

Al Beavis, interviewed in Butte-Silver Bow Archives, 12/8/85, by Teresa Jordan. Mayor of Walkerville, was General Mine Foreman at time of shutdown.

Notes taken at time of interview. Not audited against tape.

Born, city of Walkerville, 1931, May 22, lived there all life. Mother came from Virginia, dad came from England. Dad came over on ship after Titanic. Initially went to Piedmont, S. D. outside Rapid City. Going to take up farming there, 1920's. Butte booming at that time, lots of jobs in mines, so travelled to Butte, got job in mines, settled here. He was from mining stock, from Cornwall.

Mother's parents were farmers in Mitchell S.D.--had farm around Rapid City. Al's parents met in Leed (sp?) S.D. His mother was a nurse. didn't nurse here.

Father worked as contract miner. Making, probably, 75 cents when he started. 10 and 12 hour shifts. No paid holidays. No vacations. No ventilation. Etc. No insurance. Miners didn't live to a very ripe old age. He was dead when he was 51. Died of silicosis.

Al started in mines in 1948. Father died in 1941. Al went into mines because that was his background--growing up around Butte, as soon as a kid turned 18, he naturally wanted to get into the mines because of the money, initially. Al just always wanted to do it because he grew up in the mining era.

Q: How did fact that father died young because he mined affect you?

Really didn't. Only 11 when he died. Don't remember too much about it. Grew up in the hard times. Mother had to be a chamber maid to raise six kids. A lot of people around like that then.

Q: Any settlement from Co. when father died?

No. Al's income help^{ed} w/ family until he got married. He contract miner. Did all different phases of mining--drifting, raising, stoping, sinking, etc. Wasn't days pay very long before went contract. Spent 18 years underground, 18 years in the pit.

Had many partners. Kept changing off all the time. Usually worked w/ buddy, kids you grew up with. Whoever you could get--if you were really interested in contracting and making money, you went for best partner you could get.

Great diff betw days pay men and contract miner. Con miner much more energetic. Get out and make more money than day's pay. Contract guar. days pay wage. Contracting, you start out at zero dollars. When Al started in mine, wages were \$11.11. You had to make \$11.11, and anything over that was what you made on your contract. Good contract miner usually doubled his days pay. So at 11.11, make \$22 a day. Men worked days pay because of lack of

energy to put into contract, Al guesses. Weren't interested--days' pay was a lot easier than contract. Certain things you had to do if contract. And wanted to double wages. If drift miner, had to, every day, muck drift, move material out of it, had to timber or rock vault it if it was a drift heading, and then you had to drill and blast the round every day. And it had to be a certain depth. Whereas, if days pay, you just had so much to do. If you were a motorman, had to go in and had to take material away from drift miners, bring in supplies, stuff like that, then you were pretty well through for the day.

contract had more variety. Day's pay was repetitious. Contract, day to day, things change--type of ground, material, etc.

Al, worked in every mine in Butte. Contracted underground from 1948, went into service in 1951 to '54. Came out, contracted until 1962, then they asked me to go salary. Remained salary until severed in Feb. '85. Have done just about everything there is to do on salary. Was shift boss underground, was assistant foreman underground, was mine foreman underground, transferred to open pit. Started out as billing (?) foreman, truck foreman, shovel foreman, conveying foreman, crushing foreman, road and dump foreman, worked way up through the lines until went into general foreman position. General drill and road, general drill and blast, general crushing conveying, general mine foreman, pit superintendant for a year. When severed, was general mine foreman of the Berkely pit.

Al liked the mining end of it, enjoyed it. So that's how he spent his life, 36 years of it.

Liked the most contract mining. You are more or less your own boss, you knew what you had to do, if you did it, you made money, if you didn't, you didn't. Time passed so fast. You did all your own planning and everything. Very interesting, especially underground. Enjoyed underground way more than open pit mining.

Q: seems like, driving truck, the boredom would be hard to take.

Yes, boredom is real bad on trucks. And on drills, anything in the pit. Like a motorman underground because its a repetitious thing, he travels from A point to B point and back, and that's what he does. Gets awful monotonous. Motorman was similar to a teamster when he was underground. Run ore train.

