely, and still be able to store the water.

But, I always had environmental opposition on any single dam that I ever tried to get appropriated for. And, I, I...look, I would agree.

I would love to go back to what Utah was like when I was a teenager. When it only had about 700,000 people in the whole state. But, unless you're going to put in mandatory birth control like the Chinese, and only let one child.... We have to have the water.  
(laughs) I mean....it isn't... We, we have to have it.

And it was the same thing with wilderness areas. The High Uintas in Northern Utah, northeastern Utah. It's the only mountain range that runs east and west in the entire United States.

And I've got environmentalists that are still mad at me because when I passed the wilderness legislation for it, it only has 750,000 acres of wilderness. And they wanted more than a million. And some wanted none.

And, I always figured on controversial issues like that, if I had both extremes mad at me, then it was really a good bill. (laughter)

ps You were in the middle somewhere.

jg Yeah.

ps I was going to ask you how you dealt with those...overcoming those things. But I guess that's how you did it.

jg Well, what I always tried to do was meet with the groups...with the ones that weren't extremists on either side. The more balanced, and where more numbers were involved. And, interestingly enough, there was a local environmental leader who agreed with the, uh, compromise, and was ostracized by the Sierra Club afterwards for his "cooperation." Because he was reasonable and in the middle and not taking an extreme position.

ps Were there any...well I suppose that individual was someone who was helpful in passing the legislation for water here. Was there anybody else that you can think of that was particularly helpful to you?

jg Well, there were, were a lot of people. Farmers were very helpful. And, across the board, local governmental officials. In the cities and the counties, they certainly knew and understand what the water needs of their communities were.

So there was broad, very broad based support, which was very, very helpful.

Especially when you're talking to your colleagues and so on, and they don't understand when they see such a cross section of people supporting. Without that type of help, I never would have been able to get the bills through.

ps I know Don Christiansen of Central Utah Water Conservancy District said he almost lived in Washington.

jg (laughs) Yes, he did. And was a very valuable source of current information for me.

ps Was it really necessary for him to be back there that much? Was that, was that useful to you?

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jg Yes. Yeah, it was very useful, because when you had people coming back who didn't need votes, (laughs) made them more credible.

ps Is there anything, looking back, that you would have done differently while you were in the Senate?

jg Oh, you can always find some things. Individual cases that you would do differently, and handle people. I can't imagine how you could ever do anything perfectly. But, overall, no.

I think the overall strategy, and the help I got from Central Utah people, and the farmers and the mayors and everything, it really worked out well overall, because it's such a broad cross section of people being very, very active and very helpful.

ps You mentioned that the legislation got changed after you retired. Do you regret retiring?

jg Oh, every once in a while something will come up that I wish I was still there. If they could let me go back for a month or so a few times and vote. But, no, I wouldn't want to go back. (laughs) Back full time. You gotta get your priorities in order. I couldn't have afforded to restore my airplane on Senate pay, so you've got to get your priorities in order.

ps Looking at some of the questions that they gave me to ask you, I think you've answered some of these. What were the general feelings about Eastern Senators about Western water issues? You've sort of explained that, but do you want to talk a little more about...

jg Well, just simply that it was a matter of education. Of making them understand the difference in our climatic conditions out here. And, in return, you've got different issues...Vermont, and Tennessee and so on. Explain to me your local conditions. Because I don't live there, I don't represent them. And so, that was the real key, just to point out the differences, and not expecting to understand what your local issues are all about. And then, be willing to listen to theirs.

ps So, was it easier to work then with some of the Western Senators that had similar issues? To kind of partner with them?

jg Absolutely. Absolutely. There is no doubt about it. In all the public lands issues, not just water, it was necessary that we, we work together. Because there are so many issues that are similar, particularly in the mountain...West.

ps Does that go across party lines, too?

jg Yes. Yes. For the most part, it...again...what's Republican or Democratic about whether you're thirsty or not? (laughs)

ps Do you think that's changed at all, or do you think it's a constant, um...having to re-educate the, the Easterners of the West.

jg Well, when you get new members of Congress, yes. The educational process has to go on, both directions.

Interestingly enough, Senator Pat Leahy of Vermont, who is the last member of my class of 74, is a very liberal Democrat. And we didn't agree on very much, but we were friends. And treated each other with, with respect. And I always admired his perspective on some issues, that I was not really experienced about.

That's why it was so amazing what good friends Barry Goldwater and Hubert Humphrey were. You couldn't find more political opposites.

