

2/4/86

Fred Stones interview with Cliff and Hazel Alderson, 409 W. Geneseo

Cliff, we appreciate your help in letting us come up here and talk to you and we would like to have some of your experiences and recollections of how the town was and what things have transpired since you've lived here in Lafayette. Where were you born, Cliff? I was born in Verden, Illinois on the first day of March, 1907. When did you come to Lafayette? I came to Lafayette in either April or May in 1908. When I was born, my mother contracted tuberculosis and the doctor advised my Dad to get her away from Illinois and suggested he bring her to a dry climate like Colorado and suggested Boulder. So, Dad came to Boulder and brought my Mother and left me there with my two grandmothers and my Mother got along real good after they came to Boulder and in about five or six months, they decided that they were gonna have to live out here so he left her out here and he came back to Illinois where we had a house and furniture and he sold the house and furniture and brought my Mother's Mother, my Grandmother, and I out here and I was about six months old at that time. And I've lived in Colorado ever since. Have you lived in Lafayette ever since? No, at that time, there was a money panic. I don't know whether you remember history about 1907 and Dad came out there and he was working in a clothing store when they got married but he couldn't get a job like that and he finally got a job in Boulder as conductor on the street car. He worked on this street car for something to do and he had to have a livelihood and he got acquainted with Rienharts because he was in that business and he made acquaintance with them and he asked for a job but they didn't have any openings. So, anyway, it wasn't too long until they had an opening there and he went to work at Rienharts and quit the street car. Then he heard from a salesman that came over there that there was a store here in Lafayette and the fella wanted to sell it so Dad came over and looked at it and he didn't have enough money to buy it so he went over and talked to Mr. Rienhart and Mr. Rienhart told him that he would go in partners with him. So, Dad and Mr. Rienhart bought this store in Lafayette. I don't remember the name; I did know the name of the name of the store and the fella he bought out but I can't recall it right now. But, anyway, Dad bought the shoes and Mr. Rienhart bought the rest of the stuff and he run the place and he got a commission on the other stuff that he sold. The shoes were his and the other stuff was Mr. Rienhart's. It worked that way until I think it was 1917 or 1918 when my Dad bought him out at that time. Dad was in the store and operated the store until he passed away. Of course, I grew up in the store and I used to work in it on Saturdays at times, but not steady, until 1926. It must have been 1927 when I got out of school, I went to D.U. a year and at that time, he bought that store in Louisville. I was going to school down at D.U. and I was workin' at the store here and he bought that store and he was a little hard up and he was borrowin' money - he had to borrow money to keep these two places going at that time. I says, "Well, I'll work this year until you're better financially fixed and I'll go to school next year". Well, next year never came; I didn't go back to school. I was in the store continually from there on until I sold out in 1972. You can't recall who he bought the from? Oh, I can't tell you the name right now; I did know. It may come to me later but I can't remember right now. Where was the location of the store then? The location of the store is right down there where the buildings are now. It was, well it would be 422 East Simpson Street. In other words, that's where the old Public Service used to be. That's right. Before they moved down on the corner; it was there for a lot of years, wasn't it in that building? That's right.

Well, you see the Public Service used to be up across from where Roberts Grocery Store was and then we had the fire there and the building was burned in 1933. Your building? Yes, that's the west end of the building that burned clear down to that point there. We rebuilt them and when we rebuilt them, we moved up to 418. We took that room up there for the store and then rented that other to Public Service and they were there for quite a few years. Then we remodeled the one down on the corner and moved down there and then Public Service moved up where we were.

You went to school here in Lafayette? I went to school here; I started to Kindergarten here in that big two story school that was there on Baseline.

My Mother passed away in 1917; I was ten years old. My Grandmother stayed here and Dad had a housekeeper. Then he got married in, I think he got married in 1920.. I was going to school here and so forth and so on; I was a teenager and well, I kinda resented my step-mother a little, I guess and she kinda resented me; she'd never had any children of her own. Anyway, I think to solve the problem, they talked me into going to Military School. I went down to St. John's Military School and I graduated from high school there. Now where was that? Salina, Kansas. Oh, Salina, Kansas. I graduated in 1926.