Partners that stand out--grew up with Don Holmes, used to call him Potts. Used to work together contracting. Kids growing up together, always competitive. Same thing underground. Would compete w/ one another to who could work the hardest, get the most done in the eight hour period. Worked together 8 or 10 years. He lives up in Townsend, still involved a little bit w/ mining.

Q: Socialize outside of work w/ your partner?

Oh yeah. We grew up together, went all through school together, went into the mines together in the same year. After work, you know, always stop for a beer in the bar, on weekends, go off the night shift at 2 oclock in the morning, go up to Wisdom and go fishing. You'd repeat it week in and week out. If it wasn't fishing or hunting, it was something else.

Q: have that same sort of comraderie in other aspects of mining than contract?

Not as close. Two different areas of mining, underground and open pit. Involved w/ a lot more people in the pit than you were underground. And when went into pit, went in as supervisor, not as day's pay.

Q: Hard to make decision to go salary?

Not really. Wanted to better myself, getting up to where should do something about it, married, raising five kids--thought, well, I'll give it a try. When got into it, kind of enjoyed it because got to see a lot of diff aspects of the mining. Got involved in a lot of the training. Had people come in from W. Va., and other southern states to learn hard rock mining in Butte. Got involved in that.

Q: Diff to cross line from labor to management?

Not really. When doing it, like in 1962 or 1963, a lot of people changing from days pay or contract miner into management positions. A lot of Al's friends became shift bosses. Most shift bosses at that time came up through the ranks. Al knew most of them personally. Hardest was going from underground to open pit. April, 1968. Right after 9 month strike of '67 to '68. Was assistant foreman of Mountain Con at the time. Got a call right after the strike was settled. Was told to go to Berekey pit next morning. Had quite a time making that trans. Being involved in underground from '48 to '62 [62? or 68? Says '62 on tape--sense?] Everything was different. Knew everything there was to know about underground, but you had to forget that, you were going into open pit property. A lot of difference.

Q: Work force diff between two operations? Sort of personalites?

Definitely. Same number of unions--approx 13 underground, same number in pit. But contract underground, just about allowed to do anything you have to do to make money on the contract. Underground man, contract miner was driller, teamster, shovel operator, muckin machine operator. One man did everything that was broke up into diff categories in pit. Limited in pit because of strong unionism in Butte. Had to stay w/i your boundaries. Had hard time adjusting to that because used to telling people to go ahead and do this or do that. But in pit, had to tell each person to do one thing. Took number of people to do one job.

Nobody overstepped their boundaries. Continual grievance process you were going through. That's what happened to Butte today, a lot of it.

Q: Did that affect people's enjoyment of their work?

Yes. Lot of guys would have liked to do work out of their area. Tied into specific job. Rotary drill operator in pit, all he did was drill. Didn't do any other kind of thing. Sat on that drill 8 hours a day, not allowed to do anything else. If he worked on a piece of pipe, would have been grieved by a pipe fitter, etc etc etc. People had to be very careful.

Q: How much did that affect ultimate outcome of Anaconda/ARCO?

Ultimate outcome, on both side, management and unions, shut pit down. If people would have got out and worked together as a whole, pit would still be running. But also blame management because management gave up all this stuff in the first place. when times were good, like in the early 60's, into 70's, when precious metal prices were high, could go into negotiations, give them whatever they want. In meantime, prices drop in metals market, say, go out and get it back. Well, once you get something, you don't like to give it back. Human nature. I think Butte should still be running today. Think one of the biggest mistakes management ever made was flooding the mines. That's what really hurt Butte. Butte has gone downhill since 1980. It wanted to go down; they wanted to shut it down. When we finished up in the pit, we were only running like six trucks and two drills and two shovels. And we were still making like 33 to 35 thousand tons a day. So if you can't make it with that many people. Of course, you gotta take a look at the overhead, overall of Anaconda minerals, what you're packing on it. That's a lot that had to do with shutting Butte down, too. Just the corporate giant that it is, trying to support Denver, all these offices--general office, Hennessey building, too many people for the amount of material you were moving. And the price of moly and copper. But I still think Butte should be running.

Q: What think about Washington?

