

Honnen, Edward H.
CC Student, 1917-1920
Trustee, 1946-50; 1962-83

SIDE ONE - HISTORY OF COLORADO COLLEGE 1917-1983

Finley: This is tape recording number 61 of the CC Archives Oral History Project. I am Judy Finley, interviewing Edward H. Honnen at his home, 3020 Hillbrook Lane in Colorado Springs. The date is October 24, 1989.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado on April 17, 1899, Honnen grew up in Colorado Springs. In the midterm of 1917, he entered CC, where he excelled in three sports: basketball, track, and especially football, in which he was named the Rocky Mountain Conference All Conference Tackle.

When his father died in 1920, Honnen assumed control of the family's construction business. Over the years, he became a highly successful general contractor, involved in many important regional projects such as the building of Ft. Carson and Peterson Field and various aspects of the Denver and Colorado Springs water systems. About 1949, he became President of the McCoy Caterpillar Company, until his retirement in 1965--when he took up team roping in the Old Timer's Rodeo Circuit. He is a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

His many philanthropies have included: Colorado College Ice Rink, the donation of Western Art to the Fine Arts Center, and the Orchid House at the Denver Botanical Gardens. From 1946 to 1950, he served as a Colorado College Alumni Trustee and then as a Charter Trustee from 1960 thru 1983-- notably as Chairman of Buildings and Grounds Committee. He received two Honorary Degrees from Colorado College-- one in 1960 and one in 1983.

His autobiography, Tally Ho, contains further details of his life and many accomplishments.

Finley: Good morning, Mr. Honnen, I'm delighted that you are willing to tell us about your almost 90 years of life-- much of it associated with Colorado College. Your wonderful autobiography, Tally Ho, I think, is a starting point for anyone who wants to know more about you, but there's no substitute for hearing it straight from the horses mouth. So start in and tell us about your early memories of Colorado Springs, growing up.

Honnen: Well, it's certainly a pleasure for me to be able to remember some of the history of the Springs, because it is a very interesting history. Many things during the growth of this town have been spectacular-- from the gold mining days up to the present period. And I enjoy researching this and will do the best that I can. I was born in Pueblo, and early in life, came to Colorado Springs; my father was doing some construction work. And when we got through with the construction work, he notified my mother that we were ready to go back to Pueblo and she said, "No way, I'll never go back to Pueblo." So, since that time, we have lived in Colorado Springs and I graduated from Colorado Springs High School in 1917, and went to college in a midterm-- which, in some ways, was unfortunate, because I was in a small class and didn't have what I'd call a balanced college career, because I was not in with what would be considered the conventional regular class-- but I don't think it's bothered me at all, as far as what I've learned.

I've been a very dedicated fellow all my life, mainly on account of the attitude that my father had. He was a construction man, born in Germany and could not read or write English and was successful in business. But due to his ability to get along with people, manage people, and know his trade-- which was the construction business. And he was very dedicated and very anxious that his children all secure the best education that they could, because he had been deprived of one.

So all of us three boys were very dedicated to getting an education and took, I think, a little more serious attitude towards both the curriculum and towards both the curriculum and towards sports than what the average student did. I know that when we weren't going to school and weren't dedicated to something there-- like sports or something-- we reported out to him on his jobs and worked with him, learning his trade and assisting him all that we could, because we did appreciate the work, the effort that he was putting in to try to see that we got an education.

When I came to Colorado College, the college was

in rather a confused state. President Slocum had been an extremely successful President for many years. He had created the science department-- which was unusual in this area-- and was outstanding. He had put together one of the finest faculties any small college could have possibly done. He had exchanged Professors with Ames and Rutgers and Harvard that were outstanding: men like Breitweieser and Tileston and Cajori-- authorities in their field, and people that, after the ruckus at CC got heated heated up pretty badly-- they disappeared and all went to very prominent colleges like University of California and other institutes.

Cajori, in particular, in mathematics, was an authority, had written several books on mathematics. Tileston was an outstanding physicist and Breitweiser was a journalist and an English Professor and were men that would have been a reputation for any school in the United States. And it was too bad that this class of people and this standard of faculty and the leadership that Slocum had given it in raising money and establishing buildings and all, was terminated. But this is the way of life, I guess.

And when he was removed, Duniway was put in charge and he had a very short experience here; and he was followed by the Latin Professor, Dr. Mierow, who was a very passive type individual, a top man in his field, but really not a leader; and he was chosen pretty much as an emergency to keep the thing going. He was followed by Davies, who was an Eastern man and whether he was not used to this rating of job or not, but when he retired and was released from the college, he returned to an alcoholic rehabilitation hospital in New York.

And from then on, however, things began to pick up for Colorado College and Bill Gill, who was the Chief of the 89th Division during the war and an outstanding individual, had academic work from Virginia Military School and, I thought, did an excellent job. But he was not popular with the faculty, I think, mainly because they had wanted somebody chosen from the faculty to head the college.

He was followed by Benezet, who was another outstanding individual and did a world of good for the college; but he had a theory that no President should stay more than seven years and then he should get out and get somebody in with other new ideas and he'd take his ideas that were different to another place. And he followed that procedure and went to Pasadena and headed up the three schools that comprised that system in Pasadena.

He was followed by Lloyd Worner, who was a student,

professor and President of Colorado College and was there for 18 years. It was during Benezet and Worner's regime that many of the new and later buildings were built and quite an endowment was created and the college embarked on a very successful career.

The President today, Gresham Riley, is another outstanding individual that has been unusually successful in raising money and putting stimulus into many of the divisions; creating an addition to the science building that was badly needed. So this brings us up to date on the rotation of the heads of the college.

There is one part of this college that I think is outstanding and that is the athletic department. Many people think that athletics are something that you just have to have to keep the boys busy and have representation and put a team on the field. But there is a great deal of character building that goes on in the athletic field and I think it was brought out more at Colorado College than at any other school that I can imagine.

When I came into college, a man by the name of Claude Rothgeb was the head coach. In those days the coach had charge of football, baseball, track, and basketball; and coached all four of them. And Rothgeb was a seven-letter man from Illinois-- a highly qualified athlete himself-- and was the type of fellow that fit into a small school like Colorado College.

At that time there were only 450 students at Colorado College and all the boys, who were involved in the sports, were all personal friends of his and confidants and he was a great assist in many of the boys that had problems and that ran into situations that they needed some fatherly advice-- and they were away from home and all-- and he filled that bill very well.

We were rather unfortunate in that in the turmoil that existed in the early part of my college career, Rothgeb left along with the other top professors and a man by the name of Poss Parsons was made coach. He was from Mines and was almost the opposite in type of what Coach Rothgeb had been. He called us all together in a meeting at the beginning of the season and said, "I want you to realize that I am Poss Parsons, coach of Colorado College teams, and I'll speak to you when I care to, and when I want you to speak to me I want you to address me as Coach or Mr. Parsons." And that was the feeling that persisted throughout his career at Colorado College. He was not quite as strong on the ethics of sports-- college sports anyway-- and for the boys that had been worked under Rothgeb...was quite a severe change.

Colorado College, in 1917 and the early part of 1918, was probably, in all around sports in the four different divisions, the outstanding school in Colorado. He played ball on a par with Colorado University, Colorado Agricultural College-- which now is Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, a small mining college, and Denver University, which was practically a dental professional school.

He did a marvelous job-- I remember my sophomore year when the Colorado College track team made more points at the Conference meet than all the other school put together. When war broke out, many of the top athletes, of course, left and that was the start of the deterioration of the Colorado College athletic program.

We won a Colorado State Championship after that, but that was the beginning of the end.

And the other schools have gained in attendance and numbers to where they're up to 30,000 people and Colorado College is still trying to contest with only 1,850 students and less than 50% of them men. So, they do not have the numbers to draw from; they've done an outstanding job in hockey and basketball and games that don't take so many players. The intramural sports have come into prominence and have been very successful and-- with the new ice rink down here-- they've produced a hockey team that is probably equal to any of the schools in the collegiate circles.

