Notes and partial transcript of interview with Al Hart and Tim Little, at the Hart Home, April 17, 1985. Interview conducted by Teresa Jordan. Actual Transcript will be introduced by initial and colon on the LHS of the page--that is, A: for Al; T: for Tim; and J: for interviewer.

Deeper voice is Tim's.

Al, background: born in Butte. Father worked for UP railroad. Mother was a nurse. Now mother is matron at the County Jail. Had job for about 8 years, had it part time before that. Didn't think, growing up, and would ever work for Co. Had a negative attitude toward that:

A: I never thought I would work for the Anaconda Company. When I started, I started with four other guys. With three other guys, there was four of us that ran around together, we were all attending Montana Tech and we decided that we really didn't want to be in college and we were gonna take six months off, go to work for the Anac Co and then go to Calif on our motorcycles, all of us had bikes and we thought we'll go down there and lay around on the beach for a summer or something and then come back and go back to school. And that was about 15 years ago (laughs)...Two of them got married, one of the bought a new car and didn't feel like he could do that anymore. I was the only one who was still in a sit'n to be able to do it and I thought I don't want to do it by myself. So I just kept working for the An. Co. Met a lot of good people.

Started at smelter, then the Butte concentrator, a division of the smelter, you could transfer straight over. worked in Anaconda for three years, then came to Butte. United Steelworkers Union. Worked for An. Co. for 14 years. Retirement will be paid at age 65.

A: When you're 65, you are still eligible for it. You don't lose it, but you always wonder because it's a long way in the future.

A/laid off in Jan. '83. Six months before Tim.

t/ Always thought would work for company. Never liked school. Started on construction, then got on at smelter in An., worked 6 months then got drafted. Came home, went back to work for Co.
T: I had a good job, making money, there was no use looking for anything else.
t/ transferred to Butte w/ concentrator.
a/ They met in Anaconda just before Tim got married when he came back from the service.
t/ In the service 3 years, went to Germany "I was one of the lucky ones." Married when got out of service.

T: I never thought it would shut down. I always thought the smelter would stay running forever 'cause they could import all the copper and everything else. So we were in shock when that

shut down. And we were told then we were out of a job but we had enough seniority and they laid off enough guys, older guys retired, that we stayed with it. I stayed working til the last day, June 30th. I stayed til the very last (unclear--of the company's time?)

a/ told of shutdown something like Jan 6, 1983. Shortly after xmas. Al laid off a week after notification.
A: I think everyone who worked for the company rather suspected, the way things had been going, because the copper market wasn't good, they had shut down Carfork (?) and totally laid everybody off there, they had suspended operations in Tonepah (sp?) Nevada, a lot of the other copper mines around the country. But it still came as a total shock. I worked in the warehouse at this time in the concentrator, and so you saw everybody. Well, our boss in the warehouse was very close to us, you know, he was a good guy and he was very close to his men. And he came back, they had a supervisors' meeting first and told them that it was shut down. And then they were going to tell us afterwards, have another meeting and draw us all into it. But when he came over he told us, well then, you know, it was a hard thing to keep from telling the other guys that came into the warehouse, and most of them wouldn't even believe it until they actually went to the change house and we had the meeting and they told everybody.

t/father worked for the company, was a miner for years, went up to blacksmith shop, welding.
T: I don't like my father, he left my mother, so I don't talk about him very much. But he became a janitor, first he worked at the cemetary for quite a few years and then he was a janitor for a retirement house over here. That's all I know, I don't know no more, I haven't talked to him in years.

j/ how much did security of knowing company had jobs affect your decision making--like your decision to work for 6 months and go to California?

A: I think it affected everybody's decision making here in Butte very much. All of the kids who grew up, well for the last seven or eight years it hasn't been that way. Before that, it was. When Tim and I first started, it seemed like everybody could go to work for the company if they wanted to. But then in, oh what was it, '74 or '75, they shut down the [underground] mines. The first time and then they reopened like the Kelly project after 1980. But after they shut down the mines, there was very little hiring went on. We had probably five or six new people in four years at the concentrator. So it's been a very depleted part of Butte, Butte's picture, for quite awhile. I mean, the people who were working there for a long time had some sense of security, but as far as jobs for the younger people, they just weren't available anymore.

t/ do you think that, even though there wasn't much hiring going on, do you think people <u>perceived</u> yet that there wasn't much hiring going on?

A: No, I don't think so. I don't think people realized it who weren't working for the Anaconda Co, they still thought well this is a big employer, they are still doing all kinds of hiring, but it really wasn't true. They weren't there and they didn't realize. But those of us who were there did realize it, because, you know, you were talking to guys and you'd say, well, you must have just got on because they'd transfer over from Anaconda and you didn't know them and you'd think that they just got hired and they'd say, "Oh no, we worked over there four or five years. And then you'd think, hmmm, they really aren't hiring anybody anymore.

T: You always thought you were secure.

A; When Tim and I first started there, when I started at the Anaconda Smelter, I started in a department called Roaster 2, which is where Tim worked, too. And after one week, I had moved up 8 or 9 notches in the shift order, you know, they had an order and if your seniority was lower, you were lower on the scale, but in this one week, I had moved up 8 places. So there was a tremendous amount of hiring at that time, there was an average of probably 40 or 50 people a week hired over at the Anaonda Smelter.

j/ what was actual work there?

t/ Started with shovel and broom, then run belts, put feed into roasters. Then went into army, and when came out, operated furnaces. Good job. Dusty. An opening came up down below in slurry department, went down there and learned how to be train driver, switchman, but a clean job. Stayed there for a long time until they "come along and says this old guy is retiring, you got to go straight afternoon shift, so I transferred to Butte then. But I would have stayed there forever because it was a good job." started out at bottom again with shovel and water hose, worked way up, running rod mills, then with shutdown of smelter, lot of guys knocked out of job who had more time at the concentrator than Tim, but they got laid off so he moved up in their position. Finally went straight day shift, rigger and eqpt driver. Went to operating engineers school last year--got a first class crane license. Feels it was a good program, but "the deal there is, I don't know of anybody, and the union, I went over to the union in Helena to try and get a job, and they told me, well, you just keep paying this union money and maybe in a year and a half, I can get you a job. So I didn't figure that was too good a deal. So, I quit paying...I paid them once, and when they told me that, that I would never get a job for a year and a half, just to pay my money, I thought that wasn't too good a deal. And then I went to work with Al.

j/ Al, what was your progression in work?

a/ Basically the same. Only at smelter for 3 years, when transferred to Butte, much more rapid progression here than when

Tim came over. Became maintenance man, which means you are also bump up foreman, and then couple foremen got hurt, so worked as a foreman for close to 2 years. Then into sample dept, then there until smelter shut down in 80, then when came back, went straight days. Mostly in warehouse dept. Started in '70; tim in'69. One year difference was diff in working one year extra. Not quite a year. Tim in April of '69, Al in Jan of 70. "That's one place you'll find a conflict in there with our years, because they gave you an extra year of seniority after they shut down. So when you talk about your seniority, you just count that.

j/ Feel diff working for ARCO than Anaconda?

t/no

a/"There wasn't much change as far as--we began to notice it more after the strike in 80, I think, you began to see a lot of, not day to day people, but people who were coming through on tours and stuff, a lot of different people who we have never seen, because before that, Anaconda's management, well like Dan Rolig (sp?) who became head of Montana operations and stuff, he was my superintendant when I came to the concentrator originally, they'd all been Montana men before and now we were starting to see a lot of people from LA and Denver and such people who were part of the Atlantic Richfield organization rather than Anaconda.

j/ what did that mean on a day to day level in terms of your supervisiors or whatever?

