

INTERVIEW OF BARBARA AND KEN DUGAN

BY ABBY JOHNSON

EUREKA COUNTY

LESSONS LEARNED VIDEO PROJECT

held in

CRESCENT VALLEY, NEVADA

April 21, 2011

1 (9:56 - Begin Tape 2-20.)

2 MS. CLANCY: Okay, we have the tape rolling. This
3 is Gwen Clancy running the camera today. It's April 21,
4 2011. We're in Crescent Valley, and Abby Johnson will be
5 conducting the interview.

6 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Abby Johnson. I'm the
7 Nuclear Waste Advisor for Eureka County, Nevada. We're doing
8 the Eureka County Lessons Learned Video Project, and we're
9 going to be interviewing Barbara and Ken Dugan.

10 (9:57:13 - End Tape 2-20.)

11 (9:57:04 - Begin Tape 2-21.)

12 MS. JOHNSON: So, how did you come to discover
13 Crescent Valley and how long have you been here and why did
14 you stay?

15 MRS. DUGAN: We originally started out in Battle
16 Mountain in 1964, and he leveled the first alfalfa land in
17 the Reese River Valley 50 miles south of Battle Mountain, and
18 then we went back to North--well, South Dakota and then North
19 Dakota, and we had our own business in North Dakota. And,
20 after being up there--well, this was for 14 years, our
21 prospects of jobs was running out, and then he went to work
22 for Brown and Ruit, and the McCluskey Canal, which was an
23 irrigation canal that was supposedly to take water from Lake
24 Sakakawea in Central North Dakota to the Red River Valley,
25 and he was a drag land operator and Brown and Ruit got the

1 contract for the Clipper Mine southwest of Crescent Valley
2 here, and they asked him if he would be willing to come down
3 and run a shovel. And, he come home and told me that and I
4 said, "Let's go." Because I loved it out here when we was
5 here in '64. And, so, in July of 1978, we come down here,
6 and after the winters in North Dakota and about 100 degree
7 below zero wind chill factors, the winters are, well, there's
8 no winter here, and we stayed and we've been here 33 years
9 now this summer. And, we've done all kinds of things. Ken
10 worked in the mines. He worked for Brown Ruit at the
11 Clipper, and Cortez.

12 MR. DUGAN: Helped build the road to the top of
13 the--

14 MRS. DUGAN: Yeah.

15 MR. DUGAN: The mine up there.

16 MRS. DUGAN: Horse Canyon Mine.

17 MR. DUGAN: Horse Canyon, yeah.

18 MRS. DUGAN: And, then, in '85, we decided we was
19 going to cut firewood full-time, so we ended up in Oregon,
20 and brought firewood down. And, in '86, we come down and
21 Brown and Ruit wanted to know if he would go to work at the
22 McCoy Mine south of Battle Mountain, so then he ended up
23 going back to work there. Worked there a year, and what was
24 it, '87 he went to work at the Colby Mine south of Crescent
25 Valley here. And, then we was back in Oregon in, well, 1990

1 went back up and cut wood again. And, that was the last
2 paying job he had. He more or less retired from the mines,
3 and we've been cutting firewood, commercial, selling it, and
4 somewhat retired. And, that's the reason we're still here,
5 because we like it, we like the area, and just love it down
6 here.

7 MS. JOHNSON: When you first heard about the
8 possibility of a nuclear waste rail line coming through
9 Crescent Valley, what was your reaction?

10 MRS. DUGAN: I just didn't like it. It was too
11 much danger in nuclear radiation leaks. And, it just didn't
12 make sense. I don't know, it was just one of those things
13 that--

14 MS. JOHNSON: And, you must have gotten involved
15 with the group that was working, Joseph Carruthers and others
16 who were part of the Beowawe/Crescent Valley Nuclear Waste
17 Awareness Committee?

18 MRS. DUGAN: Yeah. Yeah, because it was brought
19 up, you know, the dangers of it, well, the freedom of travel
20 back and forth across the Valley, what kind of corridors they
21 were going to have. Then, the safety aspects, because I've
22 been on the ambulance for 31 years now, and so then we were
23 involved that way, and it just--I don't know quite how to put
24 it, it just didn't make sense to transport that kind of stuff
25 through this area when the areas that were keeping it

1 couldn't just keep it in their own backyard.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Let's move on to the next question.

