

**Cienega Watershed Partnership  
Oral History Interview  
with**

**Richard Schorr  
July 26, 2019**

**Interview conducted by Robert McMicken, Alison Bunting,  
and Shela McFarlin  
Transcribed by Jardee Transcriptions, 2019  
Edited by Alison Bunting, 2019**

## Interview Summary:

Dr. Richard “Dick” Schorr (b. 1936) is a Tucson veterinarian who served as President of the Empire Ranch Foundation from 2002-2004. Dr. Schorr continues to serve on the Empire Ranch Foundation advisory committee.

In his narrative offered on July 26, 2019, Dr. Schorr discussed his experiences coming to Arizona from Bucks County, PA at twelve years of age and growing up on his father’s ranch in Canelo. He spoke at length regarding the social, cultural, and physical landscapes of the Cienega Valley and the Sonoita Valley in the mid-1940s-mid 1950s. Dr. Schorr detailed many of the diseases ranchers encountered affecting their livestock, the responsibilities of ranchers, and his relationship with the Boice family when they owned the Empire Ranch.

Dr. Schorr discussed his time at veterinary school at Colorado State University, his service in the Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and his Research Fellowship at the Royal Veterinary College in Stockholm, Sweden. He detailed his return to the United States with his wife and opening his practice in Washington State where he lived for twenty-six years before returning to Southern Arizona to practice for twenty-eight years. Dr. Schorr then discussed the environmental changes in the Cienega and Sonoita Valleys, invasive Lehmann lovegrass, the effects of climate change and soil erosion on the landscape, and his hobbies including reata braiding, drawing, etching, and saddle making.

*Editorial note: Dr. Schorr carefully reviewed the transcript of the oral history recording and requested the inclusion of several revisions, additions, and corrections. For the most part the wording used during the interview has been retained and Dr. Schorr’s revisions are included in bracketed italics.*



Dick Schorr in his studio, 2019

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ROBERT McMICKEN (RM): Today is July 26, 2019, and I'm Robert McMicken. I'm here with Shela McFarlin and Alison Bunting and Dick Schorr. For the record, Dick, do you consent to give this narration to be used in advocacy for the Cienega Watershed Partnership?

DICK SCHORR (DS): Oh sure.

RM: O.K. So when were you born?

DS: I was born in 1936, November 28. And I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I'm not a cowboy born, but I was born into it. I'll tell you more about that. I came out here when I was about twelve years old, and my dad came out here *[to explore the Sonoita area]* in *[approximately]* 1932, and he found the area he wanted to have *[move to for commercial cattle ranching]*. My mother said no and didn't *[move]* until a number of years later, when I was twelve, and my older brother, *[Wag]* was fourteen, and then we had two other younger brothers. *[My parents Wagner and Marie Schorr had five sons in our family.]*

RM: O.K., so you were born in Scranton then?

DS: Yes. I've never been there, other than I've heard about it. My mother was a nurse, and that was nursing school for her. So that's where I was born.

RM: So Arizona then is basically all you remember then?

DS: Yeah, pretty much. We had a farm. We sold our farm in Pennsylvania when I moved out here, year twelve. We had it in a place called Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It's outside of Philadelphia, probably 35 miles, I think. It's a nice old farm, very old. We had a big barn, three stories high. The main house where we lived *[was built in]* 1870. The tenant house was *[built]* in 1780, and that's where my grandmother lived. It was a slate roof rock house. You see them, and it was an interesting neighborhood around. It was nice for them. *[No, I remember our family farm which was in a Mennonite/Amish area of southeastern Pennsylvania called Bucks County. It was an old farm consisting of about 80 acres having our residence, an old stone three-story house built around 1870. The tenant house was rock as well, built about 1780 where our grandmother, Catherine Riefler, lived. We also had a three-story rock and wood barn enough for about 15 cows plus four draft horse stalls. We only had two horses though. We raised wheat, corn & oats on the farm. We attended a Mennonite one-room school with only 12 students total.]*

Dad was an engineer. His background was such that his mother married a stepfather and they had a wood camp in Northern Pennsylvania, about 8,000 acres of hardwood forest, and they had about a hundred teams of oxen and horses to pull the logs out and put them in the river and float them down. Dad's job was to take care of the animals, the horses especially, and he got pretty handy with that. *[Dad and his brother, George worked when not in school to help take care of the animals, among other work. Animal care was an important aspect as that time.]* Then he got into rodeoing and bronc riding and bull riding. When I was just born, I was told, my mother said, "That's all," because he was knocked unconscious for about a week. (laughter) But he's always been a cowboy himself at heart, so it wasn't hard for him to go to the West and find his space and then take us with him eventually. But he's an engineer, was an engineer. Through the Second World War, he worked for a Swedish ball bearing company called SKF. Then also he was teaching mathematics at Temple University at that time. So that's pretty much the encapsule of that. *[Dad, as a young man was fascinated with rodeo. For a short period, he participated in bucking horse and bull riding until he was injured. I guess I was the second of two sons. My mother put a stop to that activity as Dad was studying to become an engineer at Drexel Institute, working for a Swedish ball bearing company called SKF, plus was teaching mathematics in the evening at Temple University, while raising a family during the on-going World War II.]*

But we've had horses and the farm work ever since I can remember. *[My father's stepfather, William Riefler, had an 8,000 acre hardwood forest, a lumber mill, and a wood alcohol business in northeastern Pennsylvania. They used draft horses, oxen teams, plus rive-floating logs to the mill, which often used over 100 teams of horses and/or oxen for transportation. During the snowy winters local farmers would bring their draft horse teams to work at the logging mill].*

RM: So he was a cowboy at heart then?

DS: Dad was. Well, being in the rodeo stuff, yeah, I guess so.

RM: So you say you came out when you were twelve then?

DS: Yes.

RM: What were sort of your first impressions of Arizona?

DS: I remember we came out in one of those Woodie station wagons—Ford woodies, you know.

ALISON BUNTING (AB): I remember those.

DS: And we came down on the road which is 83 *[Arizona Highway 83]*, toward the Empire Ranch. We got down there about halfway when we were coming across the United States, and the road was all dirt road in those days. We got halfway down there and Mom said, "I can't stand this. We've got to turn around." Dad said, "But I want to show you this ranching country." "No, I don't want to have *[to see]* it." She had a sister who was married to a doctor in Hollywood, and she had high-falutin' ideas. Anyway, so

Dad turned around reluctantly, and we drove back onto the road to Tucson, then on to California, L.A. [Los Angeles].

It was a year later that we were on that same road, heading down to a ranch in Canelo. So from that site, there's another 60 miles, all dirt road, all dirt road. And you'll see vestiges of it on the way to the Empire. If you're winding up over the hill, you'll see those cutout spots, especially as you go up high—look to the right, down where the mine site [Rosemont] is way over there—you look at the cutouts, the road looks about this wide. And that's our road. So anyway, we came out to the ranch, and that was it. We sold everything. Dad said the house was furnished, and so we just brought some personal stuff back—a big van and all that stuff, but not all fancy furniture or anything like that.

