

Danny and Wilma Ramirez, interviewed by Teresa Jordan at their home in Grand Junction, Colorado. Notes taken at time of interview; not a transcript; not audited against tape.

Danny was born in Missoula; moved to Butte at 3 months. His father was a contract miner. He did everything in the mines, worked until he was 65 yoa. D's brother worked in the mines also, as a contract miner.

Q: What was the attitude in your family about the possibility of you working for the Company?

It was never encouraged, but D can remember as a youth, he thought it would be a sin to live in Butte and never know the underground. 29 years later, he was laid off. Everything a kid hears in Butte, growing up, is about the mines. There was a story of a woman in Finntown. She complained, 'my poor husband, he has to work between the foot and the hanging all day.' That was the upper and lower part of a mine tunnel. She didn't know what she was saying. Everyone works between the foot and the hanging. All the talk about the mine--you take if for granted that you are going to end up in the mines.

Wilmas's step father was a sation tender in many mines. He died in 1959 of cancer of the throat. W's maiden name was Simpson, but her stepfather came from Italy--Paul Quillici.

Both D's parents came from Mexico. They originally came to the Bitterroot for agriculture. They heard about the mines. Also, D's father had mined Copper in N. Mexico.

D and W have 5 kids: Dan, 27; Dean, 26; David, 22; Dennis, 20; Margie, 24. They pushed education on their kids. Every generation expects more for their kids. The first generation, through need, performs what he has to; and pushes education for his kids. D and W knew their kids wouldn't be able to stay in Butte (no jobs).

But things reversed. Rather than their kids having to leave Butte, D and W had to.

Their son jokes, 'I came home from school one day and my bags were on the porch; mommy and daddy had left...' Almost as soon as D was laid off, they packed up and left. They have been in GJ four years. They really miss their kids. Dennis is in GJ. Dean is in Anchorage, AK. D and W can sneak off to Montana to visit other kids. All parents like to have their kids close, but D and W knew that if their kids reached a point in their education, they would have to leave to get jobs.

Q: Why did you want somethig different for your kids?

Like the song, you owe your soul to the company store. There are good wages,--When D started as a contract miner, he topped the board many months in a row. But every three years there were strikes--so at the end of the year, you didn't make that much. He worked 7 months at Columbia Falls. He never sat idle during a strike. And he had to leave Butte in order to get work during a strike. He didn't want his kids to go through that.

Wilma saw her dad come home dirty and tired, worried about the next strike. But for their kids, they wanted that, whatever they chose, they would be happy. Three went to college, two did not. D and W didn't see a future in Butte--it's a one industry town. It's a great place to raise a family. They were happy and content there. But they wanted more for their kids, they wanted them to mature in a different way.

Q: Did you worry about the danger of the mines?

W says yes. Danny was pulled out several different times. It is dangerous. She didn't worry about him constantly, but three or four times he came out on a stretcher.

Q: Were the kids aware of the danger?

W doesn't know.

Q: What sort of accidents did you have?

Around equipment. D was taught by the very best. He was considered a good miner. His dad taught him. He bossed 17 years as an electrician, and he was better at mining than at electricity. He knew the ground and helped in fallen ground accidents. D's accidents were on machinery, not mining; a train hit his leg when he was mucking and someone threw a switch, he was hit from behind. As an electrician, he'd climb right up the shaft to the next station. D was a "goofy kid," had no fear.

At the time, he loved it. After he got out of the mines and worked in the Berkely Pit--19 or 20 years, then he started to have nightmares about the mines. He worked 8 or 9 years underground, as contract miner, on cement crews, etc.

Q: Was it hard making the transition to the pit?

He saw people advancing and wanted to get ahead. He started as an electrician underground--he was told to go check with Bud Powell. He went to work as an electrician the next day. D says, "one day I couldn't spell it, and the next day I were one."

There was an opening in the concentrator as a trouble shooter. After a 20 or 3 month strike, he went to the Berk. Pit.

Q: Was the camaraderie different?

Yes. Underground, you have special need for a partner. You are

close, there is a sense of humor. Example. One day, before a strike, everyone was worried. One fellow about 55 or 60 years old bent over to throw a switch from a train, and died of a heart attack. People never let things like that bother them. Look at that, someone said, new boots. There was that sense of humor.

Underground, you could set your tools down and leave them. On the surface, there was the attitude, "I don't need you; I'm capable of doing it myself.