3 (10:02:24 - End Tape 2-21.)

4 (9:57:12 - Begin Tape 2-22.)

5 MS. JOHNSON: You have been in Crescent Valley a
6 long time, so maybe you're familiar with the real estate,
7 sort of dream in the desert land sales that occurred. Could
8 you tell us a little bit about that?

9 MRS. DUGAN: Well, just from what we heard, I think
10 you can explain meeting that guy at the store.

11 MR. DUGAN: Well, I was wondering about the lake.
12 I mean, somebody, I don't know where he got the information
13 from, I have no idea, but somebody really had things beefed
14 up around here, you know. He had a boat, you had to have ten
15 foot of water to really operate it in, and there wasn't no
16 lake that deep, you know, maybe a foot at the deepest.

17 MS. JOHNSON: And, he was looking for the lake?

18 MR. DUGAN: Yeah, he was hunting for that big lake.
19 It was supposed to be just to the south and east of town
20 about a mile or so, he had it, and there's nothing like that,
21 you know. So, it was somebody just trying to beat people out
22 of a lot of money, is what it added up to, you know.
23 Whatever happened about it, I know he was going back to look
24 for somebody. Whether he ever found them or not, I do not
25 know. I never got to see the man again.

1 (9:58:41 - End Tape 2-22.)

2 (9:57:20 - Begin Tape 2-24.)

3 MS. JOHNSON: In the spring of 1999, the Nuclear
4 Regulatory Commission held a public meeting in Beatty, Nevada
5 to talk about the new radiation standards that they were
6 proposing for Yucca Mountain Repository, and you two went to
7 that meeting. Could you tell me what you remember and what
8 your impressions were from that meeting?

9 MRS. DUGAN: There was really quite a group there.
10 There were several from Crescent Valley. We went down.
11 There was a couple of things that were brought up there that
12 I do remember, and one was about an older gentleman there
13 that was retired from the Nuclear Agency, and he made the
14 comment that if they'd just go ahead and do what they've
15 already shown could be done in getting these reacting rods
16 burned down, that when they got all done, they could take it
17 out and put it in their garden, and there was no fear of
18 radiation, and I thought well, gee, why don't they keep
19 working on that project.

20 And, then, the other thing was Ken brought up, they
21 were talking about how safe the canisters were, and he
22 brought up that there was no such thing as a safe canister.
23 Something fails someplace, sometime. And, they wouldn't
24 answer or make any comments. It was cut out.

25 And, that's the only things I can really remember

1 about the Beatty meeting. But, that one really stood out
2 about the gentleman talking about it could be not dangerous
3 at all if they'd just go ahead and do what they've already
4 found out they could do.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Let's move on to the next question.

6 (9:59:27 - End Tape 2-24.)

7 (9:57:28 - Begin Tape 2-25.)

8 MS. JOHNSON: I know that you both went on a tour
9 of Yucca Mountain with some other interested citizens. What
10 were your impressions and observations from that experience?

11 MRS. DUGAN: Well, I can remember when we were up
12 on top, it wasn't anything spectacular. They wouldn't really
13 get you into where they were digging the tunnel. But, my
14 reaction then, and even now, is I can't see it being
15 earthquake-proof in that area when they don't know where the
16 faults are, and to this day after all the earthquake activity
17 down southwest of Hawthorne, and a fault they didn't know
18 existed, how come there isn't one down there that's going to
19 decide to start moving. That's about the only thing I can
20 say. It was just like they rushed you in and rushed you out,
21 and that was it.

22 MR. DUGAN: Yeah, that was about it.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

24 MR. DUGAN: They hurried you through as fast as
25 they could.

1 (9:58:44 - End Tape 2-25.)

2 (9:23:32 - Begin Tape 2-26.)

3 MS. JOHNSON: On the tour, did you feel that the
4 Yucca Mountain officials that were giving the tour were as
5 open about what might be wrong with Yucca Mountain as well as
6 what they think is right about Yucca Mountain?