Have mixed views. Sat down and tried to figure this out. Have ARCO now in the billion dollars--corporate giant. And talking about Dennis Washington who does 100 million dollars a year. And we're talkig about a concentrator down there that costs 400 M to replace --off the top of my head, what I see D W doing when he comes in here after the 18th of Dec, I see him getting rid of the biggest portion of the concentrator, taking out the old part that was built in the 1950's, leaving the moly plant stand, and if he's going to mine copper moly, I see him putting in sag mills to do his crushing and getting away from the primary crusher, the secondary crusher, this flotation system that they have now, and remodelling it. But it's going to cost some bucks. Other thing I see Wash doing when he comes in, if you take a look at the turmoil in the world today, 3rd world, western block countries,

things like that--all you need is one big blow up over in Kuwait or Zambia or Zaire, and that's going to start a turmoil in the stock market and precious metals, and I could see DW coming in and actually coming in w/ portable eqpt and mining silver and gold and stuff like that. Because if silver goes up, Butte has a lot of it. But I don't see him coming in and starting up that concentrator.

Q: Do you think he is serious about starting up mining this spring?

Yes, if the price increases. Can't see how DW could make it and Atlantic Richfield couldn't.

Q: Any rumours about what he paid for it?

I had heard he paid \$10 M for it. Just off the top of my head, and that's a rumour. And what's not a rumour, what went with it were 33,000 acres of prime land. that was bid on for \$94 million dollars. that went w/ the package, plus a lot of other stuff. It was a giveaway. At. Rich. just wanted to get out from underneath it. A Giveaway, definitely. I still think there's more to it than D.W.--I think there's either a corporate giant or somebody behind him. But it's going to be interesting to see what happens. But there's an awful tax base on that concentrator that's paid to Butte-Silver Bow, and I can't see him paying that. It's obsolete and it has to be changed. ARCO knew that they had to build a new concentrator.

Q: What are sag mills?

Cylindrical shape, crushes rock against rock instead of going through ball mills and rod mills and secondary crushers and etc and etc. Runs in a rotary motion, and the rock crushes the rock. They can put certain size metal or magnesium balls in there to help crush it. And when it goes from there, it goes right into the concentrating system. Much less expensive. But initial capital expense to get it in high. But Japs were in here at the same time when Washingto was looking at it.

Seems to me that this didn't just happen when we heard it in the paper or over the radio. It's been going on for maybe two or three years. Maybe more than that. Maybe it was planned quite a while ago. But I know it didn't just happen in two or three weeks.

Atl. Rich made money on it; there's a lot of tax write offs. Don't believe they got hurt by it.

Q: Think when ARCO came in, they saw themselves involved in long term mining here?

Yes, at that time. I think they were sincere, believe they really thought they were going to be involved in long term mining, and

they had the bucks to put up because oil and gas was real good at that time when they moved in. But when you get back to the mining end, it takes certain people to mine, just like it takes certain people to run McDonalds or work in MT Power. Don't believe they had the right management to handle what they were trying to get done. Didn't have the experience they needed. And you have to be a good listener--Al has learned that through the years. Had a lot of trouble w/ getting things across to people in upper areas of management.

Ex: spent years in drilling and blasting area. Even went to Queens University on a refresher course put on by Professor Allen Bower (sp?) in mining engineering up there. One thing when you drill and shoot rock--naturally, the fragmentation gets smaller. It has to, because you are moving earth, extracting it out of the ground. Where if you don't go in and drill or blast, then you aren't getting the fragmentation you should. What you have to look at is the end product. You can increase your cost initially in the drilling and blasting, and you can decrease your overall cost as it comes out of the mill end. And what you do, even if the rock doesn't look like it's broke any finer, actually it is. You create micro-fissures, fractures.

Tape 1, Side B

Create fines (?) and when create that much in initial blasting, don't have to do it in the crushing, conveying, concentrating end. It's just about there. Tried to talk management into it, ignored. Had a chip on shoulder anyway because ignored on many things. Knew that they would come to see that they should be blasting. And it came to that. Guy on concentrator pretty sharp, did a comparative study on drilling & blasting vs. not doing it. If they would have drilled and shot rock, it would have increased tonnage at concentrator by 8,000 T/ day. Al got a lot of heat over that--told it to a friend that he knew about it; friend passed it on to management. That goes back to how you count your friends--on your fingers.