The humor was sort of the same thing as getting bucked off a horse and getting back on. D was raised on the East side around a lot of Finlanders. Charlie Hendrickson and Oscar \_\_\_\_\_ had a green horn working with an older fellow running motor. The old guy pulled the chute. There was a 3 " board across the chute lip; he lifted it up, rock ran into the car. The chute got away; rock covered him over. The kid ran out, yelling, "my partner's buried alive." Charlie and Oscar came, cleared some of the rock away, there was nothing wrong with him. Oscar pulls his watch out, says, 'By golly, Charlie, it's lunchtime,' and starts to climb off the car. That was the sort of humor underground. Of course he wouldn't leave him. A miner would just as soon die as leave a partner in trouble.

There was not the need for that on the surface. It wasn't life depending. In the BP, ne of the big unit rigs rolled over. They were going to lift it with a crane. The crane operator said, the crane can't do it; it will upset the crane. The boss said, "I'm the boss, you do it." The crane operator was killed. Underground, the boss would have listened to the miner. No one knew the mines better than the miner.

Example of misplaced humor: Anyone from Butte can say what a dirty town Butte is. Danny's mother is a gentle person. A movie was being filmed in Butte, and George Hamilton was in the Acoma. He said Butte was a dirty town and somebody hit him. D's mother said, 'I'f I'd been sitting there, I would have hit him, too.' And she is a gentle woman! You can joke about Butte being dirty, but someone from outside can't.

In Butte, you didn't have to know anyone's name--all you needed was Pard. You didn't need to know anything else about them, just that they were a partner.

Tape 1, Side 2

Q: Did you see kindships like that among women as well?

W. doesn't recall; she didn't get out that much because she had five kids in seven years.

D was laid off April 1, 1981. The boss came in in the afternoon. D had worked for him for 17 years and he was a banty rooster, tough, redheaded Irish. He cried when he laid off D. Said, don't bring your bucket tomorrow.

W says they could see it coming. But still, they couldn't believe it. In 30 years of marriage, D had never been unemployed, so that was hard.

They moved here in August. They sold their house, made a trip here in June, then moved in August.

W wanted to move to a warmer climate. They felt like they were led to GJ, though they don't know why. GJ is out of the way--I-25 goes through Denver; I-15 goes through Salt Lake. To get to GJ, you have to turn off. They didn't know a soul here.

W was secretary at Immaculate Conception for 6 years. D made a lamp of the church for Father Paddy Brown. W saw no future in Butte. W knew that D couldn't sit and collect unemployment and wait for the Company to come back. D is the type he has to get out, get a job. People said, you can't do that. Just selling the house--the first people who looked at it, bought it. It closed in two weeks. W says that they look back at that time and think, how could we have done that? But they did.

W always wanted to live somewhere else.

D says that he has become a very radical person in his older but wiser days. He is sick and tired of unions. He knows that they are needed, that they are the guiding factor in workforce vs. management. Unions have become big business -- even communistic. You HAVE to belong. But you don't have to belong--this is a free country. In Butte, you belong, pay dues, but don't expect anything. For years, D has been saying, is it better for one man to make \$100/hr or 10 to make \$10? We saw what happened in the East with the Iron mines. They conditioned themselves out of work. D saw it happening in Butte. Miners made \$30 to 40,000 a year; other people made \$1000 or 2,000 a year. Someday we have to realize that if others aren't making it, we have to quit making it. In GJ, he is non union because he is self employed. He can do any type of work because he is in maintenance, and no one gives him a bad time. He can do maintenance painting. In Butte, he could never do that.

The unions burned down Motel 8. That's being a dictator. On the other hand, D knows through word of mouth what it was like before. But he says, we need union, not big business.

At one time, the machinists were suing the union because they are letting the company not use seniority lists. You are suing yourself. People lost the concept of the union, of a group bonded together. It became big business, like welfare and insurance.

Q: Was the start of Big Table negotiations the turning point?

No, there always had to be a strong person to lead the unions. D was involved in some negotiation. In the mine yard, everyone

would say, we will stick together. But in a meeting, one person would get up and talk, and in the vote, everyone would lean toward the strong person's will. If we'd kept within the idea of unionism, banded together, we could have accomplished what we wanted without a strike.

W says that people in Butte are diehards. Their attitude is that they couldn't shut the Company down. They didn't face reality. They thought the Co could go in the red. The union protected you even if you were a terrible worker.