But, we would have a lot better government if you can have your differences of opinion, but be polite about them. And work together on common issues, and recognize that the reason the founding fathers set up all the checks and balances...the House and the Senate. A president, three separate branches of government and all of that. And vetoes and overrides and all of that, was because you'll usually find out that both extremes are wrong. (laughs) And the truth is some place in the middle.

And so, the brilliance of the system was set up by the Founding Fathers to try and reach those compromises. And I can always sit back and say, well, if I'd had my way, this bill would have been different. But, that's dictatorship, isn't it? And so, you have to be willing to compromise and work together and try and come up with good results.

ps I've heard John McCain say that one of his mentors when he first went to Congress was Morris Udall. That he respected him. Credits him with teaching him. I think that's an interesting person that he credits.

jg Well, that's, that's certainly true to have those kinds of, of relationships. And, it's interesting that I met John McCain when he was still in the Navy. He was Navy Liaison to the Senate. And when he found out I was a former naval aviator, he really liked me better. (laughs)

ps That's always a bond....

jg Yes.

ps And a pilot bond.

jg Right.

ps It's something special, I think. So you've known him for quite a while?

jg Yes. Before he ever ran for Congress. Because being Navy Liaison to the Senate, he would call on me and other Senators to explain the Navy position on various things. And so, it was great when he came to the Senate.

And, it was interesting, because at first he'd keep calling me "sir." And I...(laughs)  
John, I don't outrank you anymore. We're both Senators now. (laughs)

ps Well, talk a little bit about your relationship from your military background, I guess, is probably what got you involved with NASA?

jg Yes. There is absolutely no doubt that I would have had no chance to fly in space if I had not had all those 25 years of military flying. Interestingly enough, the local press here in Utah was very complimentary and helpful, but the national press...it spoiled their story about the Senator forcing his way onto the space shuttle. Because if they told that I was a retired Navy and Air Force Brigadier General with more than 10,000 hours of pilot time...I was qualified to go...that ruined their political story. (laughs) So.

But, in Utah it wasn't a problem. And I told everybody, said, well, if it costs me the next election, so be it. It's worth it. (laughs)

ps Well, when did you get the idea that you...

jg Well, interestingly enough, always.

I'll never forget, I was a young Navy pilot, 25 years old, when Sputnik flew. And I can remember saying, oh, someday men and women will fly in space, and I want to be one of them. And my grandchildren, you mean you were 25 before anything had flown in space? Yes, I was. And so, I really didn't think it would, would happen. But technology has evolved so rapidly.

My father was 10 when the Wright Brothers flew. And he sat with me and got tearful when we watched Neil and Buzz walk on the moon. So, in his lifetime, from the Wright Brothers to Neil and Buzz walking on the moon. And, so...and me 25 when anything flew in space, and I got to fly in space. And technological advancement is so much more rapid today.

When I look at the way that I used to navigate, with low frequency radio range stations and the Morse Code. Dit, dahs on the left, and dah, dits on the right. As and Ns, and a cone of silence in the middle. Now, all I have to do is turn on my GPS in my airplane, push "map," run the cursor to an airport and say, go to. It doesn't take any brains at all. (laughs)

I used to have to do celestial navigation, three star fixes. Sun lines. Drift meters. Guessing (laughs) where you were. And so, what my grandchildren will be able to do is just impossible. As wild an imagination as I have, I can't guess, because I couldn't have guessed my own life.

ps So, when you were in the military, did you ever think about trying to get into the Space Program?

jg Well, not really, because it was a long time after I left active duty before anything but man-made objects were up there. So, I really didn't think that it would happen nearly as rapidly as it did. I thought I'd be way too old by the time they put men into, into space. So, it's, uh...

It's hard to describe though what a magnificent experience it is. To go over the earth every hour and a half. To have 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every single day. Forty-five minutes of daylight, and then 45 minutes of darkness.

And space is so magnificently beautiful. The blackness of space, and all the billions of stars out there. And they don't twinkle because there's no atmosphere to make them twinkle.

And then to look back at the Earth and see things like the entire Mediterranean Sea all at one time. Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar. North Africa, and France and Italy and Greece and the Greek Isles. Egypt, and the Blue and the White Nile. And the Red Sea, and the Sea of Galilee. And the River Jordan flowing southward into the Dead Sea. And the Bosphorus and the Black Sea, and all of Europe spread out before you. And then, when you have those 16 sunrises and sunsets every day...the earth's atmosphere is very thin. About two-thirds of it. But then 18,000 feet of the surface.