Q: How ARCO diff to work for than Anac?

ARCO corporate giant, lots of diff things than basic metals. Mining was Anac's home base. Had a diff breed of people--made way up through ranks or if they came out of Mt Tech, given time to learn underground. ARCO changed that; brought their own people who were involved w/ petroleum. Lot of diff between oil and hard rock mining. And upper management of Anac knew hardrock mining in Butte, MT cause they had come up through ranks. ARCO didn't know anything about it. They had to come in here and depend on people to do it.

Q: If ARCO had not bought Anaconda, would some of that happened anyway with B.M. Place coming in as president since he was first exec. from outside co.

That's where it happened, w/ Place, Chase Manhattan. If ARCO

hadn't bought it, it would have been in same place today. Anac was going down.

Q: What mood in Butte when news came of expropriation of mines in Chile?

People in Butte jumped for joy because thought that Anac would pay a lot closer attn to Butte than it had in the past. That was the word that was out. It would be good for Butte cause Ana out of S. Am.

Q: What feeling when ARCO took over?

Similar to feeling about Chile. Reverse of that. Glad to see ARCO come in. In company, when ARCO first came in, morale was high. Thought that ARCO keep Butte running. They talking about all these millions of dollars going to sink into mining area, the town. Thought Butte was really going to boom. Around 1980 was when morale really began to drop. Curtailment in production. In 1974, mining approx 320,000 T/day, stripping ratio or prob 3 1/2 to 1. In 1980, mining approx 170 to 180 thousand T/day. And drop tonnage, drop workforce. didn't need the 120 trucks for 320,000 T/day. Everything else drops--shovel operators, steel workers, etc dogwn through the ranks. When pit shut down, 6 trucks. from 120.

Q: When sunk into people that this might not be temporary cutback; things headed in one direction?

Probably Between 1983 and 1984. Mining is life of Butte, been here since 1870's through 1980's. People just didn't think Butte could shut down. They still don't. People still here today who can't believe it shut down. They look to Mr. Dennis Washington to start it up. \$16, 17, 14.00 an hour--compared to minimum wage. Out to mall today, talking to man who had been machinist at pit. This past summer, Al had been mine supt at gold mine at Gold Creek. They started out there paying days pay seven-something an hour and if you were top hand on top piece of eqpt, could make like \$10.50. Al told this to guy out in the mall, had been making 14, 15 dollars an hour, Al said, down there you started out at about \$7.50. He said, "gees, that ain't too bad." So they've got us down about that far, they'll start letting us come back up a little bit.

Q: Washington run a union shop?

Yes, they do their work through three unions. If you see Butte start up again, you see this. Through Operating Engineers, teamsters, general laborers. A lot different.

Q: Labor concessions alone enough to keep the hill?

No. It's so big. Still have overhead--taxes, environment, reclamation, air quality, etc. Plus management--corporate giant w/ bldgs in denver, Butte, wherever else--non productive. depend

on copper to pay for it. And imports play a role. Zaire, Zambia, Chile, its the main source of their economy, and they are going to mine it if its 5 c a pound. A lot to do w/ econ of Butte, Utah, wherever there are other mines. Don't know how you could limit quotas. That's up to Washington D.C.

Had five kids; lost a daughter. Allen is 33; Randy is 30; daughter Pat is 23; Toby is 14. Oldest boy went to MT Tech, went into road construction eqpt. Didn't finish at tech; put in 2 years in mining engineering. Other boy works for Atlantic Richfield at Black Thunder, truck driver. Would advise kids to stay out of mining. Mining is not dead in Butte, MT; it's just waiting to come back, it can stay in the ground for great number of years, its not going to spoil. Would like to see Butte become a district like around Kellog or Mullen or Wallace--like to see instead of one corporate giant, see a bunch of small companies come in. Have every metal in Butte there is to mine. On east end, have East Berkely pit, moly/copper. Coming towards west, have Berkely pit, primary copper w/ gold and silver by-products. North of that you have zinc, some of the largest zinc deposits in the world. Have Alice pit, mined in early 1950's, gold and silver. Toward Ryan, have one of largest zinc deposits in world; west of Orphan girl, silver, magnesium, gold. Could be a bunch of small pits, when prices fluctuate, can move from area to area to mine profitably. Same w/ underground. Would like to see bunch of co's mine.