T: If they were coming through, you'd clean everything up.

A: Make a big show out of it, yes, that was a big part of it. But I think that another thing was that our managers and supervisiors and formen and everyone began to feel less secure about what was going on because we had always known everybody who was over us before cause they were Monana people, they were mining men. Now my wife's an engineer. And I've read a lot, I read all of her mining magazines, all of her engineering magazines, and it said that this is a big thing since the oil companies have taken over the mining, which they have in the case of SOHIO and Kennecot and Atlantic Richfield and Anaconda and numberous ones have been taken over, pretty much everybody but Phelps Dodge. But they said that oil men just don't have the knowledge to run copper companies, and I think that's very true. THey tried to deal with things in an oil company type manner. I saw it a lot in the warehouse where they would order stuff that was, that seemed totally unnecessary. WE got in a set of $26,000 crane wheels one day for a crane on the grinding floor, which is part of the concentrator, they'd never been replaced since the crane was new, there was no reason to replace them then, but it was just $26,000 and it was shoved out, in fact I think Tim took it out, and set it out in a field somewhere, and then they covered it with plastic and they said, when we need it, it's here. And that was something that didn't seem quite as prevalent when Anaconda had it. We weren't doing this long range planning,

but when we did, it wasn't for stuff that we really didn't need. I don't know, things changed, you could see em, but it was small and it was imperceptible. I think what it was was when At. Rich took over, they made some very grandiose promises to Butte, Mt, and Anaconda, MT, we're going to pump billions of dollars, not millions, billions, and it never happened.

t/ did they make promises to you about job security?

A: No, not that I can ever remember.

t/ How do you feel about the way that they dealt with the infomation that they were going to shut down--in your case, it was very short between announcement and being out of job.

A: I think it was fair. It's, it could have been longer, but that just kind of prolongs the agony. I got a job right afterwards, and I was driving semi, and I was working for a co. here in Butte and driving a delivery truck too, so I got to go to the concentrator delivering items, and talk to the guys that I'd work with, I was taking them to the warehouse, so I got to talk to the guys in the warehouse who I'd worked with before, and I think it was very hard on the people having six months notice in a way, because like Tim said, a lot of the foremen and stuff became very lacadaisacal (sp), you couldn't blame them, because they knew they were out of a job, they chose, what was it, a few weeks after the notice, when they notified all the foreman, about a month I think, of who was going to be kept, even after the shutdown for the maintenance force and who wasn't, and those who weren't, a lot of them felt betrayed, because when you became a foreman, they asked you to totally dedicate your life to the Anaconda Company, more or less, you were a company man then, you had no more relationships with the men who worked for you. You weren't supposed to go out and have a beer with them, be friends. So you formed a new group of friends, and became friends with these foremen, and many of the formen who were laid off were close personal friends with the head of the Anaconda Company here in Butte, Frank Gardener. And they felt betrayed.

j/you were a foreman for 2 years. Was that a difficult shift for you to make?

A: Well, I was just a days' pay foreman, I never went salary. That option was offered to me at one time, but they offered it to me three or four months before a strike. I wasn't married then, I haven't been married that long, and I enjoyed the strikes. (laughs) We'd go out fishing and drink beer and have a good time, but that was more or less what I told the man who offered me the job, I said, well, if I can't go on strike, cause the foremen worked duding the strikes, and I said, I don't think I'd be that interested. It was a difficult thing, when you're a day's pay foreman, because you are sitll working with these men, you still shower with them, you still eat lunch with them, and yet you are expected to give them orders. But one thing that I found out, and that I've found from most of the good foremen that I worked

for, if you make these men your friends, they will do anything for you, but when you say, You do this, when you order them around, that doesn't work. And there was a lot of that went on in the old Anaconda Company. It had changed somewhat towards the end, I think that they used to have training sessions after At. Rich took over for the foremen, and I think this was something they tried to tell them, don't just act like you are the absolute authority. But I think that they drummed into the supervisors heads, the superintendants, which are one step above the foremen, that this is the way they were supposed to be perceived, because they started acting like gods or something, and that got a little tiresome, too.

t/ so better relations on the foreman level w/ ARCO but worse on the sup. level?

A: I don't know if they were better or worse. They were just different. And the reason I knew that they were taking them in and giving them because at the time I was close with all the foremen that I'd worked for and they were telling me these things. This is something, there was always a big degree of secrecy 'sposed to be kept between the foremen and the men. (laughs) Don't ask me why it always got out, those kinds of things always do.

t/what was gen. attitude to co? Did workers trust it?

A; I think that generally they felt it was on our side. A lot of people bad mouthed-it over the years and said they're not treating us right, but I think when they really sat back and thought about it, they realized that we had always been paid fairly, and it took an act of God to get a man fired from the Anaconda company, he really had to do something (laughs) (Tim says yeah) You almost had to kill someone to get fired.

j/ how do you, Tim, react to what Al's been saying--e.g., termination, you worked 6 months.

T: You all knew it was coming, and you always had that wonder in your head, what are you going to do next? You didn't know, because everybody, guys like Al, and fellahs you knew that were laid off since '80 that were gone already, if there was any jobs out there, you knew that they were being taken up already. You are working there, you are a steelworker, and here's an Ironworker with 20 years, and he's going tomorrow, he's laid off tomorrow, beings he was in a different union, he's got 20 years already and he's laid off. So what are you going to do? And here we are, we're just laborers, we have no union cards, steelworker's a shovel digger, that's it, he's just a laborer. And the guy who's an Ironworker, he's got a card, or a machinist, he's got a trade to fall on if he can get on at someplace. But here you are with nothing. What are you going to go into? It's just a wonder in your head all the time. It's kind of shocking. I mean, you do have some talents, but that doesn't mean nothing, here's the guy with the card in his hand. Oh, I've done quite a

bit of carpentry work and that, but that doesn't mean nothing, it still can't get you in the door, unless you know somebody real good. So it was an awful shock.

j/ Did you have a job lined up?

T: No. I never had no jobs lined up. I didn't know what I was going to do. Just hoped something always came around.

j/ you were married at the time--did you have children?