What are your memories of the old wooden grade school? Well, I've got a lot of memories of Lafayette and grade school when I was a kid. We had the 1910 strike here, as you might know. I wasn't very old but I can remember it very distinctly. I can remember that there were the scabs and the rednecks. The scabs worked and the rednecks didn't, you know; they were the strikers. Anyway, it got into the schools and some kid would call another's Dad a scab and the other would call his a redneck and I'll tell you there were a lot of kids that had fistfights in those days around this town. You had to be pretty tough to survive. There were a lot of foreign people; there were Greeks and Bulgarians and just a mixture of everything here at that time. They all came over from the Old Country and went to work in the mines. I can remember the time when they had almost a thousand people working down here at this Simpson Mine. They had 650 hand loaders at one time. They had that Simpson Camp down there and had a lot of houses down there and it was full of kids. Is that what they called Gooseberry Gulch? No, Gooseberry Gulch was down there where the old pickle factory was along Emma Street. Where was Simpson Camp? Just right around the mine there, just south and west of the mine; it went clear down to Emma Street. There were a lot of houses in there then they put that big fence up there during the strike. I can remember we used to live down there on Cleveland Street right back of where our store was.

George Moon used to drive a delivery wagon for the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, the company store, and I was a kid in those days, probably five, six, seven years old, I don't know how old, but about that and he had one horse and George and I were good friends and I used to know when he was goin' and I'd go over there and get George to take me. He'd let me up on the seat and let me hold the reins and I'd drive the horse and that old horse knew where he was goin'; I didn't have to drive him. We used to go down to the Simpson Camp and of course George could get in, you know and they'd let me in. There was a Bulgarian boarding house down there where he'd deliver every day. They had a cook down there and I used to look forward to it because he had something for me to eat every time I went down there. I remember that and I used to go down to the Standard and the Vulcan; he used to make all these and George and I were pretty good buddies.

Just for the tape here, you mentioned a fence around the Simpson Mine, tell us why they put the fence there. Well, the fence was there to keep the scabs in and the rednecks out, I guess. They didn't want 'em to get mixed up. I know they shipped a lot of those scabs in here in box cars. The railroad used to run from Louisville down here. They tell the story, I don't know whether it's true or not, of course I didn't see it - they shipped a bunch of scabs in here one time and the rednecks or the strikers knew that they were shippin' 'em in and they got along side the track and when they came down there with this box car why they just opened up with rifles at those scabs in the box car. Well, they just kept a comin'; they came on down into the bullpen there and of course, after they got down in there why they couldn't shoot at them. Everyone wondered what happened right at the time. They found out what happened. The Company knew there was going to be some trouble; they thought they might take a shot at 'em and they laid railroad ties on the inside of that box car and they had all those guys lay down on the floor. The bullets were stopped by the railroad ties and no one got hurt in the whole deal.

Are you familiar with the Standard Mine? Can you tell us a little bit about the Standard? The Standard was another Rocky Mountain Fuel Company mine. It was down there on the creek. That's about all I can tell you. It was just like all the rest of the mines. Have you any idea how many men were working there? Well, it wasn't near as big a mine as the Simpson. The Simpson wasn't a Rocky Mountain Fuel mine? Yes, it was their main mine. Oh, I didn't know that; I didn't realize that. When the Simpson worked out, then they started to open Columbine over here. The Columbine took the place of the Simpson. And the Vulcan? The Vulcan Mine was about like the Standard. It was Rocky Mountain Fuel Company too? Oh yes, and the Mitchell. The Mitchell, now was the one over north of town. Yeah, uh-huh. And then they had the Monarch over by Superior. Then there were other mines, there was the Strathmore down here and the old Blue Goose mine and all those at that time. The Black Diamond was started after all those were gone.

Can you tell me about the businesses that were up and down Simpson Street; when you were little? Well, at one time, we had, I think, I talked to Ham Roberts about it, and he assured me that we had eleven grocery stores. And the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, they had a big store; they had dry goods and shoes and groceries and meat market and hardware and what not. And George Bermont had practically the same thing; he didn't the meats, but he had the groceries and dry goods and he had farm implements; he was the International Harvester dealer at that time. Of course, it was McCormick-Deering at that time. And there was Earl Burns, he had a stock of shoes and dry goods and groceries, etc. There was the old Franz store that burned down. It burned down, it must have been 1912 or 13 during the strike. I remember the Militia was in here at that time. He had groceries, hardware and dry goods. Then there was Cousins Store; Orpha Hubbard ran it. There was a full stock of dry goods. Mrs. Kettle, up there where Iva was, she had a dry goods store - dresses and ready to wear, etc. And Tom Johns up on the highway. And Lee Baker, up on the highway, he had a grocery store. Then the union had a store here, a union store at one time. I think Bill Moon used to run that. That's at the 400 block of Simpson Street on the west side of the street there. It burned down when the Weber Garage burned down. I don't remember what year that was; it must have been before 1920.