In mining closures--like 1957, working at Lexington. It went down in 1957 and it's a high grade gold/silver property. And it's still down. Alice pit went down in early 1950's, and it's still down. Anselmo is high zinc/lead producer, went down in 1957, still down. Mountain Con went down in latter 1970's--high copper producer, gold and silver on upper levels. Still down. Belmont still down. etc etc etc. When Co. moves in, moves into one area of Butte. move into B. pit or E. Berk pit for copper, copper products. Seems they should be more flexible so can move around when metal market changes.

Think they should have a smelter. Seems very strange when can mine a product in Butte Mt, crush it, convey it, dry it, put it in a RR car to Seattle, ship it by boat to Japan, fabricate it, ship it back to this country--especially the waste. They made agreement w/ Japan that would take sulphur back. So when sulphur is burned off, shipped back to this country to be disposed of. Seems strange that can't get smelter similar to Japan's that has air qual, poll control that needed.

Q: changes in safety through the years?

Safety got a lot better and stricter. Stricter through govt' OSHA and MSHA--Occupational Safety and Health, Mine Safety and Health. Strict. Became lax esp through Reagan adm. But properties got a lot safer during Al's years.

Q: Changes in contract mining?

Safety glasses, years ago--hard hats, hard toed boots. Had hats and boots during Al's years. lighting facilities--from carbide lamps to battery lamps. Diff machinery, better ventilation. Better safety, period.

Q: contract miners resist safety if slow down prod?

Didn't like a lot of regulations. People hate changes. But put there for their protection. Safety in Butte stringent and tough. A lot of accidents underground and even in pit were eliminated.

Q: Pretty much eliminate silicosis?

Think so. Have better controls--water underground to wet down materials, better ventilation, better tools, better safety. Before Al started, all you heard about was men going to Galen to take a rest, get his lungs checked out. In 30's, early 40's, really bad. Bad enough when Al went underground. Ventilation helped a lot.

Q: Close calls?

Lots of them. Closest was when supervising, asst foreman underground in Leonard. Had instructed raise miners (raise goes from one area vertically to another drift)--it was a caved raise. Had sent one miner up and told him...a big slough had run for 30 or 40 feet on about a 45 degree angle. Day shift had pulled out breast boards and run material because it was ore and left that material up there. When Al came on, the hole was there and it had to be blocked off so it didn't run so could go ahead and do work. It was a blind area; went up through area that was about 6 1/2 feet square. Spanish fellow, told him, I want you to get them breast boards back in and make sure that that is plugged so can't run anymore. Al started down man way; he started picking before Al got down all the way and the hole started to run. Al was trapped; rock was coming down. Al got back up (on the walls? Anyway, above it) and it just went "whoom" and filled up what we called the sill, the main level where you got out of the working area out into the area where you could get out of the mine. It filled up the sill, stopped running. Said to Spanish fellow, lets get out of here, because if it had run any more we'd have never got out. It was three floors, about 18 feet. Al got on ladder; didn't have hat or light because rock had taken all that off him. Al dropped down, hit top of muck on sill. Spanish guy leary of jumping down through there. But Al finally convinced him; soon as he hit the sill, rock ran again, filled it up completely. Got out just in time. Al hadn't thought about being hit, but then he picked up his hat on the sill, it was half gone. Lamp laying down in the material. Al looked at his side, had a great big bump, a rock had hit him. Had to go to hospital and be checked. Just a bump. But that about the closest call. Had claustrophobia for quite a number of weeks after that, going into an enclosed area. But numerous things like that.

Tape 2, Side 1

Q: feel safer w/ some partners than others?

Definitely. People you had worked w/ for some years, knew just what he was going to do in given sitn. New person, didn't know for awhile. When Al started underground, people f/ Mexico didn't speak English, but generally they worked together. Sort of conflict between Butte miners and people f. Spanish origin. Eventually, group penetrated. Al has lots of fine Mexican friends. But at that time, lot of wetbacks coming into mines, immigration authorities come, take them back. Even your good Mex friends today, still call them wet backs. Had to penetrate work force, and it was huge at that time.

