

TAPE K-105 SIDES A & B
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH BOB KIRCHNER

Date: July 11, 1979

Interviewer: Connie Fahnestock

SIDE A

On July 11, 1979, Bob Kirchner, son-in-law of Darst E. Buchanan, owner of Hiwan Ranch, chatted with Connie Fahnestock of Jefferson County Historical Society about the family, the ranch, land development and Evergreen as he knew them after his marriage to Barbara Buchanan, youngest of the three Buchanan daughters, in 1944.

During the war, Barbara Kirchner and her sister Joan Goodale shared a house in Denver while their husbands served in the navy and marines.

Betty (the other Buchanan daughter) and her husband John Casey lived behind Hiwan Lodge. John, a Texan with ranching experience, managed Hiwan Ranch. Barbara Buchanan was the only daughter to live in Evergreen during her youth. When she attended high school in Evergreen, she stayed with the Caseys because her parents had not as yet transferred from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Buchanan purchased 1,100 acres from the Douglas heirs. Soon, Hiwan holdings extended almost to Central City. Then Buchanan gave up ranching for cattle breeding. Hiwan became one of the top-five Registered Hereford ranches in the USA. The Hiwan cattle drive down Highway 40 from Central City to Evergreen was a tourist attraction.

Darst Buchanan was Federal Petroleum Coordinator under Harold Ickes in the Interior Department. He was a successful, self-made man. He was the American Petroleum Industry representative to the International Petroleum Congress in Paris in 1938. Mrs. Buchanan spent most of her time at Hiwan while her husband traveled.

In 1946, the Kirchners returned to Evergreen. Bob became bookkeeper for Hiwan Ranch's Registered Hereford business and with 4 friends, bought the Evergreen Lumber Company (which included a sawmill) on Cub Creek Road. The Lumber Company built small houses in Douglas Park. After a year Bob went to work selling municipal bonds for the Boettcher Company. In 1952 he started his own firm.

Hiwan Ranch was a limited family partnership. Hiwan Development started in 1954 to handle development of Hiwan Hills.

SIDE B

Mrs. Buchanan was a schoolteacher and Mr. Buchanan a Frisco Railroad timekeeper, both from Springfield, MO. He had only an 8th grade education. He found a job with an oil refinery in Oklahoma. Eventually he became involved with the Hanlon Pipeline as Hanlon Buchanan. There were two other companies. In 1945, they sold out to the

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Warren Petroleum Corp. Buchanan retired from the oil business before he went into ranching and cattle breeding.

By 1949, Buchanan had quit the Hereford business and become president of Hackethorn Manufacturing Co. Buchanan disagreed with the company's purchasing practices. Finally, Hackethorn moved to Dyersburg, Ten. Darst Buchanan was magnetic, affable, a great raconteur, he learned business skills as he went along.

Kirchner believes that there's no way to measure what Hiwan Development Co. has done for Evergreen.

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