

# ROCKY FLATS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

A special collection of the Maria Rogers Oral History Program  
Boulder Public Library's Carnegie Branch Library for Local History

## THE HISTORY OF THE ROCKY FLATS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT...ONLINE

The Rocky Flats Special Collection is a group of more than 150 oral histories, conducted from the late 1990s to 2011, that focus in-depth on the history of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant.

Initially the plant was greeted as a boon to the regional economy. Workers at all levels flocked to the plant: it was at the leading edge of nuclear science, and it offered excellent pay, opportunity, and a patriotic purpose. Because of high security, outsiders knew little about the plant. Starting in the early 1970s, following a serious fire in 1969, Rocky Flats became a focus of media attention; environmental, peace and community-safety activism; as well as community and political controversy. In 1989, it was raided by the FBI for alleged environmental crimes, and production was halted. Production was officially ended in 1992 and cleanup continued until 2006.

## THE INTERVIEWS

Included in this collection are interviews with a broad range of persons and covering a broad range of topics:

- Current and former workers, including production workers, managers, union members, and whistleblowers talk about their work
- Peace and environmental activists and community members discuss their concerns and details of their activism
- Regulators and politicians discuss oversight of the plant and the cleanup
- Details of work at the plant are disclosed, such as working in gloveboxes, the camaraderie of workers, fighting radioactive fires, avoiding criticality accidents, contamination incidents, and adapting to high security and health regulations.



Rocky Flats interviews were conducted by Dorothy Ciarlo, Hannah Nordhaus, LeRoy Moore, and Nancy Nachman-Hunt.

Access full audio, video, and transcripts online at  
<http://oralhistory.boulderlibrary.org/collection/rfnwp>