So, as it goes down, it refracts through the earth's atmosphere and produces this incredible rainbow all the way round the edge of the, the earth. And, just...John Glen's fireflies traveling behind you.

You push excess water vapor overboard, and in the minus 52-degree temperature, they instantly freeze into solid ice crystals. You have all these multi-colored sparkling ice crystals, too.

And my wife says, when I have Alzheimer's and can't remember who she is, I'll remember every detail of my space flight. So, she's...(laughs) ...she's probably right.

But, it's a life changing experience. I know I'm getting you off the subject, but if...

If more people could fly in space, we could solve a lot of problems here on Earth. Because when you realize that there are more galaxies out there than all the individual grains of sand on every beach on Earth. We're on this little tiny speck of dust called Earth, and we've got to fight and kill each other? Makes no sense at all. And, next month I'll be at the annual Association of Space Explorers meeting in Seattle. Last year it was in Scotland.

Alexi Leonov was the first human being to do a spacewalk. He's a retired Russian Air Force Major-General. And he and I are friends. Couldn't find more opposite...but because we have experienced that in space...Alexi would tell you the same story. These wars and fighting, difference of opinion. Doesn't matter where you live, what language you speak, the color of your skin, we're all children of God traveling on Spaceship Earth together and we ought to treat each other a lot better than we do.

ps I hope you've written all that down, (jg laughs) because (can't understand) you're very articulate about it. That's wonderful. So, that was a life changing experience for you. You didn't care what anybody said about the politics of....

jg No. No. And, because I did have all that military flying experience, I had no apology for going. I was qualified to go. And they criticized because my length of training was shorter than most.

Well, why put me through all those things I'd been doing for 25 years? I could have taught some of the classes. (laughs)

ps And, you did do some other medical experiments.

jg Yes, they wanted me to do medical experiments on changes in human body. An example, my thighs were nine inch circumference smaller after a half hour of getting into space. Because now you've got no gravity, so the heart pumps, and it sucks all the moisture up. Fat face, big across the chest and, and so on. And then, to be blunt about it, your brain...now...that I gotta go to the bathroom, so you gotta go to the bathroom a lot when you first get into space.

But then, re-entry, you have to drink a lot of water. As much as you can force down before re-entry, because when you get back into gravity, you can feel the moisture just filling up the tissues in your legs again, as it moved back downward.

So that's one of the problems we've got to solve, of really long term space flight. What do you do about the human body and that tremendous change in zero gravity? How do you stay in shape?

You and I are getting some exercise just sitting here, compared to being in space. And so, they've got to solve some of those physiological problems of the human body for really long term space flights, too. And they will. They'll figure out something.

ps I've done a lot of interviews and stories with the people working on the Mars Project. And the younger ones want to be on the spaceships to Mars. But, that, that's like a two year...just to get there.

jg Well, and that's why the answer to the problem is you send us old astronauts again, because if we don't come back we haven't lost as much of our life span. (laughs) My wife says, you'd leave me? I said, only for Mars, dear. And if I were younger, I wouldn't. But, how many years do I have left? I might as well spend them on Mars. (laughs)

ps So you're willing to volunteer to go to Mars?

jg Oh, absolutely. (laughing)

ps Interesting concept. Is NASA considering that? So, briefly, how do you see the future of space exploration? Do you think there'll be more human beings going to space, or more machines going out there? Little Rovers out there.

jg Oh, I think more and more human beings. When you look back at the history of our own country, and how everybody lived in the East, and the exploration of the West. And

some people said, oh, they'll never go out there in the wilderness. Columbus will never find anything out there. He'll never come back type of thing.

And, we haven't changed from the human being liking that adventure, and, and excitement. And, it will happen.

The biggest problem is financing. People don't understand how little we spend on space research and development.

In fact, we spent two and a half times on food stamps last year..NASA's entire budget. Just for food stamps. And their budget is only six-tenths of one percent of the entire national budget. And, when you consider we get eight or ten dollars back in the private sector in spin-offs and technology from what NASA does, where do you find a government agency that you can say that about?

Congress's problem is, is they're too interested in spending money on things they can take credit for by the next election. And, whether it's NASA, or National Science Foundation, or National Institute of Health, it may take 15 or 20 years to produce results. And so, again, I think term limits would help on the scientific side, because we have learned so much.

And people say to me, well, Senator, why do we waste so much money on space, when we have so many problems here on Earth? We have never wasted a dime in space. There are no stores out there. Every dime is spent here on Earth, providing jobs.