The college in itself, academically, has always had a very high standing. And-- outside of the period when they were changing professors and changing Presidents-- it has always been a leader in the schools.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work there. I took engineering to start with and then the engineering division was decimated with some of the top professors going and they abandoned the course, and I had to major in mathematics. I don't think it was too critical, because in a liberal arts college, a basic education is what you're after anyway, and many of the top alumni of Colorado College received their basic training here and then went on to engineering and medical professions and were proven outstanding with their ability.

So, I probably had taken a little more serious attitude towards sports and towards the academic work than the average young fellow would, but I was pretty much dedicated and didn't get into all of the social and other parts of the school that I might have enjoyed a little bit more. I joined the Beta Theta Phi fraternity and it was a little humorous. I came to Colorado College on a scholarship and they had won the top scholarship role at CC for a good many years. And I thought I would join a group of the smartest boys at

the place, and in my freshmen class there were seven of us pledged that fall and only two of us passed their grades at the next semester. So, I..I..I don't know if that was partly responsible why the feeling around the school was, but I don't think so. I think we just got a bunch of good guys instead of a bunch of students. But many of the men from Colorado College have gone to outstanding jobs and have done really material work in the academic world. And I'm very proud of my history.

I was elected, after my graduation, to an alumni trusteeship, and served six years as that, and then was appointed as a Charter Trustee and served 24 years as a Charter. In my career as a student and as a Trustee I covered working with seven various presidents and had some knowledge-- more with some than with others-- in personal contact and getting personally acquainted with them. But, it was an experience, and it was one that, up and down, good or bad, I think was beneficial in future decisions that I made and in future understanding of people and work that I did following.

After I graduated from school, my father died and I took over his construction work, so I was immediately thrown into active business and I've participated in that ever since. This business was one that, basically, was knowledge of the trade and knowledge of people, because that was the main forte-- getting work out of other people and it can be done without a whip; but sometimes, in the old days, they thought the whip was probably better.

But I have thoroughly enjoyed my history at Colorado College and my experience in Colorado Springs.

Finley: Well, I am amazed to think that you have known seven college presidents over your long span. What was it about the atmosphere at CC when you were a student that-- you know, Slocum had just left and Duniway had come in-- what was the general student reaction to Duniway? You said some of the better professors were leaving and there was a lot of turmoil, but can you illustrate that with any particular incidents?

Honnen: No. I was a Freshman and a sophomore and green in the college, and all I knew was rumor; and there was criticism and much dissatisfaction among the faculty, and it permeated right down to the student body. I remember as a sophomore-- the football team-- they thought they had some grievances too. So they decided they would strike. Now can you imagine, a football team at a college going to strike? But there was a lot of unhappiness, and just uneasiness, and people found grievances that they had no reason to find; but it was

just a rather unsettling condition and then the war coming along and so many people leaving and then the professors leaving. It just had the college-- and I felt sorry for anybody that tried to head the organization up, because it was a real tough job to hold it together with that turmoil. And they were men that did not have that leadership, and even if they would've had it, I think that we would've just had to go through time and let the thing simmer and wear itself out and then come back with a constructive program, some capital improvements, new departments, some new effort, and really, a little stronger spirit of loyalty and endeavor.

Finley: Mmhum...Can you tell me about Professor Cajori? Did you ever have him before he left?

Honnen: Yes, I had two classes under him: Basic Algebra, and he was a very quiet, but a man that you could approach and talk to and he was an excellent instructor. And mathematics, I think, is a rather complicated subject. I enjoyed it, but I was dedicated to it, because I thought business was based on it and engineering was based on it, and if I was going to be an engineer, I wanted to be an electrical engineer. That was the time when the railroads were electrified. And I was ignorant enough to not know that electrifying meant just putting an electric engine power unit in the engine itself rather than making a hot water boiler that would make steam and propel it. I thought that there was something special or glorious about electrical engineering. And I was very disappointed when they eliminated the course and I had to major in mathematics. But I enjoyed my work with Cajori very much and his books were designed for college students and brought you up through your basic algebra, say, to spherical geometry and things you couldn't have explained to me if I hadn't had the basic training to lead up to it. But he was really quite a wonderful fellow, but a very quiet retiring type...

Finley: Mmhum...What about some of your other professors? Who were the most memorable professors besides Cajori?

Honnen: Well, we had a fellow named Doc Mathias, that was here, that...I think he taught English, but I didn't have him in class...but he was really the type of fellow that I think a college needs some of. He was not the strongest academic man, but he instilled a lot

of feeling and a lot of loyalty and a lot of get-up-and-go and keeping you encouraged and keeping you pepped up to do a better job all the time. And he was very influential for the good among the students. And I think there is need for a certain number of these type of fellows and the other fellows that'll get down and give you the nitty-gritty but, at that age-- somebody has gotta keep your morale up and keep you at it.

Finley: How about your coaches? I know that Coach Rothgeb must've been quite an influence on you--

Honnen: Oh, Coa- I..I thought--

Finley: Do you remember, what was he like?

Honnen: Oh, I thought he was the greatest! He was a big man; he stood about 6'1", weighed about 230 pounds; but he would date with the boys. He had a nice family life, but he felt he should get out socially with them. And he-- on the trips-- why you'd see him sittin' down in a chair gossiping another one o' them boys and talking things over. He kept his dignity and kept his position, but still he was a companion with you and if you had trouble--
Why, I remember one time I was participating in a track meet up at Ft. Collins-- it was called the Agricultural College at that time-- and I was pinch-hitting for a quarter miler in some of the meets when he was a high hurdler and a sprinter and sometimes he would get incapacitated, and the quarter miler would be one of the last events and they would call on me to run the quarter mile. Well, I was not a quarter mile runner; so this particular meet, I thought, well, I'm gonna pull a fast one on the coach, and I went over to the soft drink stand over there and got a big ice cream cone and ...bought one and...so paraded past the coach with this ice cream cone in my hand (laugh) to show him that I would be in no position to run a quarter of a mile on a fresh ice cream cone. And sure enough, the boy that normally ran the quarter mile ran the low hurdles-- and he had gone through one of the hurdles and sprained his leg a little bit-- so the call went out, "Ed Honnen, report for the quarter mile", and so I rushed out to the coach and I said, "Didn't you see me with that cone in my mouth? I couldn't run a quarter of a mile with that ice cream cone." He said, "Buddy, you're gonna run the quarter of a mile. Get over there and get ready." (Laugh). And I ran the quarter of a mile.

But he was that kind of guy that he could talk to you that way and you went ahead and did what he told you to do. He was a real companion for the boys and a real fine coach.

Finley: Huh...Now, how about when Poss Parsons came in-- do you remember, were you on the football team his first fall as a coach?

Honnen: Yes. I was--

Finley: What...what was the change and the sort of atmosphere and...

Honnen: Well, the attitude was completely different, because we'd all, "Hi, Coach" and "Salutation" and now: "Poss Parson" or "Mr. Parsons" or "Coach Parsons" and ...it was a very dignified approach and...we all stood off by ourself and he stood off by himself and there was no companionship at all, no... we did...he was... In my opinion, he wasn't the most ethical man in athletics, that I had been let to believe athletics were--

Finley: No, no...What did you mean by that? I mean, what were some of the incidences that demonstrated that?

Honnen: Well, he thought it was fair game if you had a lineman that you had a particular play you wanted to go through, that it was okay to throw a little dirt in his eyes before you charged (laugh) and he'd be a little upset and you'd take advantage of him and things like that, and we had a boy by the name of "Slant-Eye Briggs" from Denver who was an outstanding end and, but he had knee trouble...and...so he suggested to this boy that on one of our palys he fall down on our side so he wouldn't be off-side and lie there and act like he was hurting his knee, and we would all line up quickly and start to play while the other team was watching to see if that player was going to get up or not.

Finley: Hmmmm....

Honnen: Just to take a jump on 'em and things like that and things that weren't real harmful and weren't real dirty, but we just had been trained under Rothgeb that we could play hard and we could win and still play good athletics. And it kind of galled some of the boys, and he never did have the friendship and the loyalty that Rothgeb had had. And it was unfortunate that the two men were so opposite and one follow the other one,

because the comparison was so obvious. But, we had some good teams. I was captain of the basketball team one year. I set a track record in throwing the javelin and was an All-Conference tackle one year, so I had enough honors given to me for the work that I did to satisfy me that I had done my part, anyway.