*[Dad returned to Arizona in 1948 and looked at several ranches in southern Arizona. He decided (without Mom's seeing it) to buy a ranch near the southern border at the base of the west side of the Huachuca Mountains. It was a year to the month later that we were bouncing down that wash-board dirt road again. This time we had to add another 40 miles driving south to our new home, an old homestead cattle ranch of about 8 to 12 thousand acres. The road now has a name (Highway 83), it is now paved and not so winding. There were hazards as we found out later. There were designated days in the week when U.S. Army barrack buildings would be moved from Ft. Huachuca over this bumpy, dirt road to Tucson, etc. Nails would loosen and drop out on the road making problems for the few ranchers that lived there for having flat tires].*

But they had a very nice farm there, and we went to Mennonite school, my brother and I, the first year or two, and there were only twelve kids in eight grades, in all one room. And so I was in fourth grade, studying third-grade reading and second-grade arithmetic. (chuckles)

AB: Was that Mennonite school in Canelo?

DS: No, that was the one in Pennsylvania. So that was that. Then we came to Arizona, skipping back to that. The school in Canelo had just closed down the year before, so we were all shipped by bus to Patagonia, so that was 42 miles one way, about 32 of it was dirt road. We went out and picked up the Townsend kids, which is Grace Wystrach. She was on the bus with us.

*[Ranch kids on our bus: Ron & Jim Pyeatt, three Schorrs (Glenn, grade 3, me, grade 4, and and Wag—freshman in the new Ft. Huachuca moved school buildings, to create Patagonia Union High School). There was Marilyn Parker of the Parker Canyon area (now a lake). Nancy Whitesick in Elgin, Grace (Townsend) Wystrach from Rain Valley. In Sonoita we picked up Linda Hummel, Donald Honnas, Mike and Carolyn Pine, Antonio & Aurelio Leon from the Vera Earl Ranch, Billie Ann Douglas from Gardner Canyon, June and Alice Stoddard, Herman Dojaquez, and Lloyd Feldman*

*On the way toward Patagonia we picked up Mary Kellogg and Robert Ambrose, then Mercy Jimenez of the Crown C Ranch, then the three Kolbe boys, Walt, John, & Jim of the Rail X Ranch, then Rawson and Peter Harmon of the Lazy RR Ranch. Note: I*

*mention all of these people because it exemplifies the small number of people and about 90% rancher family off-spring to compare with our present growth of population.]* And so we went out there, 42 miles one way. So we got to school around nine. So we started out around 7:30, 7:15, and got to school. Came there with dirty clothes—dusty after.... But anyway, I went to grade school there, and then high school there, and then went to University of Arizona, and then went up to Colorado State University.

RM: Well, so when you were younger then, you talked about the 42 miles one way. You must have had a lot of time to sort of talk with the kids on the bus.

DS: Well, there were only six kids, and we all knew each other, we all went to the same dances, our parents were all there, they were all ranchers, so we all knew each other. So it was an interesting community [*Canelo/Elgin*] that way.

RM: Yeah, that sounds so. What were some of your earliest memories of the Cienega Valley, so far as the landscape?

DS: Well, we went through, actually, part of that, when you go from the Rain Valley area to Sonoita, Patagonia. You drive on the ranch, and so we knew that there real well. Bill Barnett, the son of Fred Barnett, who was the manager of the Empire, was on the bus with us too. So we were very impressed with that wide-openness of that. Our ranch was on the 8,000 acres, and it was up in the mountains, and it was tough land, brushy and rocky and pretty good grassland, but it was rough land. Going across the Empire was very impressive to see that sort of thing. But they didn't have quite the rains that we had, up against the Huachuca Mountains where we had quite a lot of rain consistently every year, where the Empire could be a spotty thing, which it still is occasionally—you'll get that kind of thing. But it was nice country, very nice country—all Hereford cattle that they had. We all had Hereford cattle. There was only one herd of Angus, and that was a small herd. So I guess [*I was*] just impressed by the whole beautiful countryside. And I was so happy, because the Kolbes were very close friends of ours, and Jim was quite responsible in having that come about [*LCNCA designation*] as U.S. Representative from Arizona. We have to be so thankful a lot for his foresight on that sort of thing. That family really loves the country there too, very much. And I know them all that are left.

AB: The establishment of the La Cienega Conservation Area?

DS: Yeah, right.

SHELA McFARLIN (SM): Did you have a lot of bear on your ranch?

DS: No, we had no bear. We had an occasional lion, an occasional wolf, of course a mess of other wildlife. But no, we didn't have any bear then at that time. They had government trappers out too. Up in the hills they had bear [*bears were encountered*], but no, we didn't at all. I never saw any signs of bear at all. We never lost any livestock to them—wolf, yeah, but not bears.

SM: What did you do in the summers when you kids were out of school? Were you learning ranching and horse care and all that?

DS: You don't learn ranching, you do it, you do it. I had assigned two horses, Tex and Canelo, and that was every other day, and you'd ride every day, because the screw worms were a problem. Screw worm is a parasite that comes about—the screw worm fly lays its egg on something fresh and bloody. Well, if you get a newborn calf, the navel has blood in it. Flies just swarm to that area, and they'll lay hundreds of eggs on there, which are little white dots [*clusters*] everywhere, on top of each other. And they hatch out in a couple days, and then they burrow into the flesh. They're not looking for dead flesh, they burrow into that navel, and the navel will swell up like that [*lemon-sized*]. Then they [*the calves*] start licking themselves and they get 'em between their teeth, and so you've got to watch for that as well. So baby calves, you're always watching for that. You can get it also if you're branding cattle and you get the brand that's peeling after a few weeks. That means you branded them and it peels off, the skin that's hurt, then you'll get some blood up there. Or you've got horned cattle, which we had. They get rough with each other sometimes, and you'll get a gorging and you'll get screw worms that way. Castrations as well. We had to be careful when we were castrating, because if you did castrating too late [*in the Spring*] with the flies, then you're going to get worms up in the sack where you castrate them. So there's a lot that had to do with the seasons that way. We all went through the same thing; [*raising livestock in the Southwest*]. I talked to Dick Jimenez. We were good ol' friends. His sister was the wife of our cowboy, and so we were seeing them every Sunday. They'd come up [*Dick and Eve*] to the ranch and visit his sister—he and his brother, Shorty Jimenez, who worked for the Babacomari Ranch. So he talked about screw worms all the time too [*as everyone did*]. That was a big problem. And so you did ride every day, you did have to ride every day. And for us it would take about six hours to ride one-half of the pasture, and we had three pastures, and we had the cattle only in one of them [*at a time*]. So we were riding; it would take one cowboy 2 days to cover a pasture. So that's rough riding, though. It's up and down, looking all over. It's not like the Cienega area where you can look out over and see something or drive up with a Jeep. All horseback—we didn't have anything like that. And in fact, thinking back when you posed the question, back in those days I don't even think the Boices had any trailers. I remember when I'd help Dad [*with the Boices*], we would trot out to a pasture, may take us an hour, in the dark of morning, trotting out to get to the pasture. Now they load all their horses and dogs, too—which I don't like—and they climb on their trucks and go out there, get to the place, then start working it, and having the dogs do that. We never had dogs do that. So people were pretty much on horseback, getting around. We had a pickup truck and stuff. [*But no trailer. We built a wooden rack on the back of the pickup only for a sick cow.*]

RM: It's interesting you mention the Boices. One of my questions was, you knew them when they owned the Empire.