Like here in Utah, at Thiokol, or ATK now, every solid rocket motor for every space shuttle flight that's ever flown was produced here in Utah. Brigham City, Utah, would be dead without... (laughs) ...all the jobs that they provide. So, there's a lot of other benefits.

But, we really, to improve the general lifestyle and quality of living of everybody on this Earth, we need a lot more research and development into the future. And, a lot of that could come from space research and development in those spin-offs.

ps I think we'll change tape here, and we'll get back to water.



**Tape #7**  
**JAKE GARN (TAPE #2)**  
**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**  
**August 20, 2008**

ps Let's identify that this is Tape #2. With Jake Garn. And, I guess we should go back and talk about water some more. I've got a few more questions here that they asked me to ask everyone. Looking back over the history of Utah, what projects or legal developments do you think were most important in making Utah what it is today?

jg Well. One of the things that we had to overcome, to be very candid about it, was religious discrimination. Which I will never understand. I expect...I respect religious people, regardless of what their particular faith is. And, even when I first went to Washington...and it was kind of funny.

Some guy walked up one day. He said, I heard you were a Mormon. And I said, yeah, you've known me for several years. I'm pretty normal, aren't I? He said, well, yes. Yeah. I think you are. And I only have one wife. (laughs) At a time. And so on.

So, I think that has dramatically changed over the years. That religious discrimination kind of isolated us, and you need to get out the facts.

Salt Lake City, the headquarters of the Mormon church...a, a majority of residents in Salt Lake City are not members of the church. So, it's evolved and, and changed over the years.

And then something we've already discussed. Development was more difficult in a lot of states because of that two-thirds ownership of the federal government. Even up, around...there's a lot of federal land just around Salt Lake Valley.

ps You talked a little bit about...this next question... Are there any particular parts or areas of western water history and milestones in water history that, that you played a part in, that you're proudest of?

jg Well, that would have to be the Central Utah Project. I obviously had help from my other colleagues from Utah, and around the area. I just happened to be in a position in the Senate to, to lead that. I'm very proud of that accomplishment, because essentially during the 18 years I was there, that was when most of the Central Utah Project was built.

ps What were the biggest obstacles in getting that through the Senate.... and...getting it through Congress?

jg Well, first of all, some people, who just didn't think like President Carter, that we should have federal money involved. Okay, fine. Go ahead. You've got the water allocation, build them yourselves. And that's where you had to get in this explanation of two-thirds of the land is taken by the federal government. We receive no revenue for it. We

couldn't possibly raise enough money to do it. We needed compensation in kind, because of that federal land, in order to do that.

And then, the environmentalists made it difficult, but fortunately we were able to reach compromises and complete it, despite that opposition.

ps Who were the...your biggest allies in getting it done?

jg Well, we had great help from the farmers. Rural areas. As well as...I don't know of a single, local official...legislature, governor, mayors, and so on, who didn't understand the dryness of the state of Utah. And even though they may have preferred to take an environmental position, they knew that their cities could not grow. They could not expand. They couldn't have the revenue to run their cities and counties. Unless they had water.

And, one of the things that's interesting on that, when we talk about, well, communities will continue to grow. Water supplies are limited. They're not increasing.

There's a town here in Salt Lake Valley called Magna. It's an old mining town on the West side, over by the Oquirrh Mountains. And they have a lot of pollution. Not only from the...all the copper mining days....but from making rockets out there. ATK made rockets.

But, they've come up with an incredibly innovative program in the aquifers under the town, where they're taking all that polluted water and cleaning it up and re-using it.

And that's something we need to learn about water, is we won't always be able to find new sources. They're limited. But we waste an incredible amount of water, that with today's technology we can re-use over and over and over again. You're always going to have some evaporation and some loss.

But, this relatively small town of Magna, Utah, here in the Valley, has just got an incredible technology going -- supplying water for their community, and outside the community, from water that's been there for decades.

ps Great. In, in work, working through Congress on these...the other Colorado River water states, were they your allies or your opponents in that project?

jg Both. (laughs)

Obviously on, uh...money was really short, then you ended up with some competition in between. Generally, everybody understood that we've all got a problem. And that's why this started back in 1922. We've got to work together, and we're better off if we understand each other's needs and work together rather than fight with each other. But, generally, the congressional delegations were very cooperative.

ps Didn't have to explain western water to them. (laughs)

jg No. No. No, I didn't need to explain to the Udalls or to Barry Goldwater, or so on, what the problem was.