So, that goes back a long time. Yeah. Can you tell me a little bit about the bank there on the corner of Simpson? Yeah, I can. That bank was the First National Bank, the only bank we had here at that time. During the strike, there was a lot of shooting around here. There was a lot of anything - just anything could happen. But anyway, I don't know, that must have been the Wobbly Strike, though, yeah, that's when that was because that must have been in the late '20s. Anyway, there was a night cop by the name of George Stubbs; the merchants hired him. He would patrol the streets all by himself, an old fella. But anyway, that night, we heard several explosions and I thought it was the strikers that were doin' somethin', I didn't know. Dad thought the same thing; we all got up and looked out the window and couldn't figger what it was. Dad knew this George Stubbs real well and he says, "I'm afraid George might get hurt or got hurt; I think I better go up there and see what's goin' on". So he got dressed, and there was shooting around, you know, or there had been. He had a deer rifle there and he said, "I think I'll take that with me". So he put that in his hand and started up the street and I said to him (I must have been 15,16 years old, or 17, I don't know), "Dad, I'm gonna go with you". He said, "No, you're not, you're liable to get shot". Well, anyway, I didn't. My stepmother and I stood at the window and watched him walk up the middle of the road and he got up just to the alley or a little past why we heard shooting start and we could see the fire from the guns over there, up the alley and, by gosh, these guys were shootin' at him. Dad started to run. We never saw him after they shot because I think their shooting attracted our attention from him. But, anyway, he ran and he had the keys to the store and he went in the front door of the store. Well, when that happened, I jumped and got my pants on and my shirt and I says, "I'm goin' up town". So I took off up town and I was working in the store then and I had a key to the store and I thought, "Well, I'll go in here; maybe he's in here". I went to unlock the door and the door was unlocked. I just went in and turned the lights on and no one was in there. I looked around and walked back of the counter, the front counter, and there was a bunch of blood there. I thought, "Oh, my God, he's been shot, where is he?". I looked all around and I couldn't find him. By that time, a fella and my stepmother showed up and I told her what I found and boy, we were having a time; we couldn't figure it and a few people began to accumulate around there and we told them what had happened so everyone began to look for him. Someone said, "I wonder if they kidnaped him?" "Someone said the bank had been blown up so maybe the robbers kidnaped him." Anyway we walked out the back of the store there and were talking around there and Dr. Braden's wife was gone and he was at his office there. He heard us all talking out there and he opened the back door and he said, "What in the world is going on out here?" We said "Well, the bank's been robbed and Jake's been shot. We find blood but we can't find him. And he says, "Well, he's in here. Yeah, he's been shot, but he's in here". He says, "He's all right, though, he's just been shot in the leg". So I says, "Can I come in and see him?" He says, "Well, sure come on in". Doc had his pajamas on. I went in there and he had Dad layin' on the table in there. He'd been shot right through the thick part of the leg. The bullet went in and came clear out. It didn't break the bone, though? Didn't hit the bone; just hit the flesh and the bullet went in and came right straight on out. I remember he took a probe and a piece of gauze and he stuck it clear through there and came out the other side and he said, "I want to do that because I want it to heal from the inside, I don't want it to heal from the outside, in, - I want it to drain." Anyway, they blew up the bank and they dropped quite a bit of money in that alley. A lot of people were looking