DS: Oh yeah.

RM: Can you describe your relationship with them?

DS: I had one interesting time. I came out one time when they were grading their yearling heifers, and they had a team from the university in the Range Management Department, Dr. Pannish. He brought a bunch of students out there, and they were

evaluating the heifers for weight and size and all that stuff, and they had some pretty nice cattle. They were really a nice set of heifers. And so I was out there. We all rode out early, like I said. And after that, Pancho, his oldest son, said, “Would you take Dad on back? He’s getting kind of tired.” So he and I—Frank Senior and I—rode back to the ranch, which took us about an hour and a half to get back, and he was showing me *[talking to me about his ranch]* —of course I was supposed to open the gates *[too, of course.]* He was getting older, you know, and I was still young. And so we had about an hour and a half to go, and he would go by an old water trough and he’d talk about that, or a tank over here—a water tank—or just the condition of things. We had a nice chat together. It was really nice, and I kind of felt like, in a way, equal. But the way you do, when you get up sixteen years of age, and you’re doing men’s work, you’re actually regarded as an equal, in a way. It was important to do that, and I liked that. It kind of helped me in my thinking way of life. But Frank and I came back, and that’s all I can remember about that. Mary *[Boice]*, she had breakfast out in the kitchen there in the big house. It was dark out there *[about 5 am]*, and our horses were out in the rock corral, waiting. Just had ham and eggs or whatever we had out there. Nice lady, really nice. Mom and Dad liked her very much. They were very nice people. I can’t say, other than that. Mary helped my mother teach my youngest brother swimming in their pool in those days, and we still have some gladiolus or whatever they are, around the front wall of the *[our]* house down there in Sonoita—remnants—Mary gave them to Mom and *[Mom]* planted them there, and they’re still surviving, I think.

AB: Irises maybe?

DS: Maybe they’re irises, I don’t know.

AB: They used to have a lot of them.

DS: Otherwise, they always had a big event for, I think it was either Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve, and they’d have a big dinner for everybody to come out there—even some folks from Tucson. In fact, who was it that has been the big donator to the ranch when I was on the board?

AB: The Goodmans?

DS: No.

AB: Pettis?

DS: Yeah, he *[Chuck]* and his wife, they would come out there for that, I’m told. But it was a great occasion. Mom and Dad thought it was awfully nice. I was too young at that time. We otherwise have had big roasts over there at the ranch, *[Pancho and Sherry’s house]* and a big dinner with tortillas and roast and stuff—always very hospitable. That was a big occasion for the ranchers—not necessarily the cowboys, but the ranchers got together there. And those folks were like the Boices. *[The Boices were like that.]* And I saw pictures of them with Mom and Dad in the plays that they had there at the Elgin Community Club. *[Plus Wag and me in them too.]* You’ve seen those. I don’t know if you’ve seen it. We’ve got copies here, if you ever need those photos. So they



participated, and they danced like everybody else. Mary and Frank also helped Bum Hedgcock in arranging the square dancing we had about once a month in the summertime there at the *[Sonoita]* fairgrounds. The Boices were out there, and they dolled up pretty good. And Pancho and Sherry were there, and I think Bob and Miriam, the same. That was a good thing. That was in addition to the monthly Elgin dances that we had. And we had them in Canelo School too. And you'd come to those. Cora Everhart was the school superintendent for Santa Cruz County. She was a rancher and a neighbor a long time ago for us *[in Canelo]*. She said, "You *[Marie & Mary Howell]* can have dances in the Canelo School, but you can't charge." So everybody donated some money and brought pies for the supper dance at twelve o'clock at night. You'd have a supper waltz and ask a girl to come and buy her a piece of pie, and then maybe a ham sandwich. All the women brought those things.

I'll tell you about that. One time we were all there at the Canelo School dance and having a great time. All of a sudden the music stopped, the lights went out. Somebody pissed in the electric plant, which was running outside! (laughter) That shut down the dance. Sorry for the language, but it fits the story. I don't know if you want to put that in but use different words. I've got some scientific words....

RM: At least it wasn't the punch bowl! (laughter)

DS: Oh yeah! So anyway, that was pretty much that. But they were very much in support of the community, the Boices—Senior and Pancho and Bob too—very much so, all in all. When we were there and I was young, Bob was still, I think, in college, and I think Pancho had just graduated there. And they *[Pancho and Sherry]* eventually moved up in that house out there where we *[the Empire Ranch Foundation Legacy Day kids from the Elgin School]* built that retaque fence across there *[out front, several years ago]*. I've had dinner there with them.

SM: Was there a lot of conversation at these dances about the animals and what was going on?

DS: Animals and going on, when you get people there, you always have *[to compare]* the amount of rain you got, "you got *[were]* your calves contracted yet?" Of course, "what kind of prices are you getting for the steer calves and heifer calves?" All of that sort of thing. That's pretty much the ordinary conversation: screw worm problems, pinkeye problems, stuff like that. Is that what you mean?

SM: Uh-huh, yes. I was thinking that would be a great source of information exchange. Somebody might have been to Tucson, picked up some information, or might have been to *[the town of Fry, before it changed to]* Sierra Vista and shared.

DS: Well, we'd get in that community, especially with the Elgin Community Club was the focus of all of our social activity. So we had people coming from all over that would go to the dances, and Alvesa Hummel, Gene's wife, she played the saxophone and had the LeGendre *[brothers who owned]* the store is down there in Sonoita, *[and Frank*

*Hedcock accompanied her*]. That was the community area, and everybody got together on that *[and don't forget the supper waltzes and apple pies]*.

We also had great political rallies. One time Goldwater flew into the fairgrounds there in Sonoita and had a political rally. The most important political figure, though, was the supervisor of the roads, because the roads were the thing. If you didn't have good roads, you had a lot of flat tires. Believe me, we had flat tires! (laughter) That was during the Korean War, rubber was not very good either, and there were a lot of problems. That was a terrible thing. They moved a lot of Fort Huachuca buildings, like the one that's now the Huachuca House *[on the Empire Ranch]*, I remember that when it was just a wooden building coming over from the Fort. They'd bring those over there, and they'd jiggle *[the nails loose]*. I think it was Tuesdays when they'd bring those houses off the Fort, and they'd take them on the Mountainview Road, into Tucson. I know the University of Arizona had over there where the library is, they had four or five of those buildings that were barracks, one-story barracks there.

AB: So they brought them all the way up to Tucson then?

DS: Oh, and our high school *[buildings]* in Patagonia. That was all....

AB: All from Fort Huachuca?

DS: Yeah, that was all Fort Huachuca buildings there.

RM: You mentioned before that sort of the seasons were divided up among by what you were doing that time of year on the ranch.

DS: Yeah. Yeah, very much so.

RM: What was your favorite season?