ps Or Bruce Babbitt.

jg Arizona's drier than Utah, so, didn't need to explain. (laughs)

ps What was your relationship with the Udalls, in seeing that they're also Mormon pioneer families. Does that give you a closer relationship with them?

jg Not really. I didn't ever choose my friends on the basis of their religion. They were...all of them that I knew were always very professional, and not overly political, like some. And, willing to recognize the compromising process that I talked about. Which...can't always have your own way. So, uh, they, uh, were very good and very professional.

ps Democrats, too. (laughs)

jg Yeah. So was my father. (laughter)

ps So you... You would, you would have been in Congress when Mo Udall ran for president.

jg Right.

ps I never heard it mentioned that he was Mormon. (can't understand) Did I just miss that? Or... (laughs)

jg Well, I just don't think it came up very much. And I don't, I don't think it should.

I could not tell you what most of my colleagues are. I mean, I might say they're Christian, or, or Jewish...but, whether they're Lutheran or whatever, I don't know. I judge them individually, not collectively. And there's too much of that that goes on in this country. That we label people.

It's just like...it bothers me, the, the discrimination of, of women. How many decades or centuries has it taken to recognize that women are intelligent. (laughs) And so on. When I think of how lucky I've been with my wife. How remarkable she is. I wouldn't be where I am without her support and backup.

And so, I just get very tired of discrimination of any kind. Religious...any way. Just, let's forget it and judge each other individually.

ps I'm surprised to hear that issue brought up with Mitt Romney. Sort of surprised me. (laughs) You know. How have the western water issues changed during your career over...since you retired? Are you seeing those issues change?

jg Well, I think where they've changed...I would not anticipate that you'll ever see any of the huge projects again. The, the big dams. I just don't think that's going to happen. Like Glen Canyon. Lake Powell. All of, all of that.

And that's why I was emphasizing...we need to look more at reclamation and re-use, like this Magna community is doing here in Utah. And find alternatives - because that's what's really changed. You're not going to see the big huge projects, in, in my opinion, in the future.

ps Have there been, have there been any surprises for you, regarding Utah and water? Things that you didn't think were going to be problems are, or...any, any real surprises?

jg Not any major problems at all. You'll always find somebody that says, well, should have done it this way. You ought to do it that way. But, uh, it really...for many years...I haven't seen any major conflicts at all, and, uh, I think that's very good and very positive for the future.

ps What do you see as the most critical water issues for Utah today?

jg Well, conservation. We've got to recognize we have limited resources. Even if you built more dams, more (can't understand) ...looking way down the road. We've got a problem in, in all these states that are dry western states. So, we've got to look at that re-use, and, at conservation.

That's why you see my front yard the way it is. It doesn't need watering in three-fourths of the one acre that I have here.

ps And, what about the, the shortages on the Colorado River? Even without the drought, there's not as much water in the river as was originally thought in 1922. Is that an issue you'll have to deal with?

jg Well, I guess we need to do rain dances and snow dances. (laughs) And, uh...

We're very spasmodic here in, in Utah. We had really a good water year last winter, just in local water here in the canyons, of snowfall. But, ultimately, as the population grows, even if you had really good water years every year, it won't be enough. And that's why I have to emphasize conservation and re-use of existing water.

I hope a lot of people, not just nationally, but here in Utah will, will look at what is going on here in Magna, Utah, and realize there's some water resources that we can use and help that longer term problem.

ps What about individual re-use? Like using the gray water, and saving rain water off your own roof? And things like that.

jg Absolutely. When I talk about conservation, I'm not just talking about government entities. I'm talking about individuals.

With having an acre of ground here, if I tried to water my front yard...first of all, I probably couldn't afford it. It would take so much on that big a piece of, of ground. So that's why we decided to leave it natural. And then ultimately took out all the grass in our front yard. And put in big rocks, and an artificial putting green and so on.

So, I've, I've cut the lawn...it's the old Water Commissioner coming out in me. (laughs) I have to practice what I preached all those years. And we literally have taken out three-fourths of our grass.

ps I thought you just wanted to practice your golf. (laughter)

jg It hasn't helped. (laughter)

ps You mentioned re-use. And, what about any new water supplies? I know Nevada's looking more for groundwater, and other sources of water, in other parts of the state. Are you looking at other water sources?

jg Obviously that has to be done. But then you get into some complications.