for money. Did they ever catch the bank robbers? Never did find them. Never found them? The bank went on, though, and operated? Oh yes, yes. Can you tell me what happened when it finally closed? When the bank closed? When the bank closed. Well, that was during the depression days in the '30s. I know we were in the store there with Dad and I know we had a bunch of checks out that we paid for supplies with, you know, goods that we bought. They returned the checks because they wouldn't cash them. Some of the people wrote nice letters and some wrote kind of nasty letters and it was a little tough time for everybody because he just couldn't walk to the bank - they weren't very happy about making a loan at that time. Everyone just did the best they could, that's all. Then what happened in the town then when the bank went broke and there was no bank in town, how did you take care of your business? We had to go to Boulder or some other bank; Erie - there was a bank in Erie or Louisville or anywhere there was a bank - Denver. We just had to go where the bank was. How long was Lafayette without a bank? Oh, it must have been without a bank for 20 years. Which made it quite hard for people to do any business then? Well, it wasn't so bad, we kinda tried to take advantage of it and we cashed a lot of checks. We made it a point to have money on hand to cash checks because it brought people into the store. We used to, on paydays, cash a lot of checks and people got used to coming and it helped our business. We tried to cash in on this but it was kind of a risky thing and we had to drive a lot of miles because we had to drive back and forth to the bank every day or two.

You mentioned Dr. Braden; will you tell me a little bit about the medical profession and the dental profession? Well, Dr. Braden was a fine old gentleman. He had a daughter, Blanche, who was a little older than I. He was a real soft-spoken fella. He had a lot of people that liked him. Then there was Dr. Porter. He was the mine doctor for the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. They checked off, I think a dollar or dollar and a half a pay or a month, for each one and he furnished them ordinary services at no charge. That was Dr. Porter? Dr. Porter. And before that, he had a partner by the name of Dr. Lyda. Then they separated for some reason. But Dr. Porter was here for a good many years. Dr. Braden passed away before Dr. Porter did. He had pretty good medical facilities. We had dentists, of course. Dr. Miller was here; the first one I remember. He sold out to Dr. Hurt, whom you knew, I know. There was another dentist over the Bermont Store; I can't think of his name right now. He wasn't there too long. The three main medical men, then, were Dr. Porter and Dr. Braden and Dr. Hurt for a lot of years? Year, and Dr. Miller; he was here before Dr. Hurt. Let me ask you this about Bermont Store; you mentioned Dr. Miller was upstairs what else was upstairs? No, Dr. Miller wasn't up there; this other dentist was upstairs. Dr. Miller was up over the Company Store. That was where Dr. Hurt was for a while? Yes, and then Dr. Hurt moved across there where the Weber Garage burned down and they built that new building; he moved up there; or Dr. Miller moved up there and then he bought him out.

What was up in the top of the Bermont Store? Well, there was that dentist and some rooms up there, vacant rooms, is all I ever remember. He didn't use that as a store, then? No, they must have, someone lived in those rooms before I can remember, but I never remember anyone ever living up there. I've asked two or three people about that and nobody knew what was upstairs. There were just those vacant rooms and that dentist.

At one time, you went in business with Wilbur Johns; can you tell me a little bit about that? Oh, yes, I remember that. Well, I started in the appliance business after the war in 1946 and hired Bill Johns to work for me and Bill ran the place. Then I had another fella, I can't think what his name was; and John Chisholm, he worked for me in the shop. I operated that until about 1950. Who did you sell out to? I sold out to, what was that mail carrier's name that used to carry mail? Oh, from Broomfield? No, he lived in Erie. I can't think of his name now. I can't think of it either.

Let's go back a little bit farther now. We talked a little bit about you going to school in the old schoolhouse. How about your high school? Well, I went to school in my Junior and Sophomore years in high school here and then I went to St. John's Military School. Do you remember some of your teachers? Well, I remember my kindergarten teacher; her name was Miss Cluff. I remember her and I had a lot of others that I just can't place a name. I remember in high school there was a fella by the name of Carhart and a McCreedy and then there, oh what was that professor's name? Maris. Mr. Maris was there for quite a while; that's the first principal or superintendent I remember. Was the high school built, essentially, the way it was before they started remodeling all of it at that time? Well, I was probably in fifth or sixth grade when they built on a addition on the back of it. And they had the gym up there, the basketball hall.

Who were some of the kids you went to school with? Very few of them that are around anymore. Well, Earl Wrather, I remember; Earl and I went to D.U. together. Then there's Harry Noble and Boots Noble and Les Knell and Fred Autrey and there was Ponzo and Ted Williams. Gosh, Henry Morrison and there was a bunch of girls too. Of course, I didn't pay any attention to the girls in those days. But there all pretty near gone; there's very few left. Boots is here; Elmo Lewis is here and that's about the only ones I can think of I went to school with. Ken Brown was a little behind you? Ken Brown, I'm older than Ken, yes. How about Carl Williams? End of Side 1.