DS: Oh, I don't know. We had such community activity down there, that when we would be branding, or the Pyeatts would be branding, or the Ewings, or any of those people—Hathaways—you'd go *[there]* and get your work done, and then after that you have a softball game and have a potluck. After we got the work done and the calves all worked and all that, we'd do that. And that was small ranches. I mean, we all had 100-150 head each, and we'd help each other out, and that was very important. And that was fun. It was really a very close neighborhood that way. Dad worked over with the Boices a lot on the ground *[at roundups]* and the fancy stuff, but it was not a familiar thing. *[It was not a social event for the big ranches, however.]* It was getting the work done, you know, as far as I remember on that.

SM: Your dad, as an engineer, did he engineer some things?

DS: He worked for that Swedish ball bearing company, SKF, so they made ball bearings for the military. Also for the military of Germany, because Sweden was a neutral country, so they were selling *[to whomever]*. They had, to remain neutral. So Dad told me about that *[only a few years before he died (approximately 1995)]*. We had a lot of Swedish

friends. But that was in Philadelphia. When you go to Fort Huachuca, Dad was the head of all the buildings and roads at Fort Huachuca. He was the post engineer, so that was his responsibility. They'd never had somebody so well-educated, and fortunately they could take him in, and we needed the money, because the ranch wasn't providing enough, we had some dry years. We'd sell some calves for 12¢ a pound, and that's not very good. Twenty-one [21¢] was average. And so Dad had to go there, and that's where my older brother and I took over and were running the ranch—and we did, we had to, all the time. Yes, it was busy all the time, very.

And otherwise, seasons, I don't know, they used to loan me out to the Vaca Ranch down in the San Rafael Valley, and I'd go down there and we'd work the cattle for a week or so. That was really neat. I remember one [time], if I may say a personal thing, about this. It kind of reflects how our life was, and that is I was probably fifteen or sixteen. John Gates would assign horses—different horses each day—and when we'd start out and ride, we would find, let's say, a yearling heifer that was having screw worm or pink eye or something, that had to be treated, and wasn't near a corral. The cowboys would rope it, and treat it, and turn it loose. Well, this one day, we went out to the sector [pasture] and the four or five cowboys [missed catching this heifer]. Here I come along and roped that heifer, and my God, the whole thing changed for me. I did the same thing on a big cow a couple days later—roped it—and they accepted you. It's this coming-of-age type of thing. And that's the thing that kids don't get now. And so I was feeling good.

Another time when I was twelve or thirteen years old, I took my horse, Tex, and Dad said, "Take Dusty"—this was a mare and a foal— "down to get bred [on the Vaca Ranch] in the San Rafael Valley." Well, it's five miles from our house to our last cattle guard [on the ranch] at Canelo Pass, and then from there it was another, probably five or six miles down in the valley. So I saddled up my horse and led the mare, and the colt followed along, and we went through several cattle guard gates and went on through. We started out early in the morning, maybe seven or something like that, and got down there maybe two or so in the afternoon, turned the mare and foal loose down in the pasture—we called it a trap—and turned around and headed back, and got home at seven or eight at night, I guess, by myself. Here I was, eleven, twelve, thirteen years old, but given responsibility. I didn't think anything of it, and Dad didn't think anything of it. And my brother was older, and he could have done it—but I did. So that's kind of the mentality that you got—and I don't think it has to do with your work, but it does put a mindset on a lot of people in that time, being self-reliant, and that's kind of the way things were down there.

RM: Yeah. The way that you've been talking about roping the cattle and treating them, I don't think it's too much of a surprise that veterinary medicine sort of crept into your interests.

DS: No, [in fact one summer when we were grazing 250 yearling heifers from the ORO Ranch in Seligman, I had to rope and tie down at least 50 of them to treat for pinkeye by myself].

RM: So when do you first remember sort of the idea of being a veterinarian?

DS: When I was on our farm in Pennsylvania, and my grandfather was crippled with paralysis of some sort. We put his bed by the window in our dining room. He looked out, and he said, "Dick, go out and look at the manure on one of those horses there." I said, "Why?" He said, "Just go out there and look at it." So I went out there and looked at it, and the horses were out in the pasture right by, and I looked at it and came back in and described. He said, "You know, you learn a lot by the bowel movement of a horse. You should get into 4-H sometime." So, I thought that was pretty nice, and I was pretty young at that time. Well, a little bit later, there were some kids in the neighborhood we used to bike around with, and they were the adopted kids of an author called Pearl Buck, and they were fairly close away. And so Pearl—she's called Mrs. Walsh—she'd have 4-H meetings in her barn, like our big barn. Everybody had a big barn. And so we'd have *[Wag and I attended]* 4-H meetings there. So that was my introduction to 4-H. Well, we never got into it, because we sold the farm just shortly after that, and moved to Arizona, and yet I was in the first 4-H club in Santa Cruz County, and in the first 4-H fair that they had in Sonoita. So it's all been my life, and I owe a lot to that. So that's where I learned about that. And then working with the livestock, you naturally do that. I mean, we treated wire cuts, we treated the cow with bloat, we had mastitis in a cow. We had all kind of things. *[We had cows with prolapse uterus from calving, or one time had about 40 cows with Johnson grass poisoning.]* And then we had a fellow rancher called Jim Hathaway, and you've heard of Jim.

AB: Uh-huh.

DS: Jim was a real nice man. He was a couple miles away. He had a mountain ranch where Parker Lake is up there on the mountain, and Parker Canyon Lake. Anyway, his house, one of his two houses was a rock house. It may even be at the bottom of the lake, or maybe they just took it out, I don't know. But anyway, that's that.

So his son Howard was a veterinarian somewhere, and he'd come, and he taught Jim how to remove a cancer eye in a cow, and we had cancer eye in our cows. Hereford cows have a lot of white pigmentation which made them very susceptible to have a cancer growth on the corneal surface. And he knew how to do [remove]that, Or he would treat a cow that was having an impaction in the rumen, He amputated our dog Jock's leg. So I learned a lot by then. So by the time I was sixteen, I could hit a vein on a cow that was toxic, and give it some medication. So I knew pretty much, but, I mean, that's just part of life there. It wasn't a big deal, it's just what you do, you know. It's another activity.

We had to haul water *[to the cattle up in the hills.]* Every spring the winds would blow, but everything would get dry. And we hauled water every day, and we had a big tank on a trailer, pulled by a Ford tractor. My brother and I would have to pull that up four or five miles to get up to the windmill *[metal tank]*, let that water run into the tank there. You had to do that all the time, *[in the spring]* until the rains started coming. And so again, those are things that you learned to do. You become self-reliant. You had to do it. But it was a great experience. I really feel very privileged to have that. It was a tough

life. (others agree) Just getting that home windmill pumping water while you rode out for five or six hours and came back, the tank was about full. You'd eat a sandwich and take off again with the water trailer. You were gone another three hours or so. *[We had a gas-powered pump on the home windmill. We would start the pump, saddle up and ride them. Hopefully the tank on the trailer was filled so to take the water up to the mountain pasture trough. When we got home from riding, off to the cattle watering we would go.]*

RM: So it's interesting, you grew up in Canelo then, and went off to UA, and then off to Colorado State, right?

DS: Yeah.

RM: What did you miss first when you first left Arizona?

DS: You mean left it to go to college in Colorado?

RM: Uh-huh.