Finley: Did Parsons also coach the basketball team after he-? Yes?

Honnen: Yes.

Finley: Well,...I heard a rumor that there was a special play that you were involved in basketball, where some...somebody got up on your shoulders (laugh).

Honnen: Well, that was in high school-- that was under a fellow name of Coach Erps (laugh).

Finley: Oh, okay...

Honnen: And he was an outstanding basketball coach and, but he was the head of athletics at the YMCA and then coached the high school basketball and football teams.

Finley: Mmhum...

Honnen: But he was unusual...and we had a fellow here by the name of Pike Bruce, and his brother was a detective of the city, and he later went to work as a sportswriter for the Denver Post, but a very very fine basketball player, and we won the Colorado Championship two different years and got a little cooky and thought we could pull a few things, and he did have this play where I would jump center and those days we jumped every play. So I would jump center and then run down by the side of the basket and he would run across from his side and I would put him on my shoulders, and then one of the guards would catch the ball from center and throw to him and he'd drop it in the basket. Well, there was nothing in the rules that specified that it was illegal. And they assumed that if it wasn't specified as being illegal it was legal (laugh). But, it certainly drew protest in all the places. And I remember one time we were playing in Monte Vista and we pulled this play and the whole crowd just crowded out on the floor and refused to let the game go on (laugh) until they made a decision against this and...but it was under coach Erps... now you wouldn't try that in college-- you'd get killed.

Finley: (laugh) Right. Um..being in college right during the beginning of World War I, there must've been quite an effect on the college of the War. What happened to CC during the war? Was there a student army training corps program?

Honnen: They had an ROTC at the college, but, ha, like a lot of the rest of the boys, I enlisted when I was a sophomore, and I reported either in June or July, and the war was over in the fall, so the academic year-- I didn't lose too much of that. But I had lost the summer and I was only in the service three or four months and so I was away at that time. But it... so many of the real top players and top students too that had all enlisted and felt their obligation, but the college had a military unit there and...but most of them enlisted and joined the regular army.

Finley: MMhumm..now you were in the Navy Balloon...

Honnen: I was in...I was in the Navy in the Balloon Service-

Finley: Service, yeah.

Honnen: Well, it was a rather humorous story, because I went to Denver and took my examination and I've always had a little hearing problem-- I'm deaf at high frequencies-- and so he examined me and his test was to hold a watch from my ear at distances and tell when I couldn't hear it; well, well, I couldn't hear it from the time it was next to my ear with that high ticking sound of a watch and so he said, "You've got very poor hearing", but he says, "Your body is warm so we'll take ya (laugh)." And so he said, "What branch of the Navy do you want to get in and I said, "What branches do you have?" and he said, "Well, this is an aviation unit here, but as part of the aviation unit we have lighter than air and heavier than air." Well, I thought, if a plane flew in the air it had to be lighter so I said, "I'll take lighter" and I ended up in the balloon service (laugh).

Finley: But you were only gone for three or four months-

Honnen: I was only gone for four months. The war was over.

Finley: Uhhuh...and you came back in the fall of 1918 then, to the college. Wasn't that when the flu epidemic hit the college? Do you remember the big flu

epidemic?

Honnen: I don't remember the flu epidemic, no...no...

Finley: That seemed to be one of the big problems right during that time. Ummm...now tell me a little bit about your uh...social life. You claimed you were mostly involved in athletics but you did join the Beta fraternity. And you met your future wife while you were in college. So you must have had a little social life. What was, what was social life like on campus with a young sweetheart?

Honnen: Well, I, we had what we called "Chapel" and every morning Chapel met and they had a little service and a little song and that type of thing and you sat in the chapel by classes. So, my wife was a Denver girl, and she was a couple years older than I am, and she'd had a little trouble getting through high school and so she came to Colorado College mainly because there were no sororities here. She didn't like sororities because she thought they segregated one girl from another girl and she loved everybody. So, anyway, she had put in her regular freshman course and she had failed her freshman year so the next year she was still sitting with the freshmen and her name was Eppich and mine was Honnen so I was in the row behind her. I had a fellow name of Bobby Howes was in my class that sat next to me. I said, "Do you know this girl that's sitting in front of me?" And he said "yes" and I said, "Well, you introduce her because I'm really impressed with her, I think she's terrific." So, I met her at that time and what dates I did have, why I went with her and then courted her all through my college, what little time I had, what little time I put in. And after she graduated, she went back to New York for a course of something back there and when she came back here, why I proposed to her and we got married in 1922. But I have another incident that occurred, to show you how really naive I was at the social end of it: We used to have our dances on the basketball court in Cossitt Gymnasium and...so, I went over with a bunch of boys just to watch the crowd and watch the dancers. So, I was sitting there on the sidelines and a little girl came up to me and said, "Will you dance?" And I said, "Honey, I don't know how to dance." "Well," she said, "get up off your feet here and I'll show you how to dance." So in my sophomore year she showed me how to dance and that's the first time I've ever...(laugh)

been that close to a girl (laugh).
But in those days, things were pretty strict and there wasn't...there wasn't...I had a serious affair when I was in grade school and uh, I really thought that was a great deal there. And my teacher was a very sympathetic person: this girl was a very brilliant girl, so she gave her straight A's and then she gave me straight A's so the girl wouldn't be puttin' it over on me-- I thought. And I thought that was very generous of her (laugh).

But, so, I haven't had many experiences in romantic life or in social life. So, I've been very busy with both the work and with the...but I was married to this one girl for 56 years.

Finley: Well, you were very busy-- I presume-- after leaving CC, with taking over your father's business and getting started with all the things that you did in the construction business, and building dams and building camp Carson and all that sort of thing. Before I go into your work as a Trustee at the college, let's digress for just a moment-- because I think it's historically very interesting. Talk a little bit about the building of Camp Carson and what your memories are of that period, here in Colorado Springs.

Honnen: Well, uh...of course, the town had lain dormant for so many years, and when I went enlisted in World War II, the town was 45,000 and it had been 45,000 for the previous 25 years before that. The Gold Rush started the people into the town and developed most of it, furnished the money for the development, and then the gold fell apart-- why, the town just fell apart. So the college had a period in there where they were rather dormant too.

So, when I came into the thing, my life was in the construction work which was not what we would call local-- I mean my work-- I went to Cody, Wyoming and worked one year up there on canals on the Erma Flats. And then I worked in Grand Junction; I worked in Durango, and so the work that I had to do was wherever it was and not where I wanted to go. And the result is that my life at home was very seldom and I was moving all over the, all over the state. And so from that point of view it was quite exciting in that there were so many different types of work and there was so much going on at that time. The Bureau of Reclamation started their program...uh, the Interstate Highway system was established; the federal aid, where the federal government donated 45% of the cost to a state if they wanted to build a highway; the Forest Service

had decided to make all the forests available for automobiles so people could visit 'em and build inns and places like that so they could enjoy the public land. So, the construction industry was flooded...need for people that were qualified to do this kind of work.

And I stayed in Colorado because there was plenty of work here and I enjoyed working for a profit, because that was the purpose and the bottom line. So, I took pretty near any kind of a job whether it was tunnel or reservoir or highway or what was camp or what was necessary uh, to do the more profitable work so that it would justify a little more expertise, and I was very anxious to participate before the war uh...in this military program. So, I had an opportunity in '41 to build a camp in Cheyenne, Wyoming, with a contractor, a building contractor in Denver. And so we-- I did the road work and the utilities-- water sewer, gas and landscaping and all that type of work-- and he put the buildings on the ground. So that gave me a background. And then I went to Grand Island, Nebraska and built an airport down there and part of the job was building a small camp for the...people who were gonna occupy the airport. So, I had a couple jobs of background; and although they weren't near the size of Camp Carson, they were doing the same type of work in the 74 men barracks and airfields and roads and curbs and gutters and that type of thing. So I was very anxious to get into the construction of Camp Carson because I was a local boy, and that was a very big job and I wanted to be part of it. So I had a friend that was a contractor from Omaha, Nebraska and he had done some exceptionally big work over the United States, and one day he showed up in town and asked me if I was interested in joining their syndicate or partnership to build Camp Carson, and I really jumped at the chance. But, he said, "There's one catch in it: if you join us, we want you to build it, because we're all busy doing camps other places, and we don't have an organization to lead the thing. We can furnish people to do the work, but we need somebody to run the job. So I said, "Well if you think I'm capable why, okay with me."