## Side 2

Tell me, when were you married? When was I married? Well I was married on February 12, 1933. And who did you marry? I married Hazel Graham. Her folks used to live here. She farmed here and they lived down on the old Hayt place <sup>700 E Emma</sup> and the old Morrison place. When her and I got married, they were living up at Wellington, I believe, or Fort Collins, I'm not sure which.

How many children did you have? Two children. Clifford, my son, was born first and then four years after, Beverly was born. Can you tell me a little bit about what has happened to Clifford? Well, Cliff graduated from high school here; played football and basketball here. He went to C.U. Graduated from C.U. and he was in the R.O.T.C. and he went into the Air Force. He took pilot's training down in Texas and Oklahoma. He first took his pilot's training in Texas and then went to Oklahoma and took training in the multi-engine school. Then he went to Biloxi, Mississippi and he stayed down there three years and he was flying mult-engine craft there. Then he was about to resign and try to get a job with the airlines and his orders came that they were transferring him to Europe so his wife and him talked it over and they said, "Well, let's go to

Europe and let Uncle Sam pay for our expenses over there and we'll get to see Europe". So they went to Europe for three years and he was stationed at Frankfurt, Germany most of the time. While he was there, he was in the Air-o-Vac Unit and he flew a hospital ship there. They carried one doctor and I think two nurses and 16 litter patients, the plane would. They could perform minor surgery on the plane. They covered all of Europe and part of Africa. When he came back to the United States, they asked him where he would like to be and he said he wanted to go to Colorado Springs down at the Air Academy. Well, they didn't have any openings there so they sent him up to Denver, at Lowry. Then he became General Anderson's private pilot and personal aide. He stayed there until General Anderson retired and he decided he was going to get out of the Air Force and go to the commercials so he went with United Air Lines. Is he still with United? He's still with United Air Lines and he's now co-pilot on DC 10s. Where does he live? He lives in Parker, well just outside of Parker. How many children does he have? He has two children, a boy and a girl. The girl is the oldest; she lives in Texas. She's married. The boy is not married. He finished college in Greeley and he's now working down at the Tech Center in Denver and he's with a brokerage outfit; he's a broker down there, selling stocks and bonds.

Tell me a little bit about Beverly. Beverly is in Broomfield. She married David Hennings and they got divorced. They had two children, Ronda and Deanne. Ronda's living down there in Westlake now and she has two children. And DeeDee is in Gunnison but she isn't married and she's going to school over there now and working at Safeway.

Did you have any military experience? No, only in the school. Well, I was called and took my examination in World War II and I was supposed to report for active duty just at the time of the armistice and they sent me a notice not to report that the war was over so I came that close to going. It worked out just right. Yes, I didn't go.

Have you had any accidents in your life? Not any serious accidents, no. It's been more or less a tranquil life for you here in Lafayette? Yes, I think so. I've enjoyed my life here a lot and I've done a lot of things. I always liked to fish and I liked to hunt and I still do, but I can't do it like I used to do it. My wife and I had a lot of trips. I've taken several trips to Mexico and done fishing down in Mexico. After I sold out and retired, my wife and I and two other couples went to Alaska and spent a whole summer. Tell us a little bit about that. Well, that was a nice trip. We drove; we had three pickups and two campers on and the other pickup pulled a trailer and hauled a boat. So, we had one boat and three couples so we kept the boat pretty busy. We caught a lot of fish and had a real enjoyable time. We traveled all over Alaska. We left here the 15th of June and got home the first of September. So you were up there all summer. We were there all summer. Was that before it became a state? No, it was a state; we went on the Al-Can Highway. That was in 1968. How were the roads up there? Well, you've driven gravel roads around here and you swear at 'em a little, don't you? At that time, there was 1423 miles of gravel roads. It gets kinda old. When they built that Al-Can Highway, you see, they built that during the war and it was an emergency. They were more interested in getting traffic over it than anything else and getting it completed so when they came to a hill, they didn't take a cut out