DS: Oh, I don't know, I was on the rodeo *[roping]* team, and I was a roper, and that was fun—not great, not at all great. Ranch kids never had money to buy fancy horses and trailers. All the horses and trailers you see down at the ropings in Sonoita, those are carpenters or lawyers. They can't afford that tack. *[We could not afford fanciness.]* (laughter) The cowboy doesn't have that kind of money!

AB: Right.

DS: No. And so we did it because we did it. But no, these guys are really fine-tuned athletes now. But I missed that sort of thing.

AB: Now that roping team was at the UA?

DS: Yeah. So moving away up to Colorado was not bad. I got in rodeo up there too, but only once. Going up there was nice. It's cold country—rain, snow, and all that. But *[when]* you got into veterinary school and you were there for business. You were absolutely business, *[there to learn]* you know. And you may have been an "A" student going up there, or whatever. They only took five from Arizona, and they *[had]* 1,200 *[applicants from the Western states]* to get into that school. We only had sixty, sixty-five in our class.

RM: That's impressive.

DS: So it was a real honor to get in there, and I don't know how I did. But anyway, I think getting up there and just seeing, you're really getting into anatomy that you had to apply. You had to know about that eyeball, you had to know about embryology, the development of a fetus. You had to know histology, which is the study of cells. Then you get into pathological problems, that changes as the years go on. So each year was a whole new challenge. And boy, you loved that stuff. You studied like mad. I got a pair of glasses. I had to study. And we were over in the lab all of the time. And I was the

youngest in our class. I think I was.... Oh, what was I? Twenty-two. Our average was about thirty-three to thirty-five years old [*at graduation*—a lot of 'em GI veterans from the Korean War. And they had families, and I was probably one of a handful of guys who were single there. I studied with them. At nighttime I would go to their houses, their wives would fix cookies and tea, and that was nice. But it was really business. You had to get in there and there was no fussing around. You didn't choose a class. When we went there and signed up, like registration is, "These are your classes," that's it. You had no choice.

RM: Fixed schedule.

DS: Yeah. Now it's choices: you can get into small animals, large animals, or whatever. But no, we had to know the pig, we had to know the horse, we had to know the goat. We had the small animals, all of that stuff. You had to know it. Because I did surgery on all of the different animals.

RM: So after Colorado State, you go to Stockholm, right?

DS: I didn't. I volunteered to get in the Army. This was the beginning of the Vietnam War, and people thought I was crazy, but I wanted to do it. But I got assigned to go to Alaska, and I got ready to go, getting all my gear, and at the last minute the orders came in, "You're going to San Juan, Puerto Rico." So I was going down there around the Cuban [missile] crisis time, and so things were a little bit tense around there. I did get over to Guantanamo, and did a lot of work there. So I was there for two years [*in Puerto Rico*], and that was good. They wanted me to stay longer, but I was ready.... So I got a fellowship to go to veterinary college in Stockholm [*the Royal Veterinary College of Sweden*]. I applied to Norway, I applied to Switzerland, and I think I applied to Germany, but I got accepted in Sweden, so I went there. And naturally, because my father had worked for a Swedish company, and I was single, the blond girls were pretty, you know. Nah, it just.... But anyway, so I went there and spent a year there doing research on track horse lameness, called bowed tendons, and I was studying the blood supply to tendons and ligaments in the legs of horses. That was pretty much it. My prize was my wife—I met her over there—so we got married over there. I met her in January and got engaged in March. We got married in June, and back to Nogales, of all places, my hometown, to start a practice there, and started on old Tucson Highway there, outside of town. That lasted almost a year, but it was going to be tough. And then my wife was thinking of wanting to have babies. We didn't have to have babies—it was two years before our first daughter, our first child, came. But anyway, we did. So I accepted a large animal practice job in Washington State, and we went up there sight unseen, had never been there, neither of us—my dog, my cat, my wife, and me. We were so broke, and we didn't like it, it was so wet and cold and everything, but we hung in there. Am I moving ahead too quickly?

RM: Oh, no, no.

DS: And after three years of working with a veterinarian, I went off on my own, and we started our own practice. It was no more than six months later, I was walking around our

neighborhood up there, and I saw this vacant land for sale. I said, “God, that looks good!” We were looking for some posts to split for rails. Had a couple of my kids along—we had two at the time, I think—and I went and saw the real estate sign, and I inquired at the real estate office, and they said yeah, these engineers in Boeing were being laid off, and they had to sell the farm. I bought the land. Had to borrow money from the bank to get a down payment. The next thing we knew, Leonoor thought, “Oh, we’re going to have a few chickens, and a few....” (laughter) Well, we got into the purebred cattle business a few months later, that came off one of the islands I just came from up there, Orcas Island. And so we started purebred Charolais cattle at the same time. So I had a small animal practice, and I had a farm and family—it was a busy time, but it was fun. But I realized when I left Arizona for that reason, I knew I could never have the ranch experience for my children that I had, because out here *[in Arizona]* you can’t just do that. You had to have a bigger place *[one cow per 80 acres compared to one cow per acre]*. So I decided, well, I’m going to go and get some farmland. So I was able to buy some land *[20 acres]* and start it. They can all poke calves. *[All four of our children can help deliver calves or lambs now.]* They can vaccinate, they can help me with dehorning or castration. All four kids worked in the practice, and that was good *as well]*. So I was happy that they could get a little bit of what I had on that *[as a youth on Dad’s ranch]*. So that’s pretty much what happened there. And we did that for twenty-five years up there. And then my folks started getting sick *[older and my wife said, “That’s why I never unpacked my suitcase in Washington anyway.”]* So we moved back.

RM: So, coming back is a question that I had too. Since 1980, Tucson’s grown 63%; Pima County’s grown 93%; and Santa Cruz County’s grown 155%. So since coming back in about 1990, what are some of the reflections of that growth that you have observed, either in your own life, or through your professional life, or both?

DS: Well, yeah, I think specifically I always looked at the ranch land, because we still have a place down there in Sonoita now, that my folks gave us, and so we have a little land down there. And Dad was running some cattle down there for a long time in Sonoita as well. And so always looking at the ranch country and ranch land. And if I might say so, there’s been a lot of deterioration. I can remember when I was a boy, they were doing this curving, scarifying the soil on the Babacomari Ranch, by the Brophy’s, and they did it also on the Vaca Ranch. They’d take these big cats *[Caterpillar tractors]* with the big teeth, furrows about that wide, and go through. And I guess they seeded, because good grass was coming up. I thought, OK, we’re stopping the rainwater and all that. But it wasn’t until I came back that I realized the kind of grass that was there was not our native grasses—it was that Lehmann’s lovegrass. And you’d look down, and you’d go down there, and that really made me upset. But that’s just life, that’s what people do. And I can compare it, because we raised Charolais cattle, and they are big cattle. Then we switched back to Hereford after about ten years *[with the big Charolais breed]*, and we had to feed from November to April up there *[in Washington State]*. I had to hand feed, so I know how much they ate. So you can find a Charolais cow would eat 30 pounds a day of hay, and a Hereford maybe 20. So everybody—my litany about this is “Everybody says, let’s get bigger calves, we’re going to get more money off our calves here”—or everywhere in the United States. And that bothered me, because when I knew that those big cows were eating more than the little *[smaller-breed]* cows. If you have an