Q: Many people I've talked to are frustrated with the union situation in Butte; yet it's so deep rooted, how can things change?

As long as you have power in the union, things are not going to change. But you take the Butte worker out of Butte, and he is a fabulous worker. In Columbia Falls, where Danny worked, the union is the power. They tell you, these are the hours, you work them, do your work well, and watch over our good name. Everyone is proud to be an electrician there. In Butte, you knew you had a job. The Company did the hiring; no one did the firing. D never saw anyone fired on the surface. It's like a marriage, and the marriage doesn't work. But you see people celebrating 60 or 70 year anniversary--they had a gift and that gift was communication. Butte unions are like a child, "I want." They throw tantrums to get what they want. An adult will say, "I would really like to have this." You talk about it, and compromise. Until that day comes in Butte...

W says that it's hard to change attitudes.

D says that Butte's sister city is Denver. It's a mile high, a mining community, settled at the same time. But the good old boys of Butte kept Butte the same. D asks, have you ever talked to anyone who has left Butte who hasn't succeeded? D remembers the COD laundry on the East Side. It had a basketball hoop, a dirt court. Bobby Andrews hung out there; now he's a brain surgeon. Lenny Stevens was there, he left Butte, is in business in Idaho Falls and has restaurants in Missoula. They were typical old Butte kids. But no Butte kid who stayed in Butte succeeded. Another example is Walter Stanton and his wife Connie in Portland. Walter didn't care about school. But he'd go to the store, see a potty chair for a kid, come home and make one just like it. Or a lawn chair. He could fashion it exactly like he saw in the store. He had a 1939 Pontiac Coupe. He started out as an apprentice electrician. He was laid off every 2 or 3 months. Before he finished his apprenticeship, he moved to Portland. He continued as an electrician, had to take state test. He had to take it about six times. Now, you find Walter Stanton's work everywhere. He has four or five shops. His wife is a travel agent. They came back to Butte to visit. It had been 25 or 26 years since they left, but it was just like they had never been away. D remembers good times with them. That Butte humor. Once, D remembers, they played pinochle; Walter's

wife was pregnant, having pains, he kept saying, 'one more hand.' They were poor then, but they could go out and make a night of it and only have one beer.

Q: What's special about Butte people?

Tape 2, Side 1

The key is leadership. It can be good or bad. In the past, it has been bad--union. The leaders of the unions have led people to strike. Without realizing that those union leaders always have a job, have 40 or 50 or 60,000 a year, while worker is out looking for work.

In Our Lady of the Rockies, there was good leadership. Bob O'Bill worked with Danny in the Berk. Pit until it closed. He used to walk the East Ridge with Danny. He was a dreamer; also, a leader. Bob is easy going, fat, smoking Butte miner. Nothing in the world he couldn't accomplish. He is not bullheaded exactly, but he doesn't take no for an answer. There were so many obstacles to Our Lady. People said it was impossible to get an OK on the leases. Yet, in a short time he had the OK. They said that the Forest Service wouldn't allow them to cross their land. Yet by the end, the Forest Service was saying, if there is anything else we can do...

D thought Bob was crazy, but he wasn't. A Catholic publication wrote that four Catholics from Butte started the project, but there wasn't a Catholic on it. Sid Hughes and D were the only Catholics.

Bob had said that the statue would be in honor of the perfect lady, 5'2", eyes of blue. It ended up 90 feet tall. That sort of thing can happen, but people have to let it happen.

W says that attitudes had changed by last December when they visited. It is a lot better now; there is a positive attitude. W thinks a lot of that has to do with the statue.

D notes that in GJ when oil shale died 4 or 5 years ago, there was a defeatist attitude. GJ was dead, nothing can happen. Now, people say we believe in the valley, we're going to make the valley grow.

D believes in positive thinking. The local chamber of Commerce, public relations, can say, Butte does have a gift--see it on the hill. Now, make it grow into something else.

Butte had the attitude for 100 years, owe your soul to the company soul. The Co won't do this, the Co won't do that. Best thing that could happen to Butte is to get rid of the Company. There was never a McDonalds in Butte. D's sister said, "I was really surprised to see Butte is a modern city." (with a McDonalds.) The word is that Montana is so backward. Of all the states D has been in, none are prettier than W. Montana. D's

uncle brought his children up from Mexico; they took off their shoes to soak their feet in the creek; fish swam around their feet. He went back with the idea that you could just reach down and pull up the gold.