T: Yes, I had two children. My wife's a school teacher. I wasn't too worried there, but I knew I had to do something. I still know I have to do something. And that's why we're doing here--we have no other jobs, so we're trying to make it the best we can. Well, we were both working, so we bought a house, first on the West side, and always wanted a new house, so we had a new house built. A brand new house. '77. So I guess a lot of guys like that. Two of youse working, you can make the payments on a brand new house. Now it's, you know, a little tougher. Quite a bit tougher to keep that new house. And I've got a lot of hours in there working. I hate to give her up...I had a home built by Grizzly home, they built the top half, and everything underneath the floor was mine. And the yard, the landscaping--we built a hedge, well, a terrace garden out there one year when we were on strike, it took us three weeks to dig it out by hand, cut the railroad ties and hang them, lot of sweat out there. And the basement, I finished the basement.

j/ you have the house now.

T: Yes, I still have my house.

j/do you feel pretty secure with it?

T: So far, yes, but maybe down the road, no. I don't know then. But today I do. And they are always talking in Butte of cutting teachers, too. So that's a great big worry for us all the time.

j/ have you noticed the effects of that sort of worry and stress.

T: Oh, I don't think so. I'm pretty happy. I don't talk a lot. I let Al do all the talking. I do all the work. (laughter) We get along real good. The stress--no, I can't let it get to me. I won't let it. I just keep going, go on to something else. I've always got a project going, some kind of project. I don't care what it is, if it needs fixing or building, I build it. Right now, reading a book there and building lawn furniture, we haven't had time to finish it yet. Out of plastic pipe. I buy a lot of (?) books and carpentry books and there is an idea, I build a little box, you know, a box with two different nails, well, I've got to try it. We're always doing something like that. Try to angle something going all the time. We're going into big business with our furniture--we don't know yet. I'd

like to start something like that--you always think, you've got to get your foot in the door someplace, so we thought we'd try building some furniture here. And we just started it before the rush of work come onto us, and we haven't finished it. It's sitting up--could fall apart any day.

J: But there's something beyond the next job, too

Change of tape.

Tape 1, Side B

Tim: I worry a lot. Since the Company shut down, the first year I knew I wasn't going to work for awhile, I says, why don't you go on vacation because I can't afford a vacation for myself this year. So her and her mother went to Ireland. So that was great. Then last summer, we were working pretty hard, I didn't figure I could go on vacation agin, so my wife went to Salt Lake for a week. My brother lives down there, so they went down there. So this summer, my wife told me I'm going to Disneyland. For a vacation. I don't really want to go, but I better go.

j/how old are kids

Tim: My boy is nine and my girl is six. Ted and Abbey.(sp?) Tedd with two D's.

j/ Are they aware--do they have a sense of insecurity?

Tim: No. No. they aren't doing without anything. And I DON'T think, they don't realize what it is yet. They see me at home doing, oh, my boy likes me to cook all the time. When I'm not working, I do the housework, all the time. I better. You know, it's my half to keep up. I gotta do something. So I'm getting to be a good cook, too. But my boy likes me to cook, everybody does. They don't realize it. Because we keep them in everything, busy, sports, my boy plays sports, and the girl, she dances and everything else. That's another thing. My boy, he's got asthma real bad and he has psorriasis. That was a big worry for me about insurance because when he gets his psoriassis all over his body, it costs so much for all the prescriptions for that. He takes probably five different, six different medicines at a time to try to clear these spots up. And it's a big worry all the time. As long as we had both insurances we would go to the doctor and never have to pay a bill. And now we do. We have to add into it. That's a big worry for me there. Their health all the time, and him with the, and he has the asthma attack, and it scares you. But they are both good kids. And I got a great wife. Kandi.

t/ teaches kindergarten.

j/ When you are used to working, it must be hard when you don't have a job to go to every day, to keep your spirits up.

Tim: Oh yes, you miss that security. You know'd that you had a job every day. For the Company, wake up and go to work. And now its, we wake up and hope we got a call. That's how it is, day by day, you don't know if you're going to work today or not.

j/ How do you react to these issues, Al?

Al: It's hard, it's a big change when you lose your job, after that many years, especially. It's one thing to work a year for somebody and lose a job. And it's very stressful. But like Tim said, you can't let it get to you because if you do, there have been, I'd say three or four guys that I know of who have died, who have killed themselves since the, guys that we worked with. And you know that this is what caused it, because you could see it the day they announced the shutdown. You could see these looks on peoples' faces, looks of desperation. And you can see, well guys that we still know now, who haven't worked or haven't done anything steady, you can see where they have sold cars, they have sold boats, they have sold houses, they have sold camp trailers, they have sold everything that they accumulated to live the good life with and now basically they are just living, and you have to wonder how much longer they can hold out. Because they did enjoy life before, and now there is just nothing left to enjoy it seems like, to them. I would say a big part of my being able to cope with everything is my relationship with Christ.

t/ Do you think it is stronger now, after the shutdown, do you think it has changed?

Al: It has changed. I would say it's stronger now. I don't know how it is stronger. I feel closer. I know now that many of the things that I read in the Bible are true, things like, he tells us to live each day one day at a time. And before, it was like Tim said, we got into such a feeling of security, that you kind of lived life a year ahead of time--next year we're going on this vacation, you know. And you just don't do that anymore, you can't. You figure, well, today we are working and we've got a little money but tomorrow we may not. So I feel that that has been a big part of helping me, but I see so many guys that don't have that, and they have really lost hope. Because when you were putting all of your hope into material things, it's pretty tough.

j/ What church do you go to?

Al: I go to the Church in the Valley, which is Baptist.

Tim: I'm a Catholic. I go to St. Annes.

j/ Is your church group a supportive community? Are many people in your church unemployed because of the shutdown, and has the church proved a community of support?

Al: I was actually the only one who went there who was employed by the Anaconda Company. I think our church has done certain thigs to help the community and my church family has helped me.

Escpecially the young adults in the church, we have four, two other couples that are very good friends of ours, and they have done a lot of things that have helped me, said things and done things to help. So the church has been, the church family has been a vital part of it, they've helped, there's no question about it. And I think they are still helping within the commuinity. Doing what they can. It's a small church. So they don't have all that much influence. But I know that we try and give money to like the 2nd street Mission, who does a lot of good work here in Butte, and to various other groups that are trying to help the poeple who are out of work. The thing is that there are many people in Butte now, my mother has a lot of dealings with them, that are hungry, that they don't have enough money to put shoes on their kids feet, or proper clothing. Tim's wife deals with that where kids come to school where there's no heavy winter coats and things like that. And these are people who had good paying jobs and had always given their kids everything. Tim and I are exceptions, you know, we have wives who have good jobs. And that has made a big difference in our lives. We have one man who's a close friend of ours, Andy Cookton (sp?), and he has five boys. And it's just got to be real tough. He hasn't worked at anything steady since the shutdown. Like we were talking to him here about four months ago and he said, you work a few days somewhere and the boss walks up to you and says, well, gotta let you go, another layoff, you know, another cut back. And boy, when you have five kids, that's tough.

j/ does his wife work?