acre of roughage, of dry matter, there's only so much an acre can produce in Arizona. In a poor year, it's even worse, you know. So up in Washington, we could get by with that, and we still do—we still have a farm up there. And we can still do that *[there]*, but down there [Sonoita], that's not dependable at all. So people were going into the European breeds, they were leaving the Hereford cattle, and they were going into bigger-framed cattle. And they had a few Brahma, but they were going into the Limousin, they were going into the Simmental and breeds like that—the bigger European breeds—with intention of really doing well. They did O.K. for a while. I was engaged to a girl in Silver City, and they have 150 sections over there, and I remember when we were going together in college here at the U., that was a big ranch, a pretty good-sized ranch. And I remember gathering cattle on it not too many years *[say fifty]* ago. That was *[wooded]* grassland, but *[now]* there are juniper trees *[that have replaced the grass]*. Why are there junipers? Well, I don't know—the old mindset: “Oh, I don't know, it's not the same.” Well, we bought good *[bigger]* Hereford bulls, you know. But they were not producing big calves like they used to. Yeah, they couldn't, because there wasn't feed enough for them there. So that's what's happened.

DS: I was having lunch with a friend, Diana Kress Hadley. She's well-known in Southern Arizona, and they have a big ranch. They had the big ranch over in New Mexico, the 500,000-acre ranch over there.

DS: When I returned from Washington State after leaving here for 25 years she and I talked together. She asked me what my impression was of that, and I just told her the same story. We sold calves at 21¢ a pound, on an average maybe *[around 1950-1952]*. We bought a car for maybe \$1,200, paid \$2 for a pair of Levis and stuff like that. And now, cattle—at that time, in the interim, they were getting maybe \$1.10 a pound. Cars were much more *[expensive]*. All that. So everybody has to pay a lot more money for everything, but the land doesn't produce enough *[to meet the cost of everything]*. *[Ranchers began to breed larger cattle to make more profit. An acre of rangeland can only produce so much grass. Rangeland began to deteriorate. Weaning calf rates began to drop. Government grazing regulations were now discussed more seriously. Then that's when you [Cienega Watershed Partnership] come into play, because that's trauma to your land. It eats the hell out of it. [Driving toward Nogales there are rocky overgrazed pastures because they still have big cattle out there.] I [have casually] asked them, “What do you think about the Lehmann lovegrass?” “We love it! They love to eat it.” Hell, they don't have anything else to eat!*

SM: They *[cows]* don't like it, but that's all they have.

SM: There's no going back on the Lehmann's, though—it's here.

DS: It's here. I talked with a rancher several years ago, and she said, “Well, it's holding the soil.” It is, the Lehmann's lovegrass is holding the soil. But so much has eroded away, that soil is still pretty rocky, compared to the way it used to be, probably, because it gets washed away *[eroded]*. This is my litany. You get land like this *[indicating a steep slope with his hands]*, and *[then]* you get a two-inch rain. You get land like this, how much *[rain, actually]* does that land get? It doesn't get two inches. It may get



*[only]* half that *[about one inch of rain]* on there. So there's a lot of erosion away—especially when you don't have the grass on there to keep it *[from eroding]*. When that rain hits the grass, it disseminates and can sink in better than if it's just going to hit the ground. The rains are not *[as]* good anymore. Sometimes the rains are not bad *[poor]*—it's just we don't have a receptive grass *[cover]* to take *[accept]* it. I'm sorry if I diverge.

AB: That's exactly what we want to hear about.

RM: Can you think of specific places that you can recall right now that sort of—triggerring that response—where you notice big differences from when you were younger?

DS: I can say in the horse pasture *[of a sub-divided parcel of a dude ranch]* my folks built a house on. It was a horse pasture before they built it. *[This pasture contained an invasive, thorny bush called cat claw.]* And it just grew back as tremendous cat claw. Do you know what cat claw is? It's a thorny bush that's up about this high [knee high], and you can't walk through it. Those boots there *[you are wearing]* would be torn to shreds because of the cat claw. That kind of boot would be just shredded on that cat claw there. Well, we had a lot of cat claw, we still do. The fire [Los Encinos] came through and we lost our corrals and the barn there, right through, two summers ago. The cat claw's coming back. *[This is rangeland that had been overgrazed for fifty years before my parents bought it to build their home after they sold our ranch in Canelo.]*

AB: The fire didn't do a thing to it.

DS: No. We lost half the trees. We maybe lost sixty or eighty oak trees on the place, but no.

SM: Well the ash trees apparently respond the quickest after a fire. It'll be interesting to see if you get an increase in ash trees.

DS: Ash trees? Really? They're an invasive?

SM: That's what the Bocks [Jane & Carl Bock] were saying. You know, the Bocks that did all that research out there, for the Research Ranch?

DS: Oh yeah, in Elgin.

SM: Yeah. They're saying the ash will come back the fastest.

AB: The Arizona ash is a native, right?

SM: Right. Yes.

DS: I haven't seen it. I don't know what an ash tree looks like. We just had black oak.

AB: The ones right along the fence line at the fairgrounds, those are all ash trees.

DS: Oh, those trees.

AB: Yeah.

DS: So anyway, we let the cat claw.... The gramma grass was growing in among it, and the livestock were not eating it. And I was thinking, that's a source of seed for the rest of it, you know. We don't have Lehmann's lovegrass on the place. I'm happy. What I've also done is plant Sacaton [*grass*] down on the flat, to help reduce erosion. Are you familiar with Sacaton?

RM: Not intimately.

DS: Well, that's a grass you see in the lowlands. You'll see it on the Empire [*Ranch*] a lot. Hell to walk through. We had it for our milk cow up at the ranch at Canelo, and it's a good grass, but it's a coarse grass too, but they eat it. When it's early, it's not a bad feed. [*We fed grain and alfalfa hay daily anyway.*]

SM: Well now, it holds the soil really well, and it taps that deep water, but when do the cows eat it? Can they eat it when it's in spring, or when it's new?

DS: Well, I think when it's new. It even can get some greenness around it in the wintertime sometimes. It's hard to say. But they won't eat it if they can eat something easier, and gramma grass always was. As we said, talked about the slopes, you looked at the slopes, say, on the Empire Ranch, [*you see the rockiness in some angles of view, yet another angle the hills look rocky.*] Sort of like looking at people's hair—it looks good straight on, but if you look from [*another angle it looks sparse.*] Those hills were that way, a lot of rocks there, and thin grass. The soil's gone into the little gullies down below, and that's where the cows will find [*the best grass thus will overgraze it first*],

SM: Facts are facts.

DS: I just look at it. I have a deep love for this [*rangeland*]. But I see it, and it's tough. The other thing you were asking about—I'll get onto this—is people buying.... We see, as you go closer to town, little places all subdivided all the time, and trashier-looking all the time as well. Everybody then gets one or two horses—they moved out from the town. Well down in Sonoita, one horse could be supported on, say, 30 acres. But you have two or three horses or more, and they have a pile of rocks that they're walking around on you know, and you see that all the way around there too. That's some of the area that borders the whole Sonoita Valley watershed area. It's God-awful too.