Yet the city of Denver has more people than Montana. The weather is identical. Gunnison, Rifle, Craig are very cold.

W says that people took for granted a lot that the Company did.

D adds, until the day the Company tore down Columbia Gardens and stabbed them in the back. It didn't belong to the Company; it belonged to the people of Butte. And the Co tore it down. At that point, people realized that the Company isn't here for their benefit. They said, "we're here to feed you" but they never gave you enough to reach out to the outside world. A family didn't leave; they were owned.

Q: Why was that so strong?

W says that you never had to go out to look for a job. Your father probably took you to the mine. Men didn't know how to write a resume, or to move. They thought, "The Company will never shut down." Now they may never have a job there; but they won't face reality.

Danny says, I was there, too.

Wilma says, but every strike you got a job.

Dany says that everyone wants securtiy. The day will come when everything is contract labor. When D was in Butte, he didn't want to leave. He was comfortable there. W's father said, 'never marry a miner.' Being a good Butte girl, she married a miner. Knew company would be there forever. W notes that D was one of those people who would never leave Butte. D says he thought it would be there forever. It was a shock when his boss told him, don't bring a bucket tomorrow. D was there 28 years; with 2 more, he could have retired. He says they saw it coming, and they had talked about it. But when it came, it was a shock. But since they had talked it over, they had decided what they would do. A lot of people don't communicate. Others thought, the ACM will be back. Now they've been out of work four years, and they still say it will be back. But with four years, your unemployment has run out...

Some just can't make the change. It was hard for all of us. No one ever had an easy move.

Wilma notes that she has heard people who have been away for 20 years say about where they live, it has beautiful homes, and businesses--the only thing missing is Butte.

Butte is the outcast of Montana. So peole stick together. Butte, America. They have Butte picnics in GJ.

If you have a 1- license plate from Montana, it is something. People talk to you.

Q: Do you think it would have been easier if the company had said it was a shutdown rather than a suspension?

It would have been the same. The Co's attorneys have played the game from day one with the union. We've got to where we wanted, but each time, we played into the hands of the ACM. The 'suspension' was a tactical move on the part of the ACM; it was not for the good of the people of Butte.

Q: Can you tell me about moving here?

They had talked off and on for a couple years. Sid Hughes said, if the day comes when they lay you off, it will be for a complete shutdown. D saw it getting close. So he and W discussed it for a couple years. That last year, they really decided to get serious, prepare the kids. It was hard. Their daughter was in college. When she left and we were moving, she said, "I'll never have a home again." She was little miss independant, but she said, 'I always had a home to come back to.' It was hard on David. And hard on W and D's mothers. D's father had just died and his mother depended on them; so did W's. It was really hard on their mothers.

Q: How did you decide to go into business for yourself?

When they came to GJ, D was a laborer for Pabco Insulation at \$5/hr. He was used to making \$35,000 a year, then making \$12,000 a year. It was 'just mom and I' but... he worked for Pabco for awhile. It would shut down every so often. He applied for positions as an electrician. During a shutdown, he went to work for Canyon Valley Electric at Parachute (with the coal shale.) The next step of that company was to send D to California and around. D said, if the work isn't local, no. He was "Mr. Independant." He knew if he could leave Butte, he could do what was necessary. He had a friend who cleaned carpet. Had the macinery and a van. D went into partnership. Drove around in the van, started to find work.

Tape 2, Side B

Kept growing until he employed 15 people. Ran from one job to another; too much work, made people mad. Prepared new houses. Was really busy. But by the time he paid social security, income tax, etc, there was nothing left for D. Time to make a change. He bought his partner out. Bought the liabilities, told his partner to take the van and the machine and a contract for a large building of Mt. Bell's. D took the rest. Went on his own. He does it all himself, with Wilma and 2 other people. He has several good accounts, and the business is growing. There is no lack of work. They do no advertising, not ever business cards. They don't want more work.



He started his business when everything closed up in GJ. The oil shale shut down in GJ in April and D and W moved in August.

Q: Do you like being in business for yourself?