So, if my outfit is busy, why I may as well be busy. So there was 5 of us joined together in this partnership and called it the Camp Carson Constructors and uh, I was at once appointed the sponsoring contractor and I had charge of building the camp. Well, we got the camp practically done, and they decided to build an airfield out east of town-- what they call Peterson Field, and...so some of the partners didn't want to go into that because they had so much other work to do. So two of the partners joined me and

we took on the airfield and we built Peterson Field which involved a field for P-38's that were a high altitude observation plane and had to have extremely long runways and then a camp to go with it that housed the personnel that administered the thing. So this, in my opinion was, covered the whole field of engineering in airfields and camps, Camp Carson, the five million dollar hospital and all of the utilities and 30 million dollars worth of buildings to house 35 thousand men. And it was, it was a highlight in my life to be able to sponsor both those jobs. I'd covered practically everything except tunneling. So I was very proud of that job...

Finley: Did you meet General Gill at that time? During the war? When he was at the camp?

Honnen: The camp-- yeah, the camp was built to house the 89th Division that Gill did. And when I signed my contract in December they told me that the 89th Division would occupy the camp in June and I said, "Well, you don't give me much choice, do you?" and they said, "No. the 89th will be there in June so...so have it ready--"

Finley: In six months--

Honnen: So Gill showed up about a month before were in there to see how we were coming along, and we were able to take care of part of them a month before, because we built it in sections, and he was, he was very delighted-- because he didn't have any idea that we would have it up, and he'd be putting up tents to house his men and all, and we were able to put 'em all in. I remember one humorous thing we had: we had left things like the recreation-- Officers Recreation Building-- go to the last, because we thought that if anything could be spared, it would be an officer recreation facility, and so we had delayed that and so when he showed up with his first troops, why there was no place for the officer's to drink their whiskey and enjoy their recreation. And, so I had a storeroom at the entrance to Camp Carson, where I received all supplies, and we would stock it there and then distribute it to the various places where it'd be distributed, and...so one morning I rode up to camp and this building was gone. And I kept quiet, but I sounded around to see what had happened to my warehouse at the entrance... and I found out that some of Gill's moonlighters-- unknown of course, to Gill-- had gone over and rolled this building on wheels and had moved

it over and had set it up as their own recreation. So (laugh), so... Gill got quite a kick out of it when he saw I wasn't mad about, but it was just one of those things that...that you get a kick out of... His purchasing agent was a very good friend of mine and I got very well acquainted with Gill and, of course, when he went into Colorado College, why, I was one of his ardent supporters and kind of contrary to the many of the faculty, who thought that a professor should be in there. But he had been head of the Virginia Military Institute, and it was an academic school though mostly on military training...But he, I think, did a very good job and then he retired and lived in Broadmoor, after that, until he died.

Finley: Uh, you went on the Board of Trustees in 1946, so you must've been involved in the hiring of Gill?

Honnen: Oh, yes. I sat...I sat in on...we had Mr. Armstrong, who Armstrong Hall was named after-- he was President of the Colorado Springs National Bank and E.C. Van Diest was a civil engineer that I'd known from work in the San Luis Valley. He had done a lot of irrigation work and civil engineering work down there, and they were both good friends of mine and Armin Barney who was Mr. Armstrong's assistant was my next door neighbor over on Wahsatch Ave. So they were people that I knew very well. We used to have our Trustee meetings in the north room of first floor of Cutler Academy, and so we were in there one day when we were discussing Gill, and they were hearing the attitude that the faculty had and, but we were in need of someone who had a strong character and would take the bull by the horns and do something, and I thought Gill was an ideal man for it and at that particular time of the year and I think he did a wonderful job. He wasn't a money-raiser and he wasn't a really top academy man, but on the other hand he had the leadership and the positive control that we needed at that particular time.

Finley: He certainly was noted for his defense of academic freedom during the McCarthyist period. Do you have any recollection of the Board's role in that?

Honnen: No, no...I really...I'll tell you, I've been so busy most of my life that I really haven't had too much time to pick up sides politically and argue problems that the average civilian has because it's... I've been very vitally interested in all my projects and...for instance, this water works for Colorado Springs here:

I've built practically the whole water system here and I've worked for five years almost steady just building pipelines and reservoirs so--

Finley: Right. So, you didn't pay attention to--

Honnen: I didn't have time to take, to take an interest in politics and stuff like that was outa my score.

Finley: Right...right. Well, let's talk a little bit more about what you accomplished as a Trustee, particularly what do you feel your major interests were when you were a Trustee and how did you work with the other Trustees?

Honnen: Well, as a Trustee at the start-- an Alumni Trustee is a really in a handicapped position, because he's in for six years and he's young and inexperienced, and the smartest thing he can do is just sit and listen, so the Alumni Trustee might be willing to speak up if he was asked a question, but normally the average Alumni Trustee is a rather quiet member on the board; because the others-- well fellows like Spurgeon and fellows like that had been on the board for 15 or 20 years and you naturally have to respect them at all. But my start out-- Russell Tutt was made Chairman of the Board and he had married my daughter, so he gave me an entree to know what was going on maybe little closer than what the average trustee did. And before he was made head of the...Chairman, he was Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee. So when he moved up to Chairman of the Board, why they made me Chairman of the Building And Grounds Committee. Well, it fitted into my ability and thinking and, because arguing academic problems was just a little out of my score and so... but as far as the property was concerned and future program and expansion and type of construction and all that sort of thing was... was pretty much down my alley.

So I was very much interested in that, and when we had the various programs here and the Armstrong Hall and the...what used to be ol' Hagerman Hall was replaced with the gymnasium [sic] and then with the Shove Chapel and the increase in the science building and the remodeling of Palmer Hall-- all that was done while I was Chairman of the Building and Grounds, so, and the expansion of the campus itself and trying to create a buffer real estate zone around the campus was all part of the program that I was interested in.

And, so the work as far as the Trustees concerned

of mine was practically all activity in the Building and Grounds committee. And my conferences outside of meetings was on buildings and on programs and on policies-- where are we gonna get the money and what we gonna build and all this and that, and I think we went through a very interesting period, and about the only thing he's done since I have left there is the new Science Building, which was a terrific building. And I think what was built...the dormitory on Nevada Ave. and Shove Chapel and the remodeling of Palmer Hall was quite important of the college concern. We used to have an old menagerie inside there, and when I was in school, one day we went to school in the morning and here the menagerie was sitting out on the lawn out there.

Finley: Those were all the animals that were in the museum and--

Honnen: They were all in the museum and outside of the big-- I don't know whether it was a whale or a dinosaur-- whatever it was too big to move-- everything else was outside on the lawn. So the room itself was out of date as far as the college was concerned, and now they've opened it up into a recital room and a conference room, and it was one that was needed very bad, and they, and the chemical and that department was very badly run down, and the physics was down in the basement and some of that stuff needed remodeling. So, I think the buildings and the fraternity houses that we bought and the remodeling that we did was a very progressive program the whole time. So, my activity was practically all in the Building and Grounds Committee because it was a very important Committee at that time, and as fast as we raised money we sure made plans to spend it.

Finley: Right. Well, now you particularly were involved in the building of the Honnen Tennis Courts; how did that come about? That was 1950, I believe.

Honnen: 1950 yeah. Uh, they built the swimming pool-Gerald Schle...Schleh...

Finley: Schlessman. Oh, you're talking about the ice rink too, yeah.