Al: No. And so many--I don't know, when we were workig for the Anaconda Company, we all used to do it, we all used to look out in the community and say, boy a lot of these people on welfare, you know, they should be off, and they've lived on it for so long. But now that we see our friends on there, we realize what a worthwhile thing it is. I mean, there's no qustion it's abused in ways. Some people have been on there for years and years, people who are very healthy and could work, and at one time they could have gotten a job here in Butte or somewhere else. But now, a lot of these people need this welfare. These people that we used to work with who had the good paying jobs. And then you read in the paper where the legislature says they are going to cut it off for people from 35 to 49 and give them three months a year. And you have to wonder, what is this going to do to these people. Because there just aren't any jobs here, there aren't any jobs anywhere in the United STates, basically. Anything that pays. It's like a friend of mine last year who I worked with, he went to Idaho, and he says, lots of jobs, he says, minimum wage. He says, you don't move a wife and four kids to Idaho and live on minimum wage.

j/ Have either of you looked for work outside of the Butte area?

Al: Relatively close area, yes. I've been to Dillon and out to Stauffer chemical and over to the gold mine in Whitehall and different mining properties around, and different types of jobs.

Right after I got laid off from the Anacoda Co, I drove semi for about five months. For a company called NORCO. It's an oxygen firm. This is another thing that you run ito after workig for the Anaconda Company. You are used to people treating yo half way decently. And that was what I ran into with Norco. They more or less told you, we are going to pay you a set amount of money, per month, and you are going to work as much as we ask you to. It ended up I was working 70 and 80 hours a week for $1000 a month and, well, I filed a case against them with the State of Montana over the wage and hour thing because there was no overtime pay or anything and they just, you know, I wans't even making $3 an hour, after you figured out the hours I was working and the pay I was getting. And I tried to talk to them about it because that's what I always did with the Anaconda Company. If you had a problem, you went and talked to you forman or your superintendant or someone, and usually something could be done to satisfy it, but it didn't work with Norco. I talked to them and they said, if you dono't like it, partner, quit. And I said, well, I guess I just did.

j/ They were probably in a pretty good pos't to do that because they could go out and get somebody else to take that job tomorrow.

Al: No, they brought back the kid that they had laid off about four months before, they had transferred him to Kalispell, so they didn't even hire anybody from within the community of Butte. Four months before I started working here, this was here in Butte for Norco, there were four employees. When I started, there were two. There were four full time and two, one part-time before I started. Then when I started, there were two full-time and they might let you work a part-time, 5 hours a week, and there was just too much work to do, you know, in the normal amount of time. Nobody minds working a little extra, you know, if the company needs it. But to be expected to work two man's shifts per week, 80 hours a week, that's a little much.

j/ was that a union job?

Al: No

j/ What happens when you are a union member and you take a non-union job?

Al: nothing, really. I mean, it used to be in Butte, there were no non-union firms. And that was bad. But now the situation we've got where there's basically no real union strength is bad, too. There has to be a happy medium. But a lot of the people say, well, the company caused the shutdown and a lot of the people say, well, the unions caused it. I think it was kind of a 50/50 thing. There's no quesiton the union had somethig to do with it. When I started for the Anacoda Company in 1970, I was making $23 and 40 cents a day. $23 and <u>four</u> cents

a day. And when I left, I was making around $102 to 105, and that's quite an increase.

j/ And that was because of union negotiations.

Al: So I think, as we look back, we have to realize that we kind of priced ourselves out of a job, because the price of copper, if people have enough sense to look at it, it's definitely not that high. In fact, it's no higher today than it was the day I started for the Anaconda Company.

j/ percentage cause on union, management, and maybe a third factor, the world copper economy, what would be your percentages, in terms of blame or cause?

T: I think it was half and half, the same. You always have people in the union that do a lot of hollering, but you got these guys after them that are saying, well, he made me do this work, so the union's got to holler, and this guy, he doesn't want to work anyway, he's lazy, so he tells the union guy to go holler at the company because this guy had to work. Well, he's the lazy guy in the first place, and he thinks he's got it made forever. So (unclear) Cause we've seen some people there at work, that, oh, the bosses used to have to almost drag them out to get to work. You know, they knew they had 20, 30 years, ah heck, I'll do it when I get time, you know, just do so much, and they knew they couldn't get fired. So they would tell the union guy, and he'd have to go fight for them. And the compnay, on the other hand, they couldn't make no money, they said, I don't know the figures there, Al, he knows all about money. (laughs). How the copper was doing, but I don't know whose fault it was.

Pause in tape.

j/ At one time, couldn't have non-union companies in Butte. Now some are going non-union--have you had any trouble with the work you are doing as far as being perceived as competing with union.

Tim: No, we haven't got caught, in the first place. And we stay away from bigger jobs. That's probably the main reason. But I think the reason Butte, these other towns, things are coming in, is because the union knows there are too many men not working, and they are going to go to work, I don't care who's in front of you, you are going to go to work. I believe that.

j/ Do you have any problem with charging less than union labor, do you have problem with being in comopetition?

Al: No, really we don't. And I think the big reason for that is becuase we do a lot of work that the unions won't do. We take a lot of smaller jobs, we do everything. You know, I mean, many of your union shops here in town that do various types of work won't do a job for less than a certain amount of money, no matter how small it is.

Tim: We mostly work for the elderly because they've called around and they can't afford so that's where we are catching the jobs, and that's why we are lucky, there are a lot of elderly in Butte.

j/ Have there been any unexpected benefits for you to the lay off--in some way it's made a new family closeness or you have tried out things you haven't tried out before or you've found you like working for yourself or...

Tim: No. We work for ourselves, we enjoy that, but that security you miss. The every day of getting up going, but I don't think--we enjoy working for ourselves. Sometimes we even like working together (laughter). If we didn't joke and fool around

Al: We\d go nuts

Tim: We wouldn't work so good together. You kow, I'm always giving him a bad time, he's left handed in the first place. (laughter).

Al: he broke my rig (?) yesterday.

Tim: And if we didn't do that, we'd probably be fighting all the time or something. You just gotta go with it.