It's demanding, and at D and W's age, it's hard to accept not having time to themselves for friends and vacation. They are at the time when things should have eased up for them; this experience is totally different. It's satisfying to see what you can accomplish. He would push self employment on his kids. Would love them to join him in the business. It has a lot of rewards. You don't have to take anything from anybody. You see satisfaction in peoples' faces. Works for HMO-- does parking lot paving, plumbing, gardening, everything. They have no hangup in asking D and W to do things. It's nice to see that confidence in you.

With ACM, D's biggest regret was that, having been a boss there for 17 years, he could do a lot of design work. He rebuilt old equipment, designed new cabinets, controls for operation of shovels--designed it so it could be dis and reassembled. They put his designs in use. Yet he got no severance, no TRA, nothing but "don't bring your bucket in the morning." At the time, it hurt.

Before D left, D made up a board to teach people what elecricity can do, teach wiring, fusing, etc. For that, he got a coffee maker from individuals as a show of appreciation. People he worked for showed their appreciation--like Sid Hughes. But not the Co.

It's a typical Butte attitude--you are just a miner, just an electrician. That does not build up your self confidence. Sid said, no matter what you choose to do from this point on, you are going to be a success. It was only through that man, D says, that he knew he could do what he had to.

People are going under here, even businesses that are paid for are in trouble. And Dan came in with no education, no business experience. He says, "I was born in the Berkely Pit"--born in an area that is now the pit.

Wilma says, D said that he'd never let anyone have the chance to lay him off again. You get used to the 8 to 5 schedule, the benefits, the dental. So much you take for granted.

Now, D says, the only one he is working for is the IRS--and they are 'best friends.'

Q: If you were offered a high paying job, would you take it?

D was offered a job in Craig for \$40,000 a year, and one in Columbia for \$82,000 a year. He is still here in GJ. He never wants to be laid off again. The first time, it was ACM's fault;

the second time would be his. He says he learns slow, but he learns.

Q: Do you have any regrets for the turn your life has taken?

W says that her only regret is that they don't get to see their kids and friends. It takes years to form the deep relationships. Eileen Tierney was W's best friend. They went through so much together. But there have been so many positive things. W says that she and D have grown. She thinks it was meant to be, feels real positive about it. If offered a job in Butte again, would never want to go back.

Q: How easy has it been to meet people here?

When they first came, they moved into a town house. It had a lot of turnover, and was mostly younger people. That was hard. The main place they met people was at church. Met a couple there; the husband was in real estate. He invited them to functions, and to Spanish choir. Other friends of theirs moved from Butte 2 years ago. And Dan meets a lot through his work. It really hasn't been that difficult. W started at St. Mary's hospital in October; has worked several different places.

D asks if I've ever run into anybody who doesn't know the history of Butte. In Butte, everyone knows everything about the history of Butte. They know the feeling of the people who have lived there. They know the ethnic history of Butte. From kids becoming brain surgeons to motorcycle daredevils. All from same mold.

Q: Can you define Butte Rats?

The street urchins of Butte. From that evolve brain surgeons. Butte and Anaconda fought until they went somewhere together; then, had a partnership that made them one. George Sheehan was a hoist engineer who became an electrician. He was one of the best drinkers. Bobby Andrews. Dr. Clapp--voted the most likely not to succeed. Big guy, pediatrician, thick glasses, Peace Corps. Kids loved him. He had 8 kids himself. Always willing to give of himself.

W says that Butte people have a special toughness.

Q: D, you talked earlier about the lack of self esteem bred into miners. What role did that play in your decisions?

As an example, D says, when he made the move to the concentrator, it was a BIG move. He had to work up to it gradually. He became an electrician, it was a shocker. He came to the great big concentrator, attitude was he was 'just an electrician, do you think you can figure this out?' But he was NOT just an electrician, he could keep it running, he could find the problem.

The first construction job he took was at Boundary Dam out of

Spokane on the Canadian border. One of the bosses said, you guys have a job any time. And it was a BIG dam. They appreciated way Butte guys worked--not afraid of anything, hard working. During one of the strikes, D worked in Seattle shipyards in a dry dock. He completely rewired the panel. The next week, he took the pickup to Pier 93, fixed a ship from Japan. That was something that people who worked in the shipyard had to work there years and years to get that position.

Tape 3, Side 1

Q: You are saying, then, that the self assurance you needed to go out and do other things came from jobs you had outside of Butte. You were picked out as someone with talent, skill, dependability.