What Nevada's doing right now is very upsetting to Utah, because it's along the border. And, a very significant portion of what they want to go to Las Vegas is in Utah.

ps Underground.

jg Underground. So that's going to produce a real political fight, with the need in Utah. What's in Nevada's yours, but what's in Utah...don't you dare take our water. (laughs) So, that's an upcoming battle.

ps I hadn't thought of that. But there aren't too many boundary lines underground.

jg That's right. That's right. So, don't pipe it to Nevada out of Utah. (laughs)

ps How do you prove where it's coming from?

jg Oh, that's not hard to do. They can drill and find out where the aquifers are, the sources.

ps How do you know when they're taking your water? How did Utah prove that that water is...the Nevada's pumping up...Nevada's side...

jg Well, of course, what they're talking about hasn't been yet. And so...no...they can drill and really find out where it is and where it's going. That's not difficult to do. And what originates in Nevada, fine. I have no problem with that. Being an old Water Commissioner, don't you dare steal our water! (laughs)

ps I just think...water, water issues.... And, I know another issue that Utah's looking at...to actually get the water from Lake Powell and take it to the other side of Utah.

jg Right.

ps Is that something you would have imagined happening 30 years ago?

jg No, because I certainly could not have anticipated the growth of Southwestern Utah. When I first started campaigning in St. George, (laughs) it was a very small town. But now, not only St. George has grown, but all of Washington County. It's been, for two or three years, one of the fastest growing, until this year, counties in the entire country. And their limiting factor on growth is water.

Now, I shouldn't say this, but I'd never move to St. George because...I started skiing in these mountains out the window when I was nine years old. And, I'm never going to get old enough to move to a warm climate, away from the snow. I have to bomb down those mountains at very high rates of speed.

ps So you still ski?

jg Oh, yes. I will not place age limits on myself.

ps I can see that. You'd rather go to Mars. (laughs) So, do you think that's, that's a good use of Colorado River water...to pipe it over to St. George?

jg Well, obviously yes. They really don't have any other sources. But, of course, then you've got to deal with the allocations and the fairness and all of that legal side of it. As far as just the water, yes, they need it badly.

ps Utah's not using it, so...

jg Right. So. We're not using what we're allotted ...originally given to us.

I think the major problem will be whether they can justify the cost of getting it over there.

ps Not as long of a pipeline as the Central Arizona Project canal. (laughter)

jg That's true.

ps People thought that was a crazy idea at times, too.

jg But it's proven not to be.

ps Not if you live in Phoenix. (jg – Right.)

jg Yeah, I used to talk about the, the...years ago. John Driggs was mayor of Phoenix when I was mayor of Salt Lake. And, run the National League of Cities Board together, so we were very, very good, close friends.

ps I've become close friends with him the last few years, because I did his oral history as a HistoryMaker. Seven hours. And now I'm working with him on the Arizona Centennial Commission.

- jg Oh, when you see him, tell him “hi” for me.
- ps I will. (can’t understand) We were talking about the....you were saying there aren’t any more big water projects, but moving the water from Lake Powell to St. George is a pretty big water project.
- jg Well, yes. It is. What I was talking in terms of, of not anticipating the huge projects. Like Glen Canyon. The dams of that, that size. And yet, when you look downstream, what would California do without (laughs) Lake Mead?
- ps I know some people say, well, people shouldn’t live in Phoenix. People shouldn’t live in St. George. Why don’t they go live near the river? Of course... Indian land. Which is another issue. (laughs) But people, you know, seem to want to live where there isn’t water, and they have to figure out where to get their water. Um. Another major water project’s that’s been mentioned...that I’m not sure how seriously they were...the people in Colorado suggested they should move water from the Mississippi River over to, uh, to Colorado. Do you think that’s something that could ever be done?
- jg Well, again, I would think the cost would be the prohibiting factor, because obviously the Mississippi has a huge amount of water, and most of it ends up in the Gulf of Mexico. And so, it, it’s just a matter of...could you possibly put the funding together to, to do that? And I don’t have the answer to that question.
- ps Probably do the engineering of it...just a matter of money.
- jg Yeah.
- ps What do you see as the, or anticipate, as the biggest challenges for Utah as it concerns water in the future?
- jg I think conservation. That if you look long term, we’ve got to have more responsible conservation. We waste a lot of water. And we could have a huge amount available for reuse, if we would do that. And then, again, reclamation. I keep mentioning Magna, but we could save a lot of water by re-using it. Cleaning it up.
- ps The...a long time Appropriation Doctrine says, you know, first in time, first in right. Um. Do you think that’s going to survive these demands today of the population growth?
- jg I’ll back up to where I said a few minutes ago. If we could just get term limits, we could solve all those problems. (laughs)
- ps Federal term limits you’re talking about.
- jg Yes. Oh, yes. Yes.
- ps I don’t know about Utah. Arizona has term limits for state offices.