People from Pennsylvania came in WWII; West Virginians in 1963, 64. W. Virginians had hard time, different breed than Butte people. Few left, most migrated back to W. Va. They generally worked w/ each other. Butte miner is breed alone. Kept partner for years and years. If boss broke them up, real conflict--like to have partners break in new man. Finally had to go to student mining course and have people train W. Va's. Because when contracting, want to make the money. If take on new partner, have to do his share until he learns. Pack him until he learns.

Q: Have heard that contract miners at end could earn as much as \$60,000--realistic?

Probably. Some making \$150, 200 dollars a day. Pretty good money if it was continuous.

Q: Contract miners are angry that Kelly shut down a year and a half after promise for 3 years of block caving experieiment. Are they justified?

Yes, definitely. Went through so many diff phrases in what called Bereley Neck, where going to do their cave blocking. Went to so many meetings. Had done an amazing amount of work to start that cave blocking system, were just about ready to cave block when they pulled the pumps.

Q: Why didn't ARCO give more notice?

Never understood why. On graveyard shift, got the graveyard out, got them on the cages, run them up, and pulled the power. Never even give the men time enough to get their stuff out, their personal belongings out from underground. That's how quick they shut it down. Never did understand it. Why did they do a million dollars worth of remodelling in the Hennessey building, never did finish it. That's just the way big corporations do things.

Q: Now that mines are flooded, what happens if somebody wants to underground mine again?

If somebody came in underground, would have to go brand new, sink shafts, haulage, service, ventilation. Couldn't use old shafts; the Kelley was extinct when it was shut down, anyway. Only given a life of, I think, 10 years. It was designed to last that long, timbers, etc. To mine underground today, have to have capacity to move lots of material, like 50 thousand ton a day. And could never get that out of the Kelley. If started again, would have to go brand new; and that would have been good, because everything obsolete when flooded. That generally what shut the mines down, lack of maintenance on them.

Anaconda era, money came out of Butte and went to New York or other properties.

Q: Main pumps are now under water; when have to pump Berkely, will they have to get new pumps?

Yes, new and better. The pumps in Berk were outdated; maintenance costs higher than operating, time to get something new. No prob moving water out, would be simple thing to do. It would have to get awfully high before ever had to pump it, and could still mine. Could start Berk. up in a month.

Q: think will mine Berk again?

Yes. Last period in Berk, called B-pushback. Had mined A-pushback out, got down into a neck where we could mine no further because of the tight area there. You have A, B, and C pushbacks. A is the lower one, B intermediate, C top. We mined B down, like taking the crust off a pie, took the discard material off the top--that's how it sits today, ready to be mined right now. B area out of water, won't be water there for 20 years. Could mine B pushback down to water level and then if you wanted to go deeper, set up your pumps and pump water out. No big deal.

If Den. Wash comes in, Al thinks he will start up precip plant first thing. Since leach areas have been inactive since mine has been shut down, the material decomposes more and don't have to go through adding so much sulphuric acid to break down rock to extract the copper, just gets richer. And if Al were to direct mining underground, would go into leaching system. Have methods now.

Q: But ARCO didn't see much future in Berk?

No, if copper went up to \$1.00, Berk would run, East would stay down. Don't know what the actual cut off would be. Had cutoff point in East Berk of maybe we got down as low as .20, .25. Cutoff in the Berk at about .45. Percentage of material as discard. Percent of copper in Berk avg prob about .65 vs. .2 something in the E. B. And Berk is much better milling rock than E. Berk. Isn't as hard. East Berk is moly, low grade. To go back into it, have to strip. Mined most of the good moly before

shut down.

Q: What your status w/ Co. now?

Not active, because haven't worked since last Feb, but still drawing severance until next May, w/ all benefits, even dental. Next May, (1986), will be 55, and then will go on early retirement.

After shutdown, 18 kept on in operations. Went into security work, checked gates, drove around property. Hard transition to make. Because more active in operating sitn than in security. And not knowing from day to day what was going to happen. Lot of men watched metal market, but didn't get over about 59 cents a pound.