W says Oh yes. "Butte people will tell you you can't do it. No kidding. If you could have heard our mothers. 'You're crazy, you can't do that.' It's that attitude that keeps you really down. 'You can't do that.' Even my neighbor said, you can't sell your house and just leave. You can't do this, you can't do that.' That negative attitude is terrile. 'You have to stay here. This is the only place in the world for you.' If Danny had not gone out to work on strikes, if he would have been like a lot of people and just stayed home and collected unemployment or whatever, I don't think he would have had that confidence enough to say yeah, I can go somewhere else, I can work."

Most have that fear, "I can't get a job " But they could if they tried.

D says that in days he was an electrician, at first, he was so nervous. He'd smoke almost a whole pack of cigarettes. Had that attitude, "I'm just a dumb electrician, I can't make it." After he got working, he felt better because he knew he could accomplish something. Now just D. But also, Davey Ore helped. He started when 18 years old to earn money for college. Now, 15 or 20 years later, he is still an electrician. He has worked on the N. slope of Alaska, been general foremen on lots of jobs. He should have gone to college; D tried to get him to go. But he was making big bucks. Joe Chopp now works at Stauffer as an electrician. He was very precise, finnicky in everything he did. He was overhauling equipment since '51. He would clean and paint and candy stripe everything he did--BEAUTIFUL! He's a year older than D; didn't start climbing as a lineman until he was over 40. He has a lot of talent, but he still has that attitude; I'm ust an electrician. He never went out to get work during the strikes, and wouldn't leave after the layoff. He was lucky to get on at Stauffer. He will never leave Butte.

Q: You hear, in Butte, there are no jobs out there to get.

That is the natural attitude in Butte. They like those failure stories. They go out looking for a job, drive and drive, and when they apply say "You're not looking for anyone are you?"

"You don't have any jobs, do you?" Then come back, say, I drove everywhere and there aren't any jobs." Or they are managing a 7-11 in Butte; they think they have peaked. They don't realize that even in Butte they have a gift. With everything they know, they could start a business.

Gary Loushin has a construction firm, has a gift to offer Butte. Those people who have it in their heart to offer a service rather than make a million, who ask, what can I do for YOU, those make it. They will do anything it is in their power to do. Those who just want to make a million won't. There are a lot of businesses that Butte can support. Once people decide that. The statue will bring in lot of people. Service area is the fastest growing.

W says that if people looked at the layoff as one door closing and another opening, rather than as a dead end, asked what am I going to do? Then it is a new beginning. Not work if you ask, 'when are we going to get back to work for the Co?' If you change your attitude to more positive things, things will be more positive.

W says that Montana is not publicized. About the only ones who visit MT are sportmen. There has never been a tourist attraction before; Our Lady hopefully will be that. W and D always tell people to go to the Gates of the Mountains; they are STILL fascinated by it. Montana is a fantastic state--with Glacier Park, Big Sky.

Danny says that there are very few things that can steer him away from his work, but he will take time to talk about Butte.

One of the saddest things that happened was when they cut off everyone's hands and shut down Columbia Gardens. Everything is assumed in Butte--that the Co will never leave, that there is a 99 year lease on Col. Gardens. No one ever tried to get an attorney and fight the closing. Everyone said, 'they can't do that' and then they watched them do it. People say, no new business can come into town; yet Stauffers did.

People don't fight for things in Butte; yet, they go someplace else, and they fight for things. Danny, in GJ, said, what do you mean there is a 50 to 60% dropout rate among Hispanics here, no Hispanic teachers? He attended conferences, started working with doctors, psychologists, etc. But he says, we accepted everything in Butte. When D worked with the unions, he said, why strike? We will never get it back.

Maybe the best thing that ever happened to Butte is that the ACM pulled out, and maybe it would be best if it were gone for 10 years.

Denver took advantage of one resource--their youth. Denver reached up to Butte, said, look what we have, you come work here. This is the center of the world as far as mining goes.

W says that Mt. Tech should have started a consulting firm. Or Butte should have done that. Kids are sent to Butte for the finest education in the world and then shipped out. Kids on the North Slope earn \$55,000, \$60,000 a year. Professors at Tech get \$25,000, 35,000. Profs could have gone up there for \$100,000.