Al: I think in ways it, there are certain things that are possibly, in my case, it's been good for. It's taught me that I can do a lot of other things as far as plumbing and carpentry and stuff--I've learned a lot that I had never--I'd known certain things about it before, but I'd never really studied it that closely, it wasn't part of what I did for my living. So, it's taught me a few things. And as far as family relationships go, I think maybe my wife and I have grown closer. We were very close anyway from the beginning. I mean, we never got married until I was 26, I was older than that, I was 28? 29? And she was 25. So we didn't get married young. And it's brought us closer together in the fact that we realize now we need each other. I mean, before we needed each other but we always had our own separate income and it seemed like, if you ever want to separate, you can do it or something. We never had any of those kind of desires, but I think that feeling is always there like you are independant and so...I realize now that I need her and I think she still realizes she needs me. So it's good. And the thing is that, like, Tim and I's wife do both make a good salary, and we can live on that, I guess. But men go nuts when they don't work. I think a lot of women do today--they realize that staying home and keeping house, which Tim and I do (laughs) is not the ideal situation. But after you've worked for so many years, you have to have that--get out and do things. And not only that, this business that Tim and I do, just doing the odd jobs and working for the elderly, we've met a lot of good people, a lot of really neat people. And it's been fun. I'm sure, both of us, if they

offered us the chance to go back to the Anaconda Company tomorrow, we'd go back. We'd have to. Even if you had another job, you'd have to go back because you have that many years tied up. Which is sad, for people who do have good jobs. Because if they do, I would tell them, never come back, but a lot of them would. There's guys all over this country, that if hey were making twice the money they'd make for the Anaconda Company, if it opened tomorrow, they'd be back. It's always been that way in Butte--I can remember it during strikes, when I was growing up, families, kids that you knew and stuff, their families would leave town, four or five months later, the strike would be over yet their dad would be working in some other town, making good money, and they'd be right back. They'd just always migrate back to Butte because it's home, I guess, or something.

Tim: yeah, my wife sees that a lot in the school--you'd see, they say, we dono't have that many kids, yet during the year, she might lose five kids, and at the end of the year, she has six more than when she started. Coming and going. And people coming from all over, too, back here. And some not even from here. That's part of a family lives here, and this is another0 part of the family where they don't have nothing, so they are coming back here from years gone by. You see that a lot.

j/ I wonder if people come back because they feel there is a community of support here that is older that anything they can attach onto in a new job or another place.

Tim: There probably is, that's probably why they do coe back. They know somebody here. Close friends.

Al: I don't know if it's an old saying or not, I've read it before, there's a saying that you never meet anybody in Butte Montana who isn't a friend. And I think it's very true. Everybody that Tim and I work for has been totally honest with us, they've never, we've never had a bad check--we had one badk check, that was form a guy from California who owns an apartment house here in Butte. So everybody from Butte has been honest with us. Some of them have come to be very close friends, and all of the men that we worked for with the Anaconda Company, when you see them still you still feel like you have that brotherhood there. You know, they were your working partners, your friends. And it's just a close community, I guess.

j/ What particular ways of closeness do you feel most affected by? What would you miss if you moved somewhere else?

Al: Hmmm. I don't know.

Tim: Well there, like always a friend you can call on. If you need a hand, somebody will be there. You knew people here, I guess, knowing that people were around you. And you go to another town, and who the heck amI going to call?

j/ In the service, you must have built up some good friendships.

Tim: Yes. I haven't heard from anybody in years, but I was with a kid from Anaconda in the service, we were great friends, and when I got out of the Army, he was working in the roaster, too. We worked together there, we went hunting together and out together. But then he got laid off there and he went construction, and I haven't seen him in a couple years. But I had a lot of friends there, too. But youhave to be around a person to know them, I guess.

j/ So it's sort of that of life here, of friendship over a lifetime.

Tim: Yes. yes.

j/ do you think it's different here, stronger than other communities?

Al: I don't know. I think there's one thing about what Tim just said, and you just said, 'about the investment, the time. In butte, MT, everybody is a friend. But it takes a long time to develop that close friendship. In other communities that I've been in, and I've travelled around the country extensively, that's one thing that my wife and I love to do and we just do it. And you see a lot of people who are, and relatives and stuff, who have friends, but it seems like a superficial friendship, like they are kind of close on the surface but the minute they are gone you start talking about them behind their back or something, or you know, they are not really that close of friends. In butte, that doesn't seem like that happens. you are either an acquaintance, you know, and they are still a friend, everybody seems like they will help everybody, even if they don't even know you, it seems like they will want to help you if they can. But in other communities, it just doesn't seem that way. There are a lot of old time values here. I was back in Michigan, which is where my sister lives, it's been six or seven years ago, and I held a door open for a woman, and she said, "what are you doing?" And I said, I held the door open for you. And she said, "You aren't from around here," she says, "Here, nobody does that." She acted like I was going to mug her. And it's just different. Around Butte, everybody does that. You just do it. It just seems like in different parts of the country people aren't quite that way. In smaller towns, it seems like they are still. But as you get into your bigger cities, it seems like you say hello to somebody and if you don't know them, they act like you are going to rape them or mug them or something.

End of Tape.

Tape 2, Side A

Tim: Did you go out St. Patricks day?

J: Yes.

T: And you met everybody in Butte? Ok.

A: Wasn't hard to meet everybody in Butte on St. Patricks Day.

J: What a crazy event! Now are you Irish?

T: Yes.

A: Uh, I don't know. Everybody's Irish on St. Patricks Day. About a week after St. Patrick's Day, we got this thing in the mail that says, you are cordially invited to the Hart Family Reunion in Ireland and I though, What? 'Cause my father said he was Scottish and my mother is German, but possibly.

T: Everybody's Irish.

A: Everybody's Irish. But apprently Hart was an Irish name, so I don't really know.

j/ Where do you think that willingness to help comes from?

AL: I think a lot of this was bred through the company. Not so much when Tim and I worked there, but 40, not een that long ago, 30 years, 20 years, when the mines were flourishing, and when you were down in a mine, I never worked in a mine, I was in a mine a grand total of once on a tour of the Kelly mine here in Butte. But I knew numerous guys who were miners and one of them was a very good friend of mine, and he said, when you are in a mine, there's that definite brotherhood. Because your life is much more in danger and youhave to be able to count on those guys that are around you becuase your life depends on it. If youget somebody down there who is a green horn and he does something wrong, then you have to know that those other guys are kind of taking care of him, too. And I think that is what's still seen in Butte a lot. And that was inbred in those times, and I guess it's still here. And it's always been a community that has survived the hard times. There have been numerous hard times here, that's for sure.

j/ You sister grew up in Butte--how does she feel about living in Michigan? Does she feel a difference in community?

Al: I think so. She would never want to move back to Butte--or so she says (laughs). I have this feeling that if anything ever happened to her husband, she would probbly come back to Butte. But he is very high up in Dow Chemical and makes a far better salary than anybody in Butte I'm sure, or very few people make that good of a salary. Maybe the head of the mOntana Power and stuff, but so there is no opportunity for him in Butte. But they have talked about moving back to Montana possibly Hamilton or something in the future when they retire. But there is not the closeness there, and I think she realizes this. I don't know if she does so much anymore. But she talks about it when she comes back, a lot of the people who she was friends with in Butte don't live in Butte any longer either, but it seems like whenever they

come back to Butte, there is always somebody they can get ahold of and talk over the old times with and see what's going on and some of them have stayed in Butte. So they, I think she knows it's different where she is now. You don't trust anybody when you live where she lives now.