jg Yeah.

ps Are you talking about...

jg Oh, I'm talking about federal, because then, when you get into issues like that, and asking the question, you'd have so many more decisions that were made totally on the merits. Not on the politics.

ps Are you working towards term, federal term limits?

jg Well, I've always advocated them, and my colleagues never liked me for that. (laughs) As I mentioned, they don't understand how I would limit my own terms.

ps I suppose it's probably up to people who aren't in office though to try to get something passed in that regard.

jg Unless the American people really push for it, it simply will not happen. And that, that bothers me that we have such low percentage turnout in our elections. But, people complain, and the ones that usually complain the most, are the ones who don't get involved. They don't vote.

When you have less than half the people voting... I've never understood that. If you've really got a problem with the way things are, the best way to solve that is get together with others and vote for candidates who accept your, uh, positions. But, if we had term limits, again, that would solve so many problems, because then you would create so much more intellectual honesty.

Now, don't let me be misunderstood, because most of my colleagues are honest. And most of them, you've never heard of. They just do their jobs and so on. But, you've got the grandstanders, and the TV lovers, and those who want to stay for half a century. Well, it's more of that rather than, what is the best long term solution?

It's really a short-term versus long-term solution. And we almost always make better decisions if we look long-term, rather than the, um....what can I vote for that gets me more votes at the next election?

ps Problem...have to keep those long-term Senators there because it helps that state to have that seniority.

jg It does as long as you don't have term limits. But, if every state is limited, then you've equalized it. And that, to me, would really, I think, improve things dramatically.

ps Some of the changes that we've seen over the last few decades is, um, the...regarding appropriation of water is the Indian water rights, and then the consideration for recreational uses, and the environmental ones. How do you think that's changed the water doctrine, or, do you think there'll be more things coming up that will change it?

jg Well, first of all let me say how impressed I am that, in 1922, the people were foresighted enough to come up with the Compact. I mean, it's amazing. Can you imagine what kind of fights we would be going through today if that had not taken place?

And, in my opinion, some things they, they missed...not then, but over the years.

I can't complain about former sovereign nations, the Indians and so on, having some rights. How can I say, well, forget it. I can't. So, those kinds of issues will always be around. There's no doubt about it. We need to look at them and try and solve them in a balanced, and reasonable and fair way.

ps They were certainly here first.

jg Yes, they were.

ps I don't think anybody's contested that. What about the environmental issues? You mentioned that environmentalists were a problem for you in some issues. Do you think they've done some good things, too, to get another perspective on these water issues?

jg It is absolutely unfair to generally criticize all environmentalists. A large number of environmentalists were helpful to me and the states. They would have some conditions that we could sit down and work out. It's the extremes, always, of either side of an issue. Of those who just say, no. We're not going to have a dam, we're not going to have a reservoir here. No. We're opposed to it. Leave things totally natural.

Compared to those who come along and say, well, if you can change this, modify this, make it better. Create some preserves, or, in trade for that, you have more wilderness areas, some other places, then you can work them out.

ps You mentioned the 1922 Water Compact. How would you feel about re-opening that and renegotiating it?

jg Well, at this point, and again I'm a has-been, so I don't have any say, I would just leave it alone. I think you could open up years and years of wasteful battles over how you're going to do it. Considering when it was enacted, and how generally well it has worked, I'd just leave it alone.

ps Do you have any advice for people who are running the, the Colorado River water system today in Utah? Now that you're not in the middle of that?

jg Well, I'd get back to something I've said before, and I've always said, not just because I'm not involved anymore. Of...recognize you can't have your own way. So, be reasonable and willing to compromise. The whole set-up I talked about...

If you only get your own way, doesn't that make you a dictator? (laughs) We've had too many of those around this Earth. So, work together; come up with compromises.