Tape 3, Side 2

Dan says that he likes Don Peoples. Don has a lot to offer. But he couldn't see the forest for the trees. Before D left, made an appointment with him, wanted to show him the window at the Golden Rule, show him the shoes that had been in the window there for 37 years, the shoe laces all eaten away, wanted to show him Spillums (now the Sportsman.) Look at what's in the windows, D told him-- [ugly window display, old, faded, hasn't been changed in years.] Look at the beautiful American Theater, now 30 years later still a burnt mess. How many people would like to look at your city? All the things that have scarred Butte's past--who would want to move a business to Butte? You have to walk the streets to see it. W says, she can't understand why there are beautiful sidewalks out by the airport; terrible sidewalks Uptown where people walk.

The population in GJ is around 46,000; in the area, around 86,000. GJ is still building; they have a new 1st national Bank, new condos, new senior citizens housing which opened last week already 90% filled.

Formation of union in Butte because people tired of being treated so badly. Arturo Morales was a brother of D's. He was a double agent for the FBI for 12 years. He worked in WWII. They asked him to join the communist party to break the union in Butte. In late 40's, early 50's. He was in it for 9 years (check this against tape; notes aren't clear). He died about five years ago. He had a large family, and all the notes, etc are destroyed. He was proud of what he did. He never told anybody for all those years.

Martha's Cafe on Woodville Hill.

He died with so much history. Check with Kevin Twidwell. He's a student at Montana Tech, doing research; his father is a professor. Pat Bodner is Danny's sister. She lives in Raynesford, MT, 738-4382. Her daughter is going with Kevin. Art gave so much. He worked in the fields when he was 5 years old.

All unions today are big powers. It is just accepted that truck driver is in the Teamsters, etc.

Tape 4, Side 1

Columbia Gardens drew tourists just like Johns Pork Chop Sandwich does. D doesn't know if Butte can get greater than it is. And doesn't know if that is good or bad.

Q: What do you see in the future for Butte?

When D left, he really had to say, what can the future hold? Is there anything to keep me here? Oil? Agriculture? One resource they have, they give away--they not only give away, but force away, and that's the youth. Until they can hold onto that, Butte can't become anything.

But he didn't imagine Our Lady until it happened. He never realized the greatness of what could happen. He can't see anything in the future but tourism--if they let that happen.

Wilma says that they build other places to look like the architecture Butte already has. Butte could be a tourist attraction.

Q: What's important that I've missed? What haven't we talked about?

A resource not only in Butte but in the whole country is the elderly.

There was no such thing as a mucking machine until Butte. It was invented there out of need. It was designed in Butte. More things happened in Butte--the unions, the equipment. The old men on the steps have so much knowledge in their minds. Pete Coelho spiced cables in the pit. You would ask him Pete, how do we take care of this? He would make a tool, that quick. All that knowledge, that inventive mind. It takes a special somebody. Everyone in Butte had a small bit of it. Danny does everything here--fixes swamp coolers. He'd never seen one before he came here, but he figured it out.

Q: How has your own business compared financially with working for the Company?

W says that it has more potential, but not more money. It was good for us to realize that yesterday we were employees with security--insurance, health, eyes, retirement. We accepted the fact that Anaconda owed us that without an idea of the cost of those things. Now, we are on the other side. We have to pay that. Now, see it more as a supplemental wage. We didn't realize what ACM had to offer. We miss that; and miss 2 weeks vacation. We take a weekend off now and then.

But we haven't been sick a day since we got here; can't afford it financially, and have to meet commitments to customers.

The good Lord looked over us. Sometimes, it it tough to accept that you can't take time off, don't have the time.

W says, but we can do it forever. Even when we are retired. We can stay where we choose to say. If D had continued with Canyon Valley Electric, would have had to go to California, Nevada.

D says that the potential is great. Servicemaster, a national firm, made \$800 million last year. Depending on what you want to do. We offer full service. D went to a seminar in Denver, was asked, why don't you move to California? You'd make a million overnight with that service. D takes care of everything. Just changed 800 flourescent fixtures; had to change the ballast, and clean each one.

This isn't what they would have chosen. D would have chosen to stay in Butte, thought, I'm gonna live and die there. Butte is my town.

Q: Can you tell me about the group you work with for Hispanic kids.

Talks about IDEAL in Grand Junction.

Tape 4, Side 2

More about IDEAL.

After tape is turned off and we are chatting, D says that someone told him, abut the ACM, "you've been paid for every shift you worked." When he thought about that, it helped him survive. Wilma adds that being bitter about it doesn't help.