

TAPE G-105 SIDES A & B
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GREEN

Date: June 4, 1979

Interviewer: Connie Fahnestock

Born in August 1892, John W. Green of Buffalo Creek, CO spoke to Connie Fahnestock in 1979 as part of the Jefferson County Pioneer Program. Green's father, also John W., came from Virginia, and was briefly in the lumber business. He sold his equipment, however, and purchased Buffalo Creek's several stores and his own Green Mercantile. He sold groceries and dry goods. In 1897, the store burned down, along with all the other wood frame buildings in Buffalo Creek, and was rebuilt with massive granite blocks the following year.

From the age of eleven John broke horses for his father's delivery wagon, distributed groceries and other supplies to local residents and butchered meat. John also found time to swim and fish with his friends. Through eighth grade he attended school in Buffalo Creek followed by four years at Manual High School in Denver. [He took chemistry course at the School of Mines in Golden]. Later, John worked in Chicago and in Birmingham, Alabama steel mills.

Buffalo Creek's population of woodcutters, ranchers, summer visitors and Cheeseman dam workers were all customers of Green mercantile. They made Buffalo Creek an important railway shipping point. Hay and coal were stored in local warehouses to be shipped out by train along with lumber and cattle. All the equipment and cement for Cheeseman Dam construction arrived in the town by train, to be distributed by a six-horse team.

When John returned to Buffalo Creek, he worked in his father's store and married a Miss Hayme [or Hannie, according to Margaret Bentley's *The Upper Side of the Crust*, p. 255,]. He could not recall the date of the marriage [but Margaret Bentley states that it was in 1916].

The Greens were "with it" and made Green Mercantile the hub of Buffalo Creek. On its second floor, political elections took place, traveling theater companies performed and dances occurred. The ground floor held the Post Office and a telephone. The Greens had their own electric generator and John Green senior introduced telephone lines and ran a private telephone network as far as Foxton. Green senior used to represent Continental Oil and John junior had the first Conoco gas dealership.

Asked by interviewer Connie Fahnestock whether he liked returning to retail business in Buffalo Creek after life in the steel mills, he replied, "Yes, I liked it." "Did you?" Fahnestock commented, perhaps unbelievably. John Green's answer is the measure of the man:

"I liked working everyday no matter what I was doing – I liked it."