of it, they just went over it. So it went up and down like that and a person shouldn't drive over 40 miles an hour. It was all gravel and rocks and you'd hit a dusty spot then you'd hit a boggy spot. Well, we all three got our windshields broke out on that highway going up there; the other cars were throwing rocks at you. You'd meet a car, and you know how they throw rocks. And those guys that were driving those trucks, you know, they got paid by the mile up there. They were driving those big Kenworths and so forth and they didn't care for nothin', only to get there. When you'd see one of them coming, you'd just want to stop and roll up your windows and put your arm up like that and that's just about the way it was. Since that, I've been up there three times but I've always flown up there. My son's grandson and I got passes on United and we'd fly up there and go fishin'. And I enjoyed that.

You and your Dad used to hunt together, didn't you? Yeah, we did. Where did you go hunting? Mostly in North Park. We used to hunt deer. I haven't hunted deer for years but I have hunted elk quite a bit. I still go up there, I like that and I've hunted over near Gunnison. I've hunted all over the state. I went up in Wyoming moose hunting several times. Oh, I've done a lot of huntin'; I love to hunt.

Tell me, do you have any hobbies now? Hobbies? Yeah, I have hobbies. I like to do woodworking. I've got two lathes in the basement, jig saw and sanders and all that kind of stuff. Well, those lamp tables, I made those. I've made some copies of antique chairs and restored furniture and things like that. So you keep yourself busy? I keep busy and I still own those buildings down there and I try to do the maintenance work on them. And I have that house that's the old home place that I was raised in down on Cleveland Street - I own that and I rent it and I try to keep it up and I try to keep this one up. So, I've got all to do I want to do.

At one time, you were on the City Council, if I remember right. I served three terms on the City Council and I filled in a vacancy one time. I saw a lot of action when I was on the City. We had the first swimming pool in town - we inherited that swimming school when I was on the Council. Dr. Braden was the engineer of that; he was the mayor. There were several factions in town and there was quite a bit of dissatisfaction. The City Council decided to lease it to the Fire Department to get it off their back and we did and then we finally all wound up in court over it two or three times. But it got straightened out and finally got filled in. Where was the pool? Where was the pool? Well, it was in the park out here. You know that brick building, the stone building, well it was just on the north edge of it there. Was it all concrete? Yeah. The bottom? Yeah. Let's go into it a little bit; why did they have to fill it in? I know all this, but let's go into it. Why did they fill it in? Well because it just caused trouble. What kind of trouble? Well, I don't know, maybe I'd just as soon not answer that. You don't want to get into that? I don't want to get into it; it's a long story and complicated and I don't know who was right or who was wrong. Anyway, there were several factions in town and some of them didn't like the others. There's always been that in this town, ever since the strikes, there's people on one side and people on the other side.



There's nothing like a strike to divide an area. But, anyway, that's a long story and we haven't got time for it. I'd just rather not get into it. All right.

Tell me some of the other things that you had to cope with on the Council. Well, I was on the Council when we paved the streets here. That was a bag of worms because we were in court three or four times over it. A lot of people didn't want the paving and some of the people thought that if we were going to pave, we ought to pave it all. Some of the people just wanted to pave part of it and the people that didn't want it paved didn't want it. Of course, people were hard up at that time, I realize that. But, Good Lord, the dust was so bad that it was going to kill everyone sooner or later. But, anyway, I was always for the paving and I lost some friends by it. But, anyway, I thought it was right and I did what I could to get it done and we got the job done. Were you on the Council when they put the sewer line in? No, I wasn't; no, I wasn't on the Council then. Did you ever serve as the mayor? No, I never served as the mayor. Was there any other elective office that you had? Well, I was past president of the Lafayette Lions Club. Belonged to them for years. And past president of the Chamber of Commerce. I was the second president of the Chamber of Commerce. Ham Roberts and I, we were kinda the instigators of the thing and Ham was the first president and I followed him. How long were you in the Lions Club? Oh, gee, I don't know; I must have been there 20 years. Well, I kinda grew up in the Lions Club. When my Mother passed away when I was 10 years old, my Dad, he was a charter member of the Lions Club here, and at that time, why, it was before he got married why I was eating in restaurants and so forth and my Grandmother was pretty old and it was an imposition to get her to cook for me, but anyway - it would come meeting night and Dad would generally say to me, "Come on and go to Lions Club with me and you'll get a good meal; you might as well eat there as anyplace". So, I'd go to Lions Club all the time when I was just a little kid. They did have good meals, didn't they? Oh, yeah, they ate around at the different, of course we had boarding houses in those days, you know when the mines were operating. Mrs. Dow used to have them for quite a while, oh several places around. In their home, the Dow home. That's right. What was Mr. Dow's profession? He was a druggist. He had the drug store? Down on Simpson Street and Michigan Avenue on the corner. Well, I don't know when he started; it used to be Don Gilbert but I don't know what happened to Gilbert, but Dow was there for years. Then Ralph Kemp bought Dow out. He operated a place down there. He had a drug store up on the highway; then he operated down there for several years. Then he sold out or quit or something. Didn't he sell out to Mr. Swennes? No, I don't think so. He might have sold out up on the highway to Swennes. On the highway, yeah. But I think he closed this drug store, or sold it or something, I don't know what happened. There was a young man in there for two or three years; I don't remember what his name was. I don't either. But it was on the corner there and he used to come to Lodge. I can see him, but I can't tell you his name.

