

OH 550/23 - Interview with Vern and Fay Hallam

TAPE 4, SIDE B - The irrigation system

Ok, so we're talking about the processes of irrigation, so starting off with the hand watering.

Vern We planted the citrus in August 1948 and that was done and that had to be hand watered with the trucks and we had to continue with that process until we were given our allocation of portable lines. And I don't know when that happened, but it would have been I should say after Christmas, well after Christmas and in the meantime when I was issued with vines and I planted them out in the irrigation. You irrigated the furrow, put in the vines and kept irrigating down that furrow. And after about four years with this portable line irrigation we went to the fixed irrigation, not entirely but we were given a patch of fixed irrigation so that we could water that at night and get a break because the average from memory, well it was with my block, I had four portable lines and you would run three at once and then after a certain period of time you would turn one off and turn the lay-by line on. You would change that line, turn it on, turn the next one off and you would rotate like that through the night. It was pretty hard because you can't very well tell you body that you had better take it easy and get a nap because you would be working all night, so virtually you worked right through. You would do your ordinary work in the day, you would irrigate all night and catch a couple of hours sleep and then do the work that had to be done during the next day. That went on for several years.