Morale was bad. What can you expect? Something like that. After spending all your life in an active position and then getting put into security and then not knowing if you are going to be there from day to day. And a lot of cut throat going on, guys figured if they told this guy this or made up this or that, it would hold his job a little longer. Just human behavior. But they are the ones who have to get up and look in the mirror.

What really hurt, Just toward the end, up at the E Berk, when everybody giving their all to keeping that pit alive--didn't matter if was operating engineer, teamster, boiler maker, did everything they could do to keep it alive. But it was just the monster behind it, trying to give everybody a chunk of that pound of moly or that pound of cu to keep it going. Couldn't keep Denver and the management and the overhead that you had. Labor isn't the prob. Labor kept going down. But the loss just stayed there. And the loss had to come from someplace other than labor. Concentrator built to handle 33 to 35 thousand T/day, budget set on that. And if you mine less than that, you're going to lose money. Nothing you could do about it. A monster that has to be corrected. That's why, if Wash. comes in, has to do something w/ concentrator.

Q: Future of labor in Butte?

Never what before, w/ 13 unions. Unless copper \$1.50/lb and have to get workers. Al thinks Steelworkers are gone.

Q: labor in general hurt in Butte? E.G. McDonalds could't have come in before?

Look at what they did w/ Motel 6. They say the carpenters are respons. for burning them out but he didn't build here. Unions--you couldn't do anything. There's a point betw management or unions. Like unions, little business man needs his water tank changed, can't do it himself. He's got two hands and a pipe wrench yet he's condemned if he does it by pickets outside his building. Right now, people can do own work if necessary. Unions have given a lot. Finally come to realize that they have

to, have to give in to some of these picky things. Al thinks McDonalds should have been in here before they got into Bozeman. Butte has continually gone down, Bozeman, Missoula, Helena have continued to grow. Kids growing up in Butte, what do they have. At least they can go out and work at McD's now, they couldn't a year ago. Or Arby's, etc. Good that they can get out and get a job. They couldn't before, couldn't do anything unless they belonged to the union and a 14 or 16 year old kid can't join the union.

Al believes in unions. Was shop steward underground before went salary. Believes in them because read a lot about them. When people working 12 hours a day for 60 cents a day, terrible conditions. But unions shouldn't get so strong that indep. bus man can't go out and do what he has to do to keep bus. alive. That's what shut a lot of bus down in Butte. If little old lady can't afford to paint wall in business, pay union \$14, 16/hour--point where you have to work together.

Have to be more flexible. So don't have to call on six unions, pay six men to do one job.

If Al was in business, would be picketed all the time.

Q: what's in future for you?

Don't know. Mayor of Walkerville, involved in Blaine Community Center, got that thing going. One of five initial members on Lady of Rockies. Have been approached at going to work at different properties. But think will go into retirement, maybe look into small business. Keep active. So don't get into doldrums, watch TV 8 hours day.

Q: 10 years ago, think would be retired at age of 55?

Yes. Thought would retire at 50. Would have liked to do that. But now that can actually be retired, faced w/ probl--it's not insurmountable, but high. If work at any job for 36 years, you have to have something to do other than retire. Get tired of travelling, hunting, fishing, skiing. I'm going to get actively involved in something. Don't really know what yet. Approached by a lot of diff people. Even going into mining, getting guys together that fam. w/ min engineering, planing, environ, safety, maybe even approach like Washington...don't know.

Tape 2, Side B

Al finds it is diff to get people to volunteer. City of Walkerville, have mayor, six alderman, clerk, maintenance foreman. To get people to be actively involved is very hard. Out of those seven, eight people, only a couple who are actively involved. Al has had a lot of conflicts over Blaine and city of Walkerville, trying to get people involved. Hasn't been any

easier w/ people laid off. Al started ARCO retirement center. Wrote corp. headquarters in LA, got info needed to start. Got John Shea--Al not active retiree then. Got John, and Al's brother Rich. John is pres, Rich VP, they got a sec and treas. Over 400 members now, get \$40/head a year from ARCO. And they stil haven't got any volunteers. 400 in the club--what are they doing? Setting home watching TV or something. Doldrum, don't want to move. Last year this time, spent four weeks of vacation just gettin Blaine Center open, fixing 50 to 60 leaks in pipes, other stuff.