Honnen: Yeah. Gerald Schlessman was a good friend of mine, in spite of being a Kappa Sig...and he gave enough money to build a swimming pool and, so then they had the El Pomar build a gymnasium, basketball courts,

and the wrestling rooms and those buildings next to it. And they decided to have a hockey game-- team-, so they were going to the Broadmoor for practice and for games. Well, to go out to the Broadmoor for practice was a good three quarters of an hour trip in those days to go to the Broadmoor rink and then dress and play and then get undressed and dress again and then come back to the college-- so there was an urgent need for an ice rink. And the president noised around that he sure wished he could have some money for an ice rink, so I volunteered to build it, and I have some very good pictures of my three children at the dedication, but it...so... we... they thought they were lucky to just build the ice rink itself. So we put a roof on it, but didn't have any enclosure at all. Well, it wasn't long 'til we realized, that the dust blew in and the weather was bad sometimes and the ice was cold, but, on the other hand, with a bad wind or dust on the ice, why, it made a mess out of things. So, the whole thing needed a little remodeling-- the roof had been poorly designed, in my opinion. That type of a roof should never be built in this kind of a snowy country because...

Finley: It leaked didn't it?

Honnen ... with the arches- where the two arches came together made a long runoff, and that would fill up with snow and ice and in the shady parts it would freeze and not thaw out. So, that was the result that the next snow built up and up, and we developed... Concrete, if not fully protected will leak, and so the roof leaked in spots and made soft spots on the ice and... but it shouldn't. It was the wrong type of roof to build, but the architects wanted to do something different. So, then we remodeled the roof and steepened the incline of the gutters so that the water would melt quicker and go and put on a heavier type of tar paper. And then we lined the outside and remodeled the electrical and the heating system inside-- the lighting system and the heating system inside. So, we thought we'd gotten that done and had a pretty good job of it, and then they started these groups in the college, what do call them?...

Finley: Oh, intramurals?...No...

Honnen: Well, where all the students all join in and different clubs and...

Finley: Yeah, for sports you mean?

Honnen: I forget the word for them-- it's a type of...So all these different groups wanted in there. Well, they would come down in teams and groups and so they came right out of class, a lot of them. And they had to have some way to change to get into the skating equipment and all, so then we had to go ahead and fill some locker rooms and establish some place where they could change, so the architects wanted to put it inside of the rink. Well, I objected to that, because up 'til then we hadn't had much need for an audience and hadn't had people. If they'd put on a big game they'd put it on at the Broadmoor and they had plenty of seating capacity out there. So, I thought if we left that space alone-- the side of the rink open-- we could later put in grandstands and seats in there. And then we had that bad-- trash collector, I called it-- on the East side of the building, that sloped up from the bottom, and every bit of trash, paper, tumbleweeds all filled in that, and I said, "We'll bring a vertical wall in there and put the whole thing right in there where we can handle it, in beautiful shape and go the whole length of the building and have lots of locker space."

Finley: Well, it's really an improvement.

Honnen: So that pleased the president very much, but he wanted to go and remodel the teams locker room. Well...the teams locker room had been the old football locker room and about the only thing that was bad about it-- the shower heads were a little out of date, but the locker rooms maybe were for football gear and not hockey gear, but, there really wasn't anything too radically wrong with the locker room. Well, then they got somebody, some contractor in there and agreed to remodel the ceiling and put a subceiling in to hide the pipes and rearrange the locker room and do a little miscellaneous work. So that work still remains to be done. But, the locker rooms themselves I think are very adequate and well arranged and take care of a lot of people. And they got all of the obstructions out of the inside of the rink. So, they could put the grandstands in there now and they had a little cubby hole built with some old lumber that they found for a dressing room for the girls over in one corner, and we got that hideous thing out of there and bought another icemaker thing and so I think the rink now is rather attractive.

Finley: Well it certainly is.

Honnen: And there's lots of people using it and Riley was telling me the other day the crowd of people that-intramural is the word I was trying to think of- you have so much intramural sport in there. I had an unusual experience-- I had a truck I wanted to put an attachment on, so I went way out on the East side of town to a place that handled this agency that I wanted-- and so when I went to pay my bill she said, "Are you the Honnen with Honnen Rink?", and I said, "Yes". She said, "I want to tell you how much we enjoy it. Myself and my daughter go out there twice a week and skate" and she said, "We just really love it."

Finley: Well, it's a great place.

Honnen: Well, it was just so good to know that civilians in the town were enjoying it as well as the intramural and practicing for the varsity. So the thing is almost in constant use around the clock. And I've been very happy with the thing because it has been has been a very practical gift and it's done a lot of good...

Finley: Definitely, definitely. Well, now the tennis courts you also donated to the college, didn't you ... or did you help build them?

Honnen: No...I donated... I don't know whether you know the courts at the North end of the campus just off... Monument...on Uintah. Well, I built those courts and it was rather interesting. In those days, we hadn't perfected asphalt to make courts out of, and I heard of an outfit in Utah that had a rock out there that was saturated with asphalt. And they were manufacturing and crushing this up into small size and they would ship it. So I got 'em to ship me out a couple carloads of this stuff, and I made those tennis courts out of that and I was very successful. Then we put a seal coat on the top and so...Bill Howbert, who was president of the First National Bank, he saw it and he liked it so well that he put one in at his house so I built two here. And I dedicated that one down here to my mother and it still is called the Margaret Honnen Tennis Court.

Finley: Right, right.

Honnen: But it was... it's ... I don't see it used very much now, because I think they've got better courts closer into the campus.

Finley: Well, it's used by people from all over the city,

though, really.

Honnen: Yeah. See everyone just goes in there and plays tennis and goes home, so you don't see much of them, so...

Finley: Right.

Honnen: One of the programs that I thought was very good that the college has adopted and has spent quite a bit of money when you accumulate it, is this real estate border around the college that is not used particularly for academic work. It houses most of the fraternities and parking lots, and the lot that's on the east side of the older-- Old Hotel-- they kept the shops-- I bought that land for them, and I wanted them to tear out the thing to make more parking, but they said that they needed those shops there, and the drugstore that was in the hotel moved across there and, so I guess it is shops that are very handy for the students there. Then on Nevada Avenue-- all those lots in there were very... Now the, the house that is at the North end-- what's the street that the Chapel--

Finley: Ya...Yampa?

Honnen: Is it Yampa?

Finley: Uh, the chapel is on Nevada and Yampa-- right at the end of Yampa.

Honnen: OK. Well, the big white marble house that's on the corner of Yampa and Nevada on the southeast corner-- that was owned by a fellow name of Johnson and he was the fellow that owned the Fountain Valley Land and Water Company that my father built the reservoirs in that system in 1902. And then the college, when he died, acquired it and that was their administration building for many many years...

Finley: Oh yeah. You're talking about what's now called The Jackson House.

Honnen: Yeah. So with the Kappa Sig house, the parking lot, the Administration Building across the street, the Sigma Chi house, Phi Delt house and then on the other side, and so they've accumulated a lot of very interesting structures, and the old Dern House where the Southwest Studies is now. The old Phi Gam house should be tore down because it's gone. Then you got the Tutt's House that was donated to them, and I

redecorated that inside. I had a funny experience with the Tutt family. I offered to decorate the living room, or the study, whatever you want to call it, and put it back in shape like Charlie Tutt used to have it. And that's where he entertained and had his trophies-- animal trophies and things like that-- and that's where he would hold his social meetings with political friends and academic friends, and so I wanted to call it "Charlie's Room", but Russell Tutt objected and said it wasn't as dignified as his father was [laugh]. But, we used to have a lot of fun in there and when, at football games, Charlie Tutt used to invite us up afterwards and we'd sit around and bull and talk about the games and lie about it; and I'll never forget one Thanksgiving Day- we played Colorado Aggies for the State Championship and the snow had come down and they had to paint the lines on the football field red...

SIDE TWO:

Finley: Sorry. We ran out of tape there while you were telling the story about the 1919 football game where you beat Colorado Aggies 13 to nothing-- I believe-- at that Thanksgiving in the snow.