J: Where does she live?

Al: In Midland, Michigan. And they just had a huge layoff last year, they were building a nuclear power plkant there and finally, after numerous cost overruns, they decided that it just wasn't worth it anymore, so I think they laid off about 4,000 people in one fell swoop. That's very much a two class town. You have your workers for Dow Chemical, it's Dow's headquarters, so then you have a rich section and a poor section, if how it seems to me. It's almost, the workers aren't poor, but it's almost like there is no middle class, it seems like you go from one distinct class to another and now with this layoff, I'm sure that has, well, she said crime has went up tremendously. And that is one thing that really we haven't noticed that much around Butte. We've always had crime. But, you know, there's never been the amount of murders and things here. Once and awhile somebody does go crazy and it happens. But not that often.

T: What do you think about class structure in Butte?

Al: I don't think you notice much of it. (Tim: No.) There is a certain amount of snobbishness with certain people, but typically after you get to meet these people and find out their true value as far as--I'm talking monetarily, you realize that all they are is deeper in debt than anybody else (laughter). You meet a lot of these people who act like big shots from different places and they live out in the Country Club and you realize is that all they have is $150,000 mortgage that I don't have, and a lot of car payments and stuff. So there doesn't seem to be much of a class society in Butte. You should have noticed it on St. Patrick's night. The big shots were drinking with the little shots and the guy who's the bum onthe street corner, he's was in drinking in the same bar with the guy who's the head of Montana power or something.

j/ It seems that happens a lot.

Al: It does.

j/ (To Tim) I wonder what you wife sees with kids--do rich kids hang out together and the poorer kids hang out together?

Time: I don't know. But there's a big deal here, they centralized all the kindergartens now, but my wife sees this, it's where they live, how they developed, youcan really see that, she sees that, she told me. What area you are from. I don't know what it meas, or how she means it, but she can see, and a lot of people are hollering because they don't have their own kindergarten in their area, a walk-in school, but because they

have to come to this school, maybe they don't think this is in a good area, the school they go to, it's just down the street here. Maybe they don't think that is because they are from the Country Club or something. To come to this area. I don't know. But there's quite a squabble over it.

j/ Back to support--what would be the support, beyond friendship, that you would lose if you moved somewhere else?

Tim: The friendship of everybody. My family lives here. I have a brother here still, and my mother lives here. And we have some aunts and uncles and cousins and...

j/ How many in your family?

Tim: I got three brothers. One still lives in Butte. One lives in Helena, and one in Salt Lake. My brother in Helena, he just moved there about two, three years ago. He worked for a tire shop here, they opened a new store over there, so he got a job there. He went with them, become assistant manager.
t/ little brother a teacher, couldnl't get a job here.
T: My older brother, he was an operating engineer, he had more years with the comapny than I did, but he got laid off a long time before I did, in '80.

j/ how did he get laid off w/ more seniority?

Tim: Shutdowns, and different unions. So he was laid off two years before I was, or three. He never worked much after the '80 strike. And he does about everything, too. He was working for a contractor as his labor off and on quite a bit. And he's got us, me, a few jobs here and there. An extra. But the contractors aren't doing so good, either, so he's not working right now.

j/ oldest brother is here, youngest in Helena, and next to youngest in Salt Lake. You are second?

Tim: Yes. And my brother in Walkerville, he owns his own home already, and he has looked around quite a bit for jobs, but same boat as everybody else.

j/ with the current upheaval over welfare, with limiting of benefits, the argument is that you should leave, get a job somewhere else. What's your reaction to that?

Tim: I think it's craziness to leave. Well, i wouldnl't lkeave because my wife has a job so far. That would be my biggest reason. But I know so many men that have left, grab a thousand dollars and come back broke, and find nothing. Like they could find minimum wage jobs, but they coudln't afford to move there. And I've known people who have got jobs, that can't afford to stay there, just can't afford it so they come back home, or they can't sell their house in Butte to move, and they've got $40,000 invested in their house and they can't sell it, all can they do is give it away, and that's a big loss. It's too hard to move, I

think. But some day I might have to. That's all I could say. I might have to.

Al: I feel the same way. I know there's no jobs around. My wife has a lot of dealings with outside of the area, and she was back in Pennsylvania last year, she's been in L.A. A few of the men she works for are pilots, private pilots, and they fly to different parts of the country, their brothers and other family members have businesses in other parts of the country, and it's just as bad there as it is here. I mean, these unemployment figures are very misleading, not only in Butte, but all over the country. In Butte, they are very misleading, because like Tim and I, we are not registered with unemployment anymore, there's no reason to be. I was registered with the unemployment for 18 months; they never even called me. So why keep going up? You know, you spend gas going up the hill to talk to them and then you sit there and besides that, there are times you walk in there and certain onesof them treat you like you're kind of dirt. Not many, but every once in awhile you'll run into one and they act like "what are you doing bothering me?" You paid their wages for a good number of years with your taxes, but that doesn't seem to matter anymore. And I know that we are not the only ones who aren't registered there. There are, I would say, probably 1500 people in Butte who aren't registered with the unemployment anymore who aren't working, either. And they'd have the same problem we do, all they do is they go out and they look to see if somebody is hiring and they get the same answers that we do when we walk in--no, we're not hiring.

j/ How actively are you looking for other work right now?

Al: Probably as actively as you can be, with what we are doing. Because with what we are doing, we meet a lot of people and make a lot of contacts that normally we wouldn't make even if you were--it's been my experience now, I mean, I've been out and talked to people, and walked into businesses and they won't even give you an application. So that end of it is out. If you have a good friend, or if you can meet someone who has strings to pull, that's the only way you are going to get a job in Butte, Montana today.

T: I would think that there would be the possibility, in the work you are doing, that you might make those contacts.

AL: It could happen. It hasn't yet, but it could.

T: Yes, because we meet so many different people

Al: Yeah, we meet a lot of different people. Far more, like I say, that you do going out and knocking on doors, walking into businesses.

J: Could you explain to me because I just dono't understand, just what the situation is with your union seniority. If you have 15 years in and if ARCO started up tomorrow, if you did not

take job with them, if one were available for you, would you then lose that fifteen years retirement, or just how...

A: No, that's vested now. Those years, you'll have forever.

T: You get like a withdrawal card I believe. I don't know if it's called that or what it is now. But you just have them stop your time and you keep your retirement, but you lose your slot in seniority. You are all done there.

A: This has been something too, that, right after we went back to work after the '80 shutdown of the smelter, then--right after the 80 strike when they shut down the smelter, they offered men chances to go to Tonopah (sp?) Nevada to look for work, and they would pay your expenses on the way down and stuff. When you got down there, they told you that once your start working here, you lose all of your rights in Butte. You still had your company rights, but you never had anything to come back to in Butte. So many men didn't do it, which, now Tonopah's shut down too, so it wouldn't do you any good. I guess you would have worked a little longer, maybe. Course they've been shut down off and on, so. But now there are some men that are going to Gilette, Wyoming and working for ARCO in the coal mines, and they are, I'm sure they are going through the same thing. I'm sure if they hire on down there, that they are told the same thing. Once you hire on here, if Butte ever did open up again, you can't go back.