SM: The ranchettes, you're talking about.

DS: Yeah, [*many of*] the ranchettes.

AB: Some of them are just terrible, the way people decimate the grass.

RM: You talked before about how, you know, you had so many rights of passage, growing up with ranching, and it helped you feel a little bit more responsible about yourself. Do you think that engaging youth in ranching again, to a similar degree, like

you were when you were younger, do you think that would increase awareness of some of these threats to the environment?

DS: I don't know if it would or not. People have pretty much formed their own opinion, especially if they get out in the country. They're pretty conservative, and conservative, in that sense, means they don't like to change their mindset. They're not open, necessarily, to people that have any knowledge. There's college people who don't know what they're talking about, and this and that. That's my own opinion. That's rather negative. I don't think so, if I were to go out.... I don't think I would even want to get in there. You'd have to do it right, and you have to have the resources. The one thing I'm happy about, though, is a lot of the big ranches that are being bought up are being kept open, and not divided, so there's some benefit to that.

SM: Working with today's ranching situation, you do have the UA and other scientists, and you do have the government agencies and land trust. Do you think that this collaboration is going to produce something to benefit the land?

DS: Well, I think we've got to keep pushing at it. Just like raising kids, you've got to keep after it all along—I think very much so. I'm not negative that way. I have negative feelings, but I think we've got to keep on going, and hopefully maybe some young people will absorb some of that stuff and be able to put it to use. But it all boils down a lot to economics, in the sense of is it yielding enough to give them a house, that car, that pickup, that trailer, and maybe a boat to go down to Guaymas once in a while? It all has to do with money in this country. That's it, right there.

SM: When I was in Iceland last summer, they have a program there to return young farmers to the land. It's a government subsidized program, and people have to commit to a decade. The young people have to commit to a whole decade to be part of the program and to try it.

DS: That's wonderful.

SM: I wonder if anything like that would work around here.

DS: I don't know, because, you know, I studied in Sweden, my wife is Swedish, and I speak Swedish, and we keep contact with the country and a lot of relatives there. Socialism is a bad word in this country. We use it [*socialism*] to get our mail, keep our roads, and everything else—and protection, we use socialism—but we don't like to use that word, “socialism.” And that's the trouble. And so I'm not sure. It's going to take a big [*change in*] mindset. I thought with Obama we were going to have a switch over a little bit—recognize blacks a little bit more, and this thing was going to go somewhere. And all of a sudden, of course, we're having a downspin right now. I hope I'm not stepping on toes, but I don't know, you kind of lose.... It's a we/they group of people out there, and you look at them and you say, kind of pick out who's “we” and who's “they.” It's a big chasm between that right now in the thinking. “Nobody's going to tell me what to do!” whether it's ... anything.

RM: Well, speaking of that, climate change is another term that is often polarizing in this climate—no pun intended. Even though scientists usually concur that it shouldn't be a polarizing topic, it's a fact. Have you noticed any impacts that climate change has had on stock animals?

DS: Well, it greatly reduces the numbers of cattle on the lands, I'm sure you know. Well, you're in the administrative part of that thing. I think you've had to drop the numbers [*of cattle grazing*] a great deal.

SM: Right. Grazing numbers, yes. Sometimes that is disguised not as climate change, but as vegetational change. We speak of the changing vegetation community. And part of the cause is climate change. Part of the cause is how people are using the land. But that does change the amount of cows, calves, a lot—or horses—has directly—you know, has to do with that state of the land, and how many they can feed. So yeah, there's an impact there, but it's not necessarily labeled "climate change."

DS: No. Again, like I said, if I bought my first Volkswagen for \$1,500 when we first got married, and now we bought a car for \$40,000-\$50,000, yet the price of cattle hasn't grown that much. If they've gone up, say, fivefold, the price of cars have gone up more, shirts have gone up more, even haircuts have gone up more. And that's the sad thing right there. Agriculture has not been able to increase the price of food. And the reason it hasn't, is politicians don't want it to. They want to keep the agriculture prices low, and so people have to abuse the land to get more money, I think, to keep up with their costs of living in a way—two jobs and all of that stuff, you know.

RM: Now one thing that sort of articulates with the growth of Southern Arizona is recreation.

DS: (aside about turning on the air conditioning) Okay, recreation?

RM: Yeah. So what role, if any, have you seen recreation play in altering the landscape with the Empire and the Cienega Valley?

DS: Well, I can say personally, from our own place, the place.... Our hills up there. Four-wheel-[drive] vehicles [*are*] all over that place, tearing it up, just churning away and ruining the grass. The Empire is probably much the same. I haven't really gone out and searched the trails and all, but people just go down that road with their trailers loaded up with two or three vehicles, and you know what they're doing out there. And yes, I think.... But again, that's public land, "it's my right!" Well, we lose the responsibility in this country. I hate to say it, but in Sweden, people feel more responsible, whether it's healthcare or everything. Is it good for the land or the people? Not good for me? No, it's what's good for our country. And that's not an attitude that we have right now. Maybe some of us do have it—many of us do. But I don't think it's a predominant thing. "I want to do what I want to do!" And so I see that every time I go down to the Empire, I see trailers coming out of there, four-wheel-[drive] vehicles coming out. I don't know how they've left it there, but I can just imagine. That land is pretty fragile.

RM: So when you were younger, there was more of a sense of stewardship amongst the ranching community?

DS: Everybody took care of their own place, and they thought they did a pretty good job. It's just when prices started going up on everything, that I think the tendency is to make more out of it out there. And let's face it, when you think about it, we had four or five boys in our family. None of us stayed in ranching. We had to go out. We couldn't afford to stay ranching and that sort of thing. We had to get out, and three of the five of us are doctors, you know, because we knew what you had to do. So I think economics has a lot to play with that.

RM: So you enjoy drawing and painting, I understand.

DS: Oh yeah, I do. I'll show you.

RM: Sure. What subjects do you most enjoy drawing and painting?

DS: Oh, I do most anything that looks interesting and fun and difficult. I just love it. I just finished that etching there. That's my wife's family beginning from Switzerland, they had that castle.... Her last name is Gruyere, and that's Gruyere right there, that castle, and I just made that from my trip over there last summer *[with a daughter and two grown granddaughters]*. That *[etching of a Charolais]* bull in France, I did that. I like most anything that's good. I just finished doing *[an etching of]* a saddle bronc woman from Miles City, Montana. She's a Crow Indian, and I just finished doing a little portrait of her. I'll show it to you. Just fun things I do.

DS: And I make a few saddles here and there. Once a year I make one. And then braiding rawhide. I'm soaking some rawhide out now for tomorrow at the Empire. . My first hide I got when I was twelve years of age. A cowboy had rawhide strung out behind our cowboy house, so I kind of had an affinity to do that. And I've done that quite a bit *[the last thirty years]*. Just had a fellow from Mexico, just came through here, making a delivery of a new bed, and he saw my rawhide out there and he said, "Oh, I do rawhide too." And he showed me some of his work. I have traveled around doing it quite a bit, down to Texas and *[A&M University, Oklahoma State University, Wyoming, Nevada, New Mexico, Mexico. I have given many workshops and reata braiding demonstration for over 25 years now]*.