7 MRS. DUGAN: I got the impression that everything
8 was good, and they did not give you any information on the
9 dangers that might be. They claimed everything was perfect.
10 There was no danger to the water. There was no danger of
11 earthquakes to break it open or anything. They did a cover-
12 up on the information because they wouldn't have anything
13 negative. It was all positive in their point of view. Do
14 you agree?

15 MR. DUGAN: I agree with that.

16 (9:24:30 - End Tape 2-26.)

17 (9:23:46 - Begin Tape 2-27.)

18 MS. JOHNSON: Eureka County has maintained a
19 neutral position regarding Yucca Mountain all along. They
20 have not taken a position in favor of the repository or in
21 opposition to the repository. Do you agree with the County's
22 position of neutrality?

23 MRS. DUGAN: I think they should take a position
24 because of where the train routes can go. I thought they had
25 taken a position with the Pine Valley route originally. Now,

1 maybe I'm wrong, but I just think they should take a position
2 against it because of affecting the land and the people,
3 because the Valley, the railroad supposedly will go right
4 through, the last thing I saw was between the mountains, and
5 Crescent Valley here. And, that's--I think they should take
6 a position, yes.

7 MS. JOHNSON: And, if the Carlin Nuclear Waste Rail
8 Route is revived, that is if Yucca Mountain is again
9 considered to be a viable project and they need a way to get
10 the nuclear waste on rail lines, and they start to look at
11 the Carlin corridor again, what would your reaction be?

12 MRS. DUGAN: I'd be against it definitely. And,
13 they--what happened to the Caliente railroad? I mean--

14 MS. JOHNSON: Well, Caliente is still in first
15 position, but the people we've spoken with, the
16 transportation expert from the State, Bob Halstead, and our
17 transportation advisor, Rick Moore, both say that enough time
18 would have passed, that everything would get a fresh look.
19 And, since this is the only north/south route with the least
20 obstacles, because of the way the mountain ranges run in
21 Nevada, they both feel that it would be under consideration
22 again.

23 MRS. DUGAN: Well, I think they should follow
24 through with what that guy in Beatty had mentioned, that he
25 knows that they can take care of that stuff. And, we didn't

1 ask for this nuclear stuff, so they've got to keep it where
2 it was and is. That's my opinion.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

4 (9:26:33 - End Tape 2-27.)

5 (9:23:52 - Begin Tape 2-28.)

6 MS. JOHNSON: You had mentioned the earthquakes in
7 Hawthorne. Can you tell us a little bit about what's going
8 on there today, and how it might relate to Yucca Mountain?

9 MRS. DUGAN: Well, these earthquakes were brought
10 up right after the big one in Japan, and all of a sudden they
11 come on the news that they were having earthquakes in
12 Hawthorne, and they were just located southwest of town in an
13 area of no civilization, and I just wondered with Yucca
14 Mountain, and this was an unknown fault, they never knew
15 there was a fault there southwest of Hawthorne, and how many
16 of these unknown faults are there that they don't know about.
17 And, that big area down, well, all through Nevada, there's
18 faults everywhere. And, they're working with setting up
19 seismograph instruments in the ash flow there at Hawthorne,
20 and I know they've talked about the ash flows around Yucca
21 Mountain, that it just makes me wonder just what's going to
22 happen.

23 (9:25:19 - End Tape 2-28.)

24 (9:23:58 - Begin Tape 2-30.)

25 MS. JOHNSON: All right, do we have your permission

1 to use this footage for archival purposes and also for
2 putting on the web, little short clips?

3 MRS. DUGAN: I'm Barbara Dugan and, yes, you have
4 my permission.

5 MR. DUGAN: I'm Kenneth Dugan and I give my
6 permission.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 (9:24:17 - End Tape 2-30

9 (End of interview with Barbara and Kenneth Dugan.)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing has been transcribed by me to the best of my ability and constitutes a true and accurate transcript of the mechanically recorded proceedings in this matter.

Dated at Aurora, Colorado, this 5th day of June, 2011.

s/ Mary Chevalier
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