J: Why is that?

A: I don't know. The only thing I can think of is that the company knows, it's known in every mining community all over the Western United States, probably in Alaska, too, that when Anaconda went on strike in Butte, you would have a surplus of miners, people would be there, looking for work. The day the strike was over, the day the mines opened up again, those people were gone. There was no notice, no nothing else, you were a tramp miner, you packed up your stuff and went. And I think ARCO probably knows that and realizes if something did take place in butte again and you had a chance to go back, you're going back. So they make the stipulation once you hire on there, you can't go back. That way, they don't lose the employees, which you can't blame them, either. Spend a lot of money training people for jobs.

J: Do you think you will ever work here, for the Company again?

T: I don't see much future in it right now. Maybe some day.

A: It's hard saying.

T: We don't look for it open for quite a while.

A: No, neither one of us. I think there are still some people in Butte who have hopes of it happening--well, I know, you still hear it. You hear, "well, in May it's going to go, in September

it's going to go..." But I just keep doing what I'm doing, and if that ever happens, it happens. Far as that goes, if they do open it up again, who knows if we'd go back to work for them. You don't know that. You know, there's no guarantee that they are going to call you back. I'd like to see it open even if they didn't call it back because it puts a lot of people back to work. No matter who it is. But I don't think you're going to see it for a long time. And until the unions give up some of the money that they have accumulated over the years, and management and unions learn to live together a little better.

J: Butte was also sort of deemed, nationally, as sort of a "bad union town." That the unions were uppity here. Do you think that that is fair? How do you react to that.

A: Yeah. My feeling on it is that it's very true. it was for a number of years. Now, I don't think it is.

T: Yeah, you don't see it as much anymore as we used to hear about. But we always went on strike because the union went on strike, but years before us, they'd have fights and all kinds of stuff. But we weren't around then, or didn't pay attention. It was before our time.

A: The unions--there is no question they kept a lot of things from happening in Butte that could have happened, but that wasn't necessarily even the unions that worked for the Anaconda Company. This is something you have to realize. You have to separate the Anaconda Company unions from the other unions because it's just like there's two teamsters locals, there's two operating engineers locals--one was Anaconda, one was downtown trades or whatever, and usually, the company unions, the only ones they fought with was the company, and whatever was going on besides them, they had nothing to do with. So a lot of bad publicvity that came to the Anaconda Company from these unions, I guess, wasn't really deserved.

J: I've heard some of the older guys say that the ones they really feel bad for are the younger men who didn't have so much time in, in that the older guys had been able to pay off their houses and make some investments, and you know, they'd really had pretty good income over a fairly long life and a lot of them had been able to get some security outside the company through that. But the ones they feel the worse for are the guys, for instance, in your position, who had taken on commitments and were starting new families and would have bought their first house or whatever--bought a car, bought a truck, something like that. What's your reaction there?

T: Oh yeah, I see it. Didn't have time. you're just startin'. And yet you see the younger kids, younger than you, they can't even get a job coming out of high school around here. It's join the army or something like that. And the older people, the guys that are in their fifties, they know they are not going to get a job, they're too old they figure. It's one way or the other.

And when you\re in the middle, you already bought your house and you were just struggling, trying to get through it, trying to make it to that last day. That's the way I see it. We're all in some kind of trouble here. All together. One feels sorry for the other, but we don't know who's in the worst shape.

A: Some of the ones that you really feel sorry for, in a way--maybe they're better off than the younger ones--are the ones that have 28 and 29 years. And, you know, you need 30 years to get a pension of some kind, and I mean it would have made it worth their while, for sure. And so they've worked 28 or 29 years, and yet now they have nothing. You know, they have a pension when they turn 62, but many of them are a long ways from that, 15, 16 years, so they put in 28 years, they have nothing, like Tim said--we just ran into one last week, we were walking down the street over here and--I don't know how old Tom is, 55 maybe, he says, "Who's gonna hire me, I'm too old." He does have, I think he had enough time to get his pension, I know he did. But he still was out a long time before he wanted to be. Which was always kind of a sticking poing maybe with some of the younger ones, too. They offered them a very liberal early retirement after the shutdown of the smelter in 1980 and maybe of the older ones who had 30, 35, 40 years even wouldn't take it. Which put a lot of guys younger than Tim and I out of work a lot earlier than should have happened, and I think there was a lot of hard feelings in those kinds of cases. Because it's just like Tim and I, if they'd give me eight or nine hundred a month, in fact a lot of these guys could have collected well over a thousand dollars a month, I would have gladly given my job to somebody younger. Because...but these guys, and most of them were fairly well off, it wasn't the ones who really needed the money who kept these jobs.

J: What frustrating is the idea of being turned out to pasture when you are strong and willing to work and like to work--whether it's through layoff at the age of 30, or early retirement at the age of 55 or something. But the American dream is that if you're willing to work, you work and you can have a home...

T: That's the thing there. You're not gonna gain. We\re not gaining a lot, we're just holding our own. You're not gaining nothing. They are <u>willing</u> to work, but there's nothing there, and you know you're not going to go to far ahead right now. Just slowed you down an awful lot.

J: You grew up without a father.

T: No, he was there. But, ah, it was after I was married that he left. But, he was different. I don't know, he was there, but I, we did things, but he left my mother, and I never liked that, neither did my brothers. So after he did that, we had nothing to do with him. But he was a miner and all that. Hell, he made good money and everything, but my mother still doesn't have much of a house, probably no savings. I don't know. But, he never did anything--lazy. Maybe he was tired. But he would do a lot

of things for other people. He played softball and stuff like that. But he never did nothing around the house, nothing for us kids. I always tagged along with my brother all the time, chased him, followed him. He's a big brother, too. And things like that. We stuck together. We\re still together all the time. Now, working together, we always fight. That's just to keep each other payin attention, I guess. He does it for the hill way, I say, and I do it the flat lander way, the right way. (laughter). We're working on a little project here, tell him you can't do it like the hill people, let's do it right, you know. Like that. But I always looked up to my big brother. Always. He was always there for me. And my mother, oh my God. I can't keep up with her. she runs around with Al's mother. And I can't keep up with her. She's into everything, she was always by us boys, all the time, behind us all the time. Like my dad, he coached little league there, but he never coached any of our teams. Somebody else--a beerin' buddy or something's team. Never us. That's it.

J: So you really got your work ethic from your mother?