Honnen: Well, this had developed into quite a competitive game. The University of Utah had tied up the conference title, but this game was interpreted as the Championship of Colorado, and the Colorado Agricultural team were very cocky that they could come down here and clean up CC without any trouble at all. So, they had chartered their train to park right on the side opposite Washburn Field and they arrived in town, parked their train and came over to the field and gonna whip CC team and climb back on the train and go back home again just as simple as that and...So we were really primed and cocked and as I say, the field was just a white sheet of snow and we had scraped it but it was a gravel field and we played on gravel the whole time I was in school. I never played on a turf all my life. So the snow, we couldn't get it all off the gravel it settled down in the cracks of the rock. So, we had to paint the lines with red paint, and one thing that was extremely humorous in the game was that Charlie Tutt had made a deal with the waterboy that he would spike the water containers with a little alcohol and some orange juice, and when the boy would come out

to refresh us, why we would have a rather inspiring drink; and so we were enjoying that, and of course with the exercise we were getting why it certainly didn't affect us at all because we were working pretty hard. But the Aggie team got wise to it pretty quick with us giggling and grinning when we came away from the water table, and so they started patronizing the-- our-- waterboy [laugh]. Well, it created a lot of nice humor in the thing, but we were fortunate in being able to whip 'em and when they crawled on their train they weren't near as cocky as when they arrived [laugh]!

Finley: That's hilarious. I think, I think the atmosphere of football has really changed over the years. It sounds as though you had an awfully good time and it wasn't so high-powered in those days.

Honnen: That's right. They-- I think athletics in general was more team play instead of individual play and I think that we entered into it a little heavier than they do now. It's just a game now and, in those days, we were really pretty serious about winning. I mean we went out there to win and that was our purpose and we put it all out.

Finley: Mmhum...But you didn't have large squads, did you? For a team of 11 on the field, how many would be showing up for football practice?

Honnen: Well, it's an interesting thing and I thought about this the other night. I had, I joined the Colorado Springs High School Alumni Association after 70 years and...so I took down a picture of the Colorado Springs High School winning the basketball Conference Championship, and winning the football Conference Championship. So it was quite an honor for one high school to win both of them at that time and... but that team-- that team graduated-- practically all of the team went to Colorado College, and outside of one boy, in our fall year which was the last part of my first year, we were the varsity basketball team. I mean made up of high school boys. And George Liljestrom was the only boy that hadn't gone to war that was left from the old team which had been a top team, and so it was made up of really of high school boys in their sophomore year. And the football team-- we had trouble-- the varsity didn't have a second team to practice against. So they had to practice against the freshmen in my freshman year. So, that was the opposition that the varsity had to train on and [laugh] we still could give 'em a pretty big hustle, because

they had lost all of their big stars and their big boys to the war. Some of 'em were still left: Carl Schweiger and some of those boys were a little late getting in. A lot of 'em came back after the war and I played with them after that. Well, two of my best years was playing with Carl Schweiger, and he was a guard and I played tackle and then "Slant-Eyed" Briggs played the end and we had a formidable side of the line, and he was, of course, all conference and had to... and we played, one year we played Ft. Riley, which was an army team.

Finley: Oh, really?

Honnen: And uh, they came here and played us and they had one man that was the captain of the team that was a seven letter man from Harvard, and boy, we were all half-scared that we'd all run into a demon that, you know, we couldn't handle. But, he was just like everybody else; he had two legs and two arms and if you hit him first, why he went down just like the rest of the boys [laugh].

Finley: And wasn't the star in your backfield your good friend McTavish?

Honnen: Earl McTavish.

Finley: Earl McTavish.

Honnen: Earl McTavish. I met Earl McTavish in grade school and we finished the seventh and eighth grade. His father was a plumbing contractor, and then we went through high school together and college together and were chums after that a number of years 'til he died.

Finley: Hmm...

Honnen: Yeah, he was my, my real buddy (Emotional).

Finley: Well, I've seen pictures of him, you know, from those days.

Honnen: Yeah. Oh he was all Conference basketball guard all conference football fullback and he was...

Finley: Yeah, well gosh, we could reminisce forever and ever about Colorado College. I thought you might like to say a little bit about the your interest in the growth of the Colorado Springs water system while we still have some time on the tape. But before we do

that is there any sort of final reflection or advice that you would have for the Colorado College of the future, based on your many years of experience looking at the college?

Honnen: Well, my history was such a turmoil and I saw the college when I think it was probably at its peak-- up to that time. And then, to see things disintegrate and see the battle and the fight and the time and the effort that it had to pick it up in the position it was in and bring it back where it is today-- I think is fantastic. And I think if they hadn't had men like Benezet and Worner and Riley we would still be in serious trouble. But it was through those men's constructive period and their leadership and their ability to analyze professors and get top people and raise money to build capital improvements that would improve and fit the college's needs has really been fantastic. I think that since that period the college has made as fast a progress with quality production as they could've. I don't think they could've rushed it anymore and I think the faculty today-- particularly the capital structure-- is as fine as you could get. I think it's adequate with the... with every type of building: the science building, the classrooms, the dormitories, the library, Shove Chapel. The Athletic Department is terrific. For a college of this size to have as wonderful of capital improvements and facilities that we've got is unusual. Because I've been through some of the schools in California like Pasadena and they don't have one nice structure. My daughter went to University of Berkeley at California and... they have particular buildings that are outstanding, but when you consider that Colorado houses and has their religious, their academic, all their social activities all on campus, it's unusual to have a balanced structure that we've got down there.

Finley: That's true.

Honnen: I think it's very unusual. A student can come here and live here, take his work here, have his fun here, and never leave the campus; just a very complete school.

Finley: And you attribute that largely to good leadership of the--

Honnen: Leadership, yeah.

Finley: Yes. It makes a big difference.

Honnen: Well, first you've got to have somebody that has the ability to raise money; in order to raise money you've got to instill confidence in the donor that you're going to do some quality constructive work with the money, and most of 'em don't mind spending the money if they think it's gonna do some good, but they've seen so much money whistled away and built on ridiculous things, and they've had some really strong friends in people like the El Pomar Foundation, the Hewlett Packard people, and people like that and that... what's the little guy that built the science bldg. over there...?

Finley: Olin?

Honnen: Olin. Olin Foundation have really been wonderful friends-- they've been the basis-- and the Boettcher Foundation has been good, and those people-- Boettcher particularly, locally here-- have done a terrific job of supporting the college. And that... persuades other people to join in with what they can and the support that they need generally. But, I think Colorado College has sold these big donors on the fact that they're doing the country some good, they're doing the students some good, and it's a serious objective, and academically it's as rewarding as any place you can get.

Finley: Well, I appreciate very much those... those comments from a person who probably has a longer history with the college than almost anyone else I've interviewed, Mr. Honnen... I know that you're interested in changing the subject a bit here to talk about the Colorado Springs Water System. It's such a central feature of our growth in this community that we have an adequate water supply, and I know that you were so much involved in the growth of that system. How about giving us sort of a general overview of the history of Colorado Springs water development.

Honnen: Well, I might do this first-- and it may be, at this session that'd be as far as we'd like to go-- it's a little discussion about Colorado water problem as a whole.

Finley: OK. That's fine.

Honnen: It seems to me that it's so easy to walk over to a water faucet and turn on the faucet, get hot or cold

water-- whatever you want. Or if you want to irrigate your lawn you just punch the sprinkler and, all of a sudden, the sprinkler starts to irrigate the thing, and you don't stop to realize the effort and the conditions that exist, that causes so much programming and planning and legal division and the separation of water rights and that sort of thing that has to go on before you can turn that faucet on. And being so close to the actual construction of so many of the systems here, I spent quite a bit of time analyzing some of the problems and what we have to do. In Colorado with this Continental Divide going down through the middle of the state, our water is practically all developed through surface water: snow and rain. And if we don't save it, our Rocky Mountains are so geologically formed that we don't have really the capacity for underground storage of water. Wells are not dominant; we have a few wells in areas where moraine, masses of soil have accumulated and are porous enough to be able to hold water. We have aquifers out on the eastern prairies and some in the mountains that have porous underground capacity to store water and those are used. But not like you would through the East or the Middle West or the problems that people have that live on a stream that is year-round running, and all you have to do is throw a suction hose out in the water and get all the water you want. Colorado is so situated-- particularly the cities such as Colorado Springs and Denver and Ft. Collins and Greeley, that are on the East side of the front range, that wells are not predominant; there are some wells but nothing in... that would answer the need. So our only resource, then, in order to have water year round, is to catch it during the heavy moisture producing months and save it and then use it during the dry and less moisture producing months. So, this develops into a series of storage reservoirs, and when you reach the capacity of the water fall that develops in a certain drainage area, then, you have to start looking for transcontinental diversion which means bringing water from the western slope, who don't need it, because they don't have the towns, they don't have the irrigation that we have on the eastern slope and using that surplus water over on the eastern slope rather than let it waste, as far as we're concerned, and go down the Colorado River or California or Mexico, which doesn't do us any good. We're sympathetic with their needs and within the law we'll be glad to comply with them, but, in general, our problem is much different from what you find in almost any other part of the United States. So, we have to use rather unusual methods: first, we have to adjudicate the