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ps What about the Colorado River Water Users Association? How do you see that association as important to the use of the Colorado River.

jg I certainly think it has been. Obviously I haven't been involved with them for many years. Since I left the Senate. But I think they've done a very good job. I used to go to some of the meetings. They'd have some good debates. Internally. But then come up with, usually unified positions, which was very helpful.

ps How were you involved? And when did you first get involved? Were you involved as a Water Commissioner?

jg Couldn't avoid it. (laughs) With that master water technician, Charlie Wilson, being responsible for Salt Lake City's water supply ...yeah, it was important. And I don't mean personally. I just mean for Salt Lake City. And that's...and we'd be involved and work with the rural areas and the smaller counties and cities.

ps Did you go to meetings of the Colorado River Water Users Association? Were you on their board or anything?

jg Oh, no. No, you couldn't be on their Board while you were in public office. But, I always had contact, with them, as I did with Central Utah Water Project, and other water associations around the state. As I've mentioned several times, just that input from all parties was really helpful.

ps Now you're retired (can't hear)

jg Oh, I'm not retired. I wouldn't want to ruin a really good marriage by being home too much.

ps So, what are you doing now?

jg Well, I'm on 11 volunteer boards, including Chairman of Primary Children's Medical Foundation. That's one of the finest Children's Hospitals in the country. They never charge a patient, or take them in on the basis of their ability to pay. So, we have to raise several million dollars a year for charitable care for these little kids that can't afford medical care.

And, then, how could I turn down the Clark Planetarium? That's all about space. To be on their board - and, I was on the Board of Trustees, the University of Utah, for years.

So, I enjoy being involved in volunteer work. But then, I do some consulting...on three or four corporate boards. Because if I woke up in the morning...even when I'm 90 if I'm still around. If I woke up in the morning and didn't have somewhere to go and something to accomplish, I'd just go stark raving mad.

I can't stand to be around most of my friends my age, because all they want to do is talk about their aches, pains, and large prostates and retirement. They're boring. (laughs)

So, I still rollerblade. They say, what do you do for recreation? Well, I fly my airplane and ski at a high rate of speed and rollerblade. You rollerblade at your age? Well, yeah. I'm not aware that Congress has passed any laws establishing an age limit on rollerblading. Well, why do you do it? Because it's fun, and when I start skiing, all my quads don't burn. They're already in shape. So...I refuse to place age limits on myself.

ps Well, it sounds like you haven't done that. And, you're not restoring your plane...now you're flying it? (bs – Now you're flying it.)

jg Yeah, it's all restored.

ps You've accomplished that goal. Well, is there anything else about water that we should be talking about? Anything I didn't ask you that I should have?

jg No, I just repeat, we need to use less. That's the strongest message I can give you. Conservation.

ps Individually and collectively?

jg Individually and collectively.

ps I think that's a good message. One other thing I try to ask if I have time... What advice do you give to young people that are trying to decide what to do with their lives?

jg First of all, the incredible value of education. Much more so than when I was young. Because if I hadn't had parents that really pushed me about education, the things I've been able to do in my life, would not have, have happened. And, in today's society, with so much more technology and so on, you just have to be educated. And if you are...whatever...I'm saying in general terms. I'm not being specific...but just to train this brain.

And the opportunities that can come along. If anybody had told a little kid from Richfield, Utah, that I'd be an astronaut, a military pilot, a mayor of Salt Lake City, a United States Senator...oh, come on. That's not going to, to happen. And, I'm still waiting for unknown opportunities in my life.

ps Sounds like you're always open...and then jump for it.

jg Yeah.

ps Do you encourage young people to join the military?

jg Absolutely. In fact, I have a grandson who is enlisting in the Navy and has to leave one week from today, and his mother is in great difficulty. But, he said...Grandpa, it's time we had another Navy man in our family. (laughs)

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So, I think that it's not just serving your country, but it is a great educational opportunity as well. For discipline and training. Learning how to think. Common sense and so on. I really value my military career.

ps Is your grandson going to be a pilot also?

jg I doubt it.

ps You never know.

jg But, you don't know.

ps Okay. Well, I think I've covered all the questions I had...

jg But, I have a granddaughter that's starting Utah State University next Monday. In their aviation program. It's her father that's the airline captain. She said, I'm tired of you bragging Garn men. She said, it's time there was a female Garn who was a pilot. So, she wants to get her four year degree in aviation, and her ratings, and then become an airline pilot.

ps Carry on the tradition.

jg Yes. (laughs)

ps That's great. You've got a great family.

jg They're a lot of fun.

ps Well, I'm glad I had the opportunity to meet you, and do your interview.

jg Well, thank you very much. It's been fun to reminisce and see how bad my memory is.  
(laughs)

ps It's interesting that you and John Driggs are so close.

jg Yes. Yes. We were very good friends.

bs Okay, should I close it?

ps Yes. You can shut that down.