T: Yeah, my father, he probably worked hard all his life. But teaching me to work anything, he never did anything around the house, you know, build or anything like that. It was my father in law that I learned everything from. After I got married, first thing I built was a wooden box--I thought that was a pretty big deal, after I got married, that's where I got my start, my father in law. Oh, he was a great guy. I learned everything from him. My house and everything. He taught me. We bought the house on the West side and he went through it and helped me, showed me, taught me everything. And then, I guess I was supposed to have learned, and I guess I did. I told him, a bird flew on the wire to the garage, I says, and my power line broke. He he says, OK, fix it. And I was on my own from there, after we went through the house and fixed the house--the wiring, and panelling, and oh--kitchen, we tore our kitchen apart, [indistinguishable], did all that carpentry work. And he said, now you're on your own. And he used to buy old houses and fix em up. So then I started taggin' with him and learned all these tricks. So, that's where I followed him, I guess. And my wife, she's a pusher, great, really gets behind me, does a great job. Yeah, she sure helps me a lot. And she is smart in a lot of ways. Clever on decorating and everything, that's why I have such a nice house I think. You know, her and her father designed our house. I went from there. And everything else.

J: You know, one story I've heard a lot, definitely not from everybody by any means, but one theme that I've heard a lot is of fathers who were in many ways absent from the family. Though they were there, they were at the dinner table or whatever, but they worked and they had their life outside the home, and the home was periferal in many ways, I've talked to a lot of people whose fathers just weren't there.

T: No, he was home all the time, but he'd be on the couch or something like that. Or he'd go the bar at night. Always had to

"go get a pack of cigarettes," he'd say. And my mother, oh she was, we went to the Catholic schools and she was down there always doin something, some kind of school meeting, something like that, something at the church. Always on the go. But he was never, never went any place with her like that. If there was a picnic and they had a keg of beer, he'd surely want to go to that, but...and my mother, she'd be the other way. Had to go to church here and stuff like that.

J: She was a lot more involved with your lives...

T: Yes, yes she was. All the time. Like I say, I really look up to my big brother for draggin me around a lot. We\re still together.

J: Still fighting after all these years (laughter).

A: His big brother is a nice guy.

J: How many in your family, Al? You have a sister in MIchigan...

A: That's it. Just my sister and I.

J: And then your Mom's here, and is your Dad still alive?

A: No

(Tape Ends)

Tape 2, Side B

J: Have you felt that the church has been more important to you since the lay off than it was before?

T: I don't think so, no.

J: Are you a regular church goer?

T: No, not too often. Probably that's why

A: He's doing better. He's tryin to get the kids to go, so he's gotta do better. (laughter)

J: There are a lot of ways to worship besides church.

A: That's very true.

J: Well, I don't want to take up your whole day, and I know that you have things on this afternoon. I wonder if I could get you, there is some information that I'm trying to get in a systematic way, and if I could get you to fill out this questionnaire. And if there are any questions that you don't want to deal with, just don't answer them, just put down that you'd rather not answer them so I know that they weren't skipped. And then again, with

this information, you have a lot of information as to what happens with it (explanation continues...)

Tape turned off, then back on.

J: Lets go back and start over again if you would on what you were talking about before, you were talking about how long you and tim have worked together and then the person who worked with you before that.

A: Yeah. Tim and I have worked together for about a year and the other man who I worked with, for about nine months before that, he was my partner. And he was pastor of a church here in town, and he had always been an underground miner but he had worked the concentrator with us some, too. He was a tramp miner. He'd work in the mines for awhile and then he'd go somewhere else and work in the mines, or else he'd come back here and work in the smelter or work in the concentrator, work as a roofer, he'd done numerous things. And no matter how close of a relationship he developed with the Lord, it just seems like he can't get this mining out of his blood. Whenever he hears of a new mine opening somewhere, he wants to go and be underground again. He just oves that underground. And last time I talked to him, he said, well, he's working over in boulder now, and he's still pastor of the church here in town, and he says, "but I hear there's gonna be a mine opening up" So he still has that--but he realizes he doesn't fit in any more, with the miners. 'Cause he went to work last year for about a month in an open pit mine down in Idaho. And he said, "I just don't fit in with that life style anymore. He said, I'm not a drinker, and a carouser and goin out with everybody else's wife but his own and all that kind of stuff, which typically went along with life in the mines. It was a wild town.

J: Do you think it did as much with open pit mining as with underground?

A: No. No, I don't think so. I think when you were underground, you realized, you know, like we talked about, the comraderie that had formed because you were depending on the other guy, it really was a day to day life because there were a lot of people killed in the mines--not so many in later years, but boy, in earlier years, they killed an awful lot of them. And then you realize that every time you went down there, you might not be coming out, so when you did come out, you figure, well, it's time to go to the bars, you know, go to the red light district, and (laughs). It was a rowdy town.

J: You had said that your first partner, he was the one who brought you back to Christ, and he then had just recently himself had come...?

A: No, he'd been, oh, about four years, I guess, a very knowledgable man about Christianity, not a graduate of a seminary or anything, but a very good preacher. And he tells it in simple

terms and in terms that people cna understand, and very influential in my life. And it was a good thing for me. I had been raised a Christian, but when you get, when I got to be 12 or 13 years old, I said, oh, I don't need to go to church anymore, I just didn't realize it then.

J; So you have worked at this odd job business for about a year and nine months?

A: hmmmmmm(yes).

J: And from the time you were laid off until you started that, what did you do?

A: I worked for Norco.

J: And then how long between your termination there and...

A: We decided to do that about three months after I got laid off, or after I quit Norco.

J: And then what did you [Tim] do from the time you were laid off until you started with Al?

T: I was doin about the same thing. My brother got me some jobs with contractors, and worked as a laborer for them. Buit I was doin basically the same thing till we got together. I knew a lot of old ladies that needed some jobs done. That was it. And then I went to the school, operating engineers school.

J: Right.

T: And that's about it.

J: How did you come to decide you wanted to do this in a regular, a daily way.

A: Business-like fashion?

T: Well, he needed a partner...

A: I needed a partner becuase my other one had quit, and by that time we already had it established as kind of a businesslike operation.

T: And Al had got me a job before this, too.

A: Yeah, we ran into some people who needed a fireplace built, and I said, well Tim's done that, we'll give Tim a call. So Tim did it for them, and did a beautiful job on it, and saved them a fantastic amount of money which I almost flipped out over because they had the money to pay--they are a young couple, they don't have any kids, both of them work very good salaries, and it seemed like they had almost taken advantage of their friendship with Bill, who was my partner before Tim, and of Tim through us.

And it made me angry. But anyway, then when Bill quit, Tim and I became partners. And we were good friends before. So it's been easy to do. And we're in a similar situtation, which makes it easy, when your wives are both working--with Bill it was hard, because his wife was working, but at a very low paying job and they had four kids--the church had offered him a good salary if he would become a preacher, but Bill's belief on being a pastor is that's his duty to God, he doesn't deserve money for doing it. Which is kind of unusual (laughs).

J: Did either of you grow up with a strong sense of being part