water. Who owns this water? Who owns this snow run-off and this rain run-off that falls in the Rocky Mountain area and runs off so fast that if you don't store it, it's lost, as far as Colorado's concerned. So, how much of that water that falls in Colorado is Colorado entitled to, and how much to the States that are in the drainage system of the various streams that are fed by the water in Colorado? Then, when you're talking about the Eastern Slope and the Western slope of Colorado itself-- how do you divide that water? Who's entitled to it? Then, you get into the need. And a community like a city has certainly a greater demand and an urgent need than, say a farmer who needs the water, but on the other hand the farmer's life doesn't necessarily depend on the water. He can go someplace else where there is water. But, there's a seniority right that has to furnish people with water rather than maybe strictly agricultural. So that part of the law has to be decided on and... we have so many adjoining states and nations like Mexico, California, Arizona, Arkansas, other states within the water sheds that don't even adjoin Colorado that are in the basin of certain rivers, and they have certain unalienable rights. Now, what they amount to and how they're going to be divided has to be adjudicated by water law. And this has been one of the greatest things in Colorado is making these decisions that will equitably divide the water rights of both the original stream and the stream as it accumulates down the row. Another thing that has developed rather seriously in Colorado is the right to move water rights from one location to another. As an example: if a city like Colorado Springs would like to have water stored up on the side of Pikes Peak, but they don't have water rights to it, but they can buy water rights from a farmer below Colorado Springs if the law will permit him to transfer those rights up to higher ground. And that has to be decided. So, there are so many different variations of such a critical material, which actually is the life of the people that live in the area; if you don't have water, you might as well quit. So, all of these things have to be decided. Then, you have to get into the geological aspect of the thing, as to what aquifers and which underground water exists and how we're gonna use them. What the geology of the area that you're gonna build a storage dam is because a storage dam has to be water tight or it won't hold the water at all. So the material that you build the dam out of has to be such that it will hold the water and there are many different types of dams: there are what we call masonry dams which are dams made out of quarried rock; there are concrete dams

which are made out of mixed concrete; there are earthen dams with clay cores; there's earthen dams with concrete cores, and several of the jobs that I have had here have been earthen dams with a steel face on the front side of the front slope that would be the impervious sheet that would keep the water from seeping through the dam. And they have been very popular where we haven't had clay or impervious material that would hold the water from seeping through. So, those sort of things have to be geologically decided.... and then you have to raise the money in order to put the project together. So, getting the water to that tap involves a very serious legal position, a geological solution, and then the construction work and the conveyance to get it to your consumer in that pipe. So, these things really involve a great deal of money, a great deal of work, and a great deal of resource in order to be able to furnish the people the convenience of turning on a head gate to irrigate a field or turning on your tap to get you the hot water. And I felt that some study should be made of that-- particular in Colorado, because our problem is so intricate and so different from the average community and the average state-- that the people should know more about how important water is. Now, right now, Denver has a large water system. Many big storage, reservoirs, pipelines, big distribution systems, and they have expanded and grown in size to the point now where they actually need additional water. And they're being blocked by environmentalists, who are people that... principally want to fish along the stream or just want to fish along the stream or just want to sit on the bank and look at the pretty trees wave their leaves at 'em, but it is critical to the success and the development of large communities that they have ample water. As a concrete example of how important water is to the growth of the town: I go back to our population during World War II of about 45,000 people. So, the government wanted to build an army camp and the Colorado Springs city government wanted to have an army camp built here, for the economic advantage that they would gain by it. So the first thing that the United States government asked them is, do you have enough water for 30,000 men?

Finley: Did we?

Honnen: We did have. Because through longheaded and resourcefulness, the mayor and the city manager at Colorado Springs had developed sources of water on the North slope and the South slope of Pikes Peak to adequately take care of that. So, the government

approved it and moved in the camp and has been a great economic thing to Colorado Springs. The Broadmoor Hotel started out as a small, one building hotel; they expanded; people liked the hotel, liked the courtesy, they liked the food, they liked the quality of living there. So they expanded and many people built new homes and the community needed more water. So they had a small supply out of Cheyenne Canyon that was very inadequate. So, they developed a system of their own--built a big reservoir in Rosemont, a ten-mile pipeline down to the Broadmoor Hotel, and provided that area for expansion for enlargement.

On the north end of town, the tubercular people needed housing. They built several sanitariums and they kept expanding and the tuberculosis cure had not been solved. So, a wealthy man in Colorado Springs thought that it was a worthwhile project. So, he organized what he called the Northfield Land and Water Co.

Finley: Now, who was that?-

Honnen: W.A. Otis.

Finley: Oh, W.A. Otis. OK.

Honnen: And, so he built two reservoirs on what is called West Monument Creek. West Monument Creek goes towards Woodland Park, right opposite where the Air Force Academy now is. And I built one of the reservoirs up there and the other one I had to repair. Then that that pipeline comes, flows, or the water flows down the stream to the mouth of the canyon and then it is put in a pipeline and piped across the valley over to the Austin Bluffs, where it furnished water for that whole area-- particularly during the sanitarium days. Well, the city of Colorado Springs was smart enough that they have now absorbed all of those systems plus expanding their own system. So, Colorado Springs has been able to acquire the Air Force Academy, with the heavy demand that they have for water; they've been able to get the NORAD- which is the big installation south of the town, below the Broadmoor Hotel- that houses a seven story building for... observation of aircraft all over the world. And Camp Carson and Peterson Field. So, water and the future development of water depends on staying abreast of the needs and establishing what you have. We're gradually getting to the point, now, where we're about exhausted of our normal flow and we have finished a project recently that transfers water through the Continental Divide from the western slope and over into the system on they east side for storage.

Finley: Is that the Frying Pan Arkansas you're talking about?

Honnen: Yeah, that's into the Arkansas. Then we take it out of the Arkansas in a pipeline and go over Trout Creek Pass and drop it down through South Park into the Colorado Springs system and some of it into the Platte River that-- Aurora takes water out of that also with an agreement of Colorado Springs.

Finley: Now isn't that Homestake One? Homestake One?

Honnen: Well, this comes out of Twin Lakes.

Finley: OK.

Honnen: And Homestake is a... another diversion system.

Finley: Ok. Ok.

Honnen: Then, the northern Colorado had a world of very fertile land that needed water. And the Reclamation came in and offered to finance and build a system of developing storage on the western slope to create a normal stream flow in the Colorado River and then divert the flood water on the west- East Slope that could be transferred through a tunnel and down into the Ft. Collins area that could handle both the city and the farm irrigation in that whole area. So, the whole future of Colorado is basically dependent on the ability to produce water to meet the needs both from a domestic standpoint and from an agricultural standpoint. So, it should take more information for the average citizen to realize what an important factor the water is-- both from a conservation standpoint and from an expansion standpoint. And realize that: uno, we have to have water if we're gonna have people. And if we're gonna have to have industry we're gonna have to have more water. Now, how much is available and how much we can develop depends upon ingenuity and finances. So, to me, one of the most important things-- even today-- is the development of water in Colorado. And Denver is in dire need right now and need additional storage if they're to expand and keep growing, and eventually, Colorado Springs will want to increase. Right now, we're in an economic slump and we're provided efficiently. But on the other hand, if the economy should change, Colorado Springs could very easily need more water and could avail themselves of it by going to transcontinental diversion. And this is

about our only means now, because we are entitled to 50% of the water that falls in Colorado for our own use if we can use it. But if we can't use it, then other people have a right to request it. Because water is supposed to be used and shouldn't be dumped in the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California, 'cause we need it in the adjoining states. So today, we are taking water out of Colorado and delivering it to Riverside, California, from where it is pumped into this distribution system of Los Angeles. We are producing water that flows through the Rio Grande through the state of New Mexico, into Mexico Nation. And they are complaining that we're giving them nothing but the residue and saline water that has to be treated excessively and we're not giving them the normal flow that we, legally, should be giving them. I don't know of too many complaints through Nebraska and Kansas of the Arkansas and the North Platte, but there's bound to be a demand for more water in those areas when it's needed, and if we don't protect our rights and have our ducks all in order, why we could lose some valuable water rights ourselves. So, it is something that both legally and physically we have to be prepared to take care of. I think it's one of the most crucial things in Colorado; not of an emergency-- not of immediate nature-- but in long range planning and long range programming as to what you can do and what you would like to do.