RM: Oh really?

AB: Did that cowboy teach you, the one that...?

DS: *[No.]*He started me. *[But it took years to take the time because of family, veterinary practice, and raising cattle.]*

AB: Did pretty much everybody do a lot of braiding?

DS: No. No, the Hispanic people did, but no, not the Anglos.

AB: Not the ranchers?

DS: No, I don't think so.

RM: And you say you travel pretty often, braiding?

DS: Tomorrow at the Empire. Then I have Tucson Meet Yourself coming up in October. I have the Empire Ranch Roundup in November. I've got another demonstration at the King Ranch in Texas in November. [*Then one at the Heritage Center at New Mexico State University in March 2020.*] And then I have the Tumacacori Festival the first week in December. That's just what I have left. I do five or six a year, going here and there. It's fun doing it. I'm meeting people. I'm looking at the rangeland too and talking to these old cowboys that I've gotten to know, and it's really fun. It really is fun. I get more out of it than they do.

RM: The last question that I really have for you right now is what do you want to see the watershed look like in, say, the next fifty to a hundred years? What sort of has to happen, from your experience and your professional opinion, to make that vision happen?

DS: It's always hard, I think. You have to tread lightly, because anytime you're dealing with the public, decisions have to be a cooperative thing, and getting cooperation entirely is not easy—just like these hearings of Trump and all that. Everything is tiptoeing around to still keep people from getting rebellious about things, even though maybe it should be. So I think what you've been helping a lot with down there is, as good as we can do, right now. Can we do better? I don't know. It's up to the people, more so than the administration, I think—unless you get more policemen out there. I don't know about that. You can't just do that. It's got to be.... I guess keep pushing the respect for the land, and cooperation like that. I think the Empire [Ranch] Foundation has helped out a lot, in making a lot of people aware of things.

SM: I think so.

DS: Yeah, I think that's helped out a great deal, keeping this grassroots [*education going.*] I think we have to do that, and I think that's been very helpful while Alison and I have been there—I think it has been helpful. I hope you feel that way. [*We have had great volunteer participation in all phases of the Empire Ranch Foundation.*]

AB: Absolutely.

DS: And we had the [*annual Legacy Day*] in the spring, which we didn't have this year, with [*two middle*] schools coming out from where my daughter teaches [*in Elgin plus now from Patagonia.*] We teach them how to make adobe bricks, or braid rawhide, or make biscuits, or roping, or archaeology, and range management. We've had the University [*of Arizona*] out every year, and teach the kids about what's the difference between a weed and a grass, etc. So they go out and they plot this land, and we say, "Let's count all the vegetation in this little area, and keep score on it." And we'll talk about, "That's not a weed, that's a grass. And what is it? Is it a good plant or a bad plant?" So

these kind of little things, I think, even though it's a small way, I think still may make a little bit of difference to those kids.

RM: Reaching out to younger people is a great way to make an impression, right?

DS: Oh yeah, I think so. I think the Empire has helped a lot for youth, and with Gail's [Corkill] program when it was going on.

AB: Uh-huh.

SM: Are there some public policies that you'd like to see put in place?

DS: I hadn't thought about that. I'm not sure. People just don't like regulations, do they?

SM: Not much.

DS: Yeah. And that becomes a problem. We're just not willing to accept these kind of things that are good for the general public—we're not. We're not there yet. Will we ever get there? I don't know. Slowly but surely, maybe so. But I mean we can't even get people to cooperate with healthcare, which is affecting all of us, one way or another, whether you like it or not. I don't know, it's hard to say, Shela. I wish I could say five things that I'd like to see done. I really can't say that I do know that. I hadn't thought about that too much. What do you think?

SM: Well, I like some of the things that you've said about youth involvement, because if they don't get it then, a few of them might learn something later on, but.... I like that approach—let's tie them back to the land. I think there's a failure that we've done—at least my nonprofit group and other nonprofit groups. We've left some of the people behind who are living in Elgin and Sonoita: the community involvement and the environmental education for all those people who moved there, who don't know that it takes thirty acres for a horse. I think we've got to pick up that area and do some more environmental education.

DS: Yeah. My daughter's not real enthusiastic about the conservative attitude of the population around the Sonoita area. She works with the youth in Patagonia that *[have many disadvantages in life (i.e. alcohol & drug abuse and other social dysfunction.)]* There's a nice group of people that do care around Sonoita—I remember that.. I think a summer program that's put on by some agency to get kids out during the summertime. Getting them into some sort of an activity that would be educational and fun at the same time. It takes a lot of people, it takes a lot of money, but we spend a hell of a lot of money on worthless things. I think young people is where it all begins, really.

SM: Yeah, that'd be good.

DS: That would be my main suggestion, but that's not an easy deal, but I think we have to do it. I think we have to do it. We're moving too fast, and a little bit out of control, speeding ahead. So unfortunately, I think that's.... And most of it is digital stuff right

now for the kids. That's the fun thing for them. And that's pretty shallow, in many ways, I think.

SM: Well, we have to connect those digital skills with something on the land. Like you said, let's take the digital and let's have them record the weeds and pull up pictures of weeds. Let's connect those two.

DS: I remember when I was a boy in 4-H, I got a lot out of 4-H. One demonstration put on by other 4-H kids, they had three plots of soil, about like this. One had grass on it, one had not much grass, and the other had hardly any, and they sprinkled water on it, and looked at the *[collecting]* jar down below each patch to see. That was a pretty graphic to tell kids what erosion is happening, and why erosion is occurring here, and why didn't it occur over here *[in the grassy plot?]* Those are very basic things, but adults *[often]* don't appreciate that. And that's not just in Arizona, that's everywhere.

AB: Well, we want to thank you very much for your time.

DS: Well, thank you.

AB: It's exactly the kind of information we wanted about the changes in the landscape, because it helps us understand what, if anything, needs to be done, what we can focus on.

DS: It's a big job, isn't it?

SM: Yes.

DS: I don't envy you. I admire your recording and presenting, and your pushing and administrating. That's tough. Not a very popular thing. I don't think I'd want to be in regulatory stuff. Always unpopular, you know.

SM: I'm kind of glad I retired too.

DS: *[Speaking of regulatory work,]* I remember testing cattle in Tennessee for Bang's disease and brucellosis and tuberculosis, and coming around *[to those mountain towns.]* Those people out there on those farms in Tennessee in the hills, they didn't welcome you to come. "You're a regulator, you know. You're looking at what I'm doing, and this is my land, my property."

SM: That's right.

AB: Well, I'm going to turn this off. [END OF INTERVIEW]

***Postscript:***

*The knowledge I have had both as a youngster, as an inquisitive college student, as a veterinarian, and a stock raiser has given me a greater insight into the effects of humans on the land.*



*Cattle raising and health care of animals had made me very sensitive to the management of the ranch land. The desert landscape is a very fragile one. In the wetter climate I have seen in western Washington State I have seen plant rejuvenation yet areas in the Cienega Watershed Area still show the scars of misuse in that native grasses have not returned in areas where no grazing has occurred in the past 50 years. One cannot just replant where the thin layer of topsoil has been eroded away. So unfortunate!!*