In newsletter, always say, support your community center, get involved. People always saying, my kids don't have no place to go, nothing to do. This is why I opened that center; you think you can get one of the parents to come over, baby sit their kids for an hour a night while they play basketball? Won't do it. So kids call Al--he says, tell your parents to come over and watch you. The gym is yours to use. Not one has showed up.

Al volunteers because he wants to see changes. Like in Walkerville--council meet, but not do anything. Run for mayor--first time, close race. Incumbent got a hundred thirty-some votes, Al got 119. Then he just kept going to meetings; mayor resigned in two years, Al took over mayor. Guess he was sick and tired of seeing me in the audience. Al about only audience that was there. People hard to figure.

Al talks about changes he's been involved w/.

Al sponsored Miners Union day on the hundred-year centennial last year, June 13. Dedicated a park to them on W side of Walkerville. Gave them a party, street dance. Couldn't even get them invovled to put that on. Said to my wife the other day, if put it on this year, the miners are going to get involved. Threw the street dance, had a party for them at the Blaine, gave them a lot of presents, prizes, went to work at Gold Creek the 14th, 6:00 in the morning. But that was actually a rest. Away from the phone.

Q: what happened to other people you know laid off?

Al lucky because in age bracket could retire. Some 40, up to 53, couldn't receive retirement benefits. They worry. Daily income, insurance policies, etc. Imagine they really worry about it. Al was quite concerned until he learned he was going to be retired. Have retirement pay, social security supplement, health insurance until you are 62 w/ Medicaid or medicare. Great load off your shoulders. Esp where reach age that just don't go out and find a job anywhere. A lot of them went into security guards, prob at min. wage. Some took positions in different parts of country. Some not doing any. Hoping Wash. will pick them up.

Thinks that ARCO will buy out seniority. Teamster told Al that would probably get about \$3500.

Q: what proportion of people have moved away, would you guess?

20%. Not over that. Maybe 15% haven't found some sort of work. Most everybody is working. When at Gold Creek, had trouble getting people to work. People not around--either working or out of town working. But working at lot lower pay scale than in pit. Benefits not there--insurance, etc. Fringe benefits used to be around 60%. If guy got \$12/hour, got about \$7 additional in benefits. \$19.00 an hour. Gets expensive.

Q: What see in Butte's future?

something happening now--don't build motels, don't have McDonalds, Wendy's, Arby's come in for one-night stand, or 88 Olympics or something like that. Al sees mining coming back, tourists when cloverleaf finished on Interstate, Lady of Rockies brining in tourism, overthrust belt oil and gas--Butte is prob the spur of that. Overthrust spur runs Drummond through Dillon, Butte in middle. People are buying property, esp uptown. Al wishes he knew, then would get in on ground floor. Mining, tourism, oil and gas. High tech, think will play imp part. Something will happen. Not just because of mining that getting franchises. Town Pump gas stations. Al thinks it will happen this summer. Ice skating will help. Just a bunch of little things. We were tied into mining too long. Had control over Butte and the state for yers and years and years.

Q: What works against Butte?

Unions were biggest thing. But McDonalds used all union help to build, Pennelli (?sp) Town Pump used union help to build.

Q: what diff between Walkerville and Butte people?

People in Walkerville in world of their own. Wouldn't consolidate in 1976. There before Butte. Daughter outgrew the mother. Don't think ever will see Walkerville consolidate. Lot of history in Walkerville. Named after Walker Brothers, brought mining into Butte, out of Utah. Daly Street, named after Marcus Daly when he lived up there. Clark street. A lot of history up there. And Walkerville is solvent. Whether Butte-Silver Bow is.

Q: What size budget?

Just to run gov't, 53 mills. Mill is about 274.6. \$275 X 53, that's what it operates one. Don't have unions in Walkerville. Have own clerk, appointed by Al. Own marshall, own maintenance foreman. We do everything. Use work fare. Hire from community.

Walkerville sets mainly on mining claims, owned by company.

Most people up there been up there all life, in 60's, 70's, 80's. Town starting to run down. Lots of junk vehicles. Junk vehicles or garbage dumping, Al really tough on that. Cleaned up.