Finley: How do you feel about the Wilderness Bill, which Senator Wirth is proposing that would try to preserve the headwaters of the High mountains for, from being exploited, except as it runs downstream? In other words, you wouldn't be able to build dams at... at 12,000 ft.

Honnen: Well, you have two or three things that are-- that have to be considered: first is... what legal rights to adjoining people-- that are in the drainage system of a river-- what rights do they have to the normal flow of the stream? Then you got to decide what you do and who has the rights to the surplus water that falls in an area. So those things have caused a lot of serious law suits and things, but they have got to be decided, and they have been pretty much decided so far. Now, there is water yet in the east from Colorado through the North Platte, through the Arkansas that is still going into the Gulf of Mexico, because the towns below here have water sources from Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota that are feeding into the area also. So, they're not being... the people that are really

suffering are the people that are dependent in the west slope.

Now, Mexico is very critical of our water policies, because the water that's running through the Rio Grande-- you talk about crossing the Rio Grande-- well, you can cross it with tennis shoes if you want to 'cause you can walk across it; there's no water there.

The people going into the Gulf of Mexico on the... on the... California side are complaining that the water that they do get is so saline that they can't use it without excessive cost of treatment. So, we've got people, particularly in the Western slope that are more critical. Right now, Arizona has an enormous project called the Salt River project; then, they have a new project that is diverting water out of the Colorado River in open canals and tunnels over towards Scottsdale, Arizona, and then they cross the river there and deliver the water in canals in Tucson for irrigation and city consumption. So here's water from Colorado flowing clear through Utah and Arizona and taken out and finally getting to Tucson 60 miles north of the Mexican border to furnish water for people and for irrigation purposes. So, the water is that critical that it has to be regulated fairly and it has to be administered so that you save every bit that you can.

Finley: So, you feel then-- I take it-- that if it's legal and necessary-- which you seem to think it is-- that dams... dams should be built wherever--

Honnen: Wherever it's potentially plausible, because there are many storage areas that are available to channel like what we call the Two Forks which is up the canyon a little ways from Denver. And that canyon has a big reserve capacity for an additional reservoir there, and it's being stopped due to our environmental people who don't want the landscape spoiled and the trees cut down and the fishing stopped. Well, the fishing, in my opinion, is not too important when you're talking about life, and the preservation of farm areas that have to have to water to do things, to grow things, to furnish life. So, we're talking about, I think, two different subjects- one fun and one necessity.

Finley: Necessity, right. right. Well, I guess Colorado Springs must have had a lot of foresight way back-- not just in recent years, but way back-- as you're talking about before World War II-- to develop its water system and think ahead.

Honnen: Colorado Springs was very fortunate by having a man by the name of H.I. Reid, who was a very highly qualified engineer. A real sourpuss and a disagreeable guy to talk to, but one of the smartest water men and conservation men that I have ever met. He is really considered the father of our water system, and he was the one that, around 1900, that made much of the long range planning as to what the city should do, how the city should expand, what areas they should protect themselves in, what areas they should buy water rights in, so that they would have early rights that couldn't be taken away from them, and what type of system they should build here for the future- regardless of what the future involved. He was able to sell the public work system, when it came into existence on many of the programs that they agreed to finance. And they were the ones that financed the development of the Northern Slope development and the pipeline down to Colorado Springs, the enlarged pipeline over here to the Mesa Reservoir, and H.I. Reid was the man who set up the original planning for the South Slope, and he also recommended even in the early days around 1906 and 10 that water rights be secured on the North Slope of Pikes Peak as a potential water source for reservoirs that weren't built until 1934. So he was an extremely longheaded individual and a very capable engineer. He was the one that, when we got ready to build the Rosemont dam in 1930 to furnish water for the Broadmoor Hotel and that area, he already had plans and location in his mind, where the storage reservoir should be and where the pipeline should go to be a gravity flow line that wouldn't freeze up in the winter to bring water to the Broadmoor area. So those type of people are few and far between. Colorado Springs was particularly fortunate in having two outstanding men here: one of 'em, a city manager-- Earl Mosley, who came in with the city manager form of government, and he was an engineer basically and was very conscious of what the town's potential was and what would be needed if we fulfilled that potential. And his main objective in his whole system here was getting finance through the public work system and through bond issues to develop the North Slope, enlarge the present system, buy the Broadmoor set, buy the Northfield Land and Water set, and Mayor George Birdsall was his political ally that was very dedicated to doing the same thing-- on doing it from a political standpoint as Mayor of the town-- getting the bond issues through, getting the political influence, so we could get governmental approval on all of these different projects. And when the government came up with any of their programs, Colorado Springs was right

at the door knocking, wanting money to develop; and they had plans and programs ready to outline for 'em of what we need and what it'll take to do 'em. So when we were ready-- and when the government wanted to spend some money-- we secured a more than our share of it. But those three men: H.I. Reid was the original programmer, George Birdsall with the political influence, the federal influence, and Earl Mosly with the local engineering, the local water rights, and he bought up water rights as far south as Pueblo... from ranchers that were going out of business and didn't need irrigation, and diverting that to the North Slope here that we were able to store that water out of surplus water from snowfall and utilize for the city of Colorado Springs. So, all of the development of Colorado Springs from 34,000 people to 300,000 has been due to the fact that we did have water due to the long-range thinking and planning of probably two or three outstanding individuals.

Finley: Well, everything you've said today both on your perspective on the college and on your interest in the development of the water system-- what you've said seems to get down to the basic need for good leadership. And I-- you know you've been talking about Mosley and Birdsall and Reid and you were also, earlier talking about the leadership of the college-- seems to me that kind of leadership is the crux of your your... your... belief in the way the world oughta work, and I ... I sense a good deal of that leadership in you also, Mr. Honnen. I know you're very modest (laugh), but I think those who listen to this tape in the future will, will realize-- just from your talk today-- how... how much you contributed and what a leader you were in the state of Colorado.

Honnen: Well, I'll never forget an expression I heard when we were having the debate in this city here, trying to decide whether to go the city form of government from the mayor form of government that we had before. And this remark was made: that it didn't make any difference what kind of government we had if we had the right leadership. And I think that's the key to the whole thing. Now, it's just a question of how many chances are better with one form or the other to get that good leadership. Now, in my opinion the dictatorship is the ideal way to run a business, a city, or anything else. It's not too popular and you do get some real bad experiences.

Finley: Well, you have to have a good leader to have a

good dictatorship (laugh).

Honnen: But actually the countries that have been outstanding in history have been due to leadership of dictators and people that were good people and were headed in the right direction and did an outstanding job.

Finley: True, true.

Honnen: And I think you'll find that in industry the same way. And you can't tell me that Ford and the Carnegies and those type of people weren't dictators. Because you don't decide by committees and you don't decide by social conferences-- it's due (laugh) to some guy that says, "That is the way it's gonna be done."

Finley: This is the way it's gonna be done.

Honnen: And he says, "I got the money to back it up."

Finley: Well, I have a hunch that's how you accomplished all that you accomplished (laugh).

Honnen: Well, when I came out of the army I got a couple of letters from some of the boys-- or Navy-- some of the boys that wrote me, and they wanted to know what I was using now that I'd lost my Navy whip (laugh). But, many of them will say, "Well we... we had no trouble with the skipper, as long as you did your job. And there wasn't anything that he made us do that he wouldn't do himself." And those two or three things are really critical in working with people. If you're willing to do that, why they'll follow you.

Finley: I think that's a good point to enter to end this interview on. Thank you so much, Mr. Honnen, it's been very interesting (laugh).

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