How's the town changed over your lifetime? Well, it's changed a lot. It's moved and, of course, the local newspaper and a lot of the people call this the old part of town. I guess it is but I think they could refer to it in a little more dignified way. We don't like to be called the old people, do we? But, nevertheless, we are. So, it's moved a lot. I don't know whether it's good or bad. But, anyway, it's supposed to be for the good, I guess. The economy of the town, when you were growing up and when you were in business, was primarily a mining economy. Yes, it was a mining economy. I know they used to pay down here at the mine when I was a kid. The first I remember at the store, my Mother used to go up and help my Dad when she was still alive, I would go up there, and just a kid and I would fool around. But I can remember my Dad coming home at night and they paid in gold down there and Saturday nights (they paid the first and third Saturdays) and he would never get out of that store before 11:00 at the earliest on payday night. A lot of those miners down there, they weren't married, and I think they'd buy a pair of overalls and work shirt and a pair of gloves on Saturday nights and they'd wear them all next week and they'd never wash them; they'd just throw them away and come and buy another pair. When I first started in the store, we'd sell a pair of overalls for \$1.49, work shirts for 59¢ and a pair of canvas gloves for 10¢. You can't believe that, but I've sold hundreds, thousands of pairs of overalls for \$1.98, bib overalls and today, they're \$16.00 to \$20.00. If you can find them. Yeah, and they used to be what everyone wore was a pair of bib overalls in those days. Mines were hard on clothes and my Dad did quite a good business here. Of course, all the years that I was in business here, until I sold out, we never had over 3,000 people in town at one time in all those years. I had that store, and Dad had it and I don't think that there ever was a year that that store didn't make money. I had that appliance store and I know it made money every year. You know, it just got to the point that you can just do so much; you get to burning the candle at both ends and I just decided I was going to get rid of that.

Tell me, when the depression started what it did to the economy of the town and to your business. You mean in 1929? Yes, in 1929, the big depression. The big depression, well it was tough. That was the first time that I was on the City Council. President Roosevelt and I took office at the same time. I remember kiddin' about that. But, anyway, we had the WPA and in those days if a man could get \$3.00 a day, he had a good wage. When I got married in '33, I was getting \$75.00 a month and she used to take \$30.00 for groceries and she saved money on it. We paid \$15.00 a month for rent. Nobody had anything in particular, but everyone had as much as anybody else and I don't know, we seemed to get along better than we do now, I think. How did it affect your business? Well, Dad always did a credit business, we always did a credit business in that store and some of the bills never got paid, of course. I know, because of my Dad and I both, that there were kids running around here that wouldn't have had any shoes if it hadn't been for that store. There were a lot of shoes went out of there that never got paid for.

What happened to the town after the depression and, lets say, during the war years? Well, business was pretty good; our business got along good. We'd been established quite a while and we got a fair amount of merchandise. There were

a lot of things that were scarce, you know and if you could get them, it was just like having money in the bank. Like ladies' nylon hose, gee that was one of the scarcest things. There was a big demand for them. We used to get an allotment and we had a list of our regular customers and we'd call them up when we'd get them in and save them a pair. We tried to pass them around as evenly as we could. There were a lot of things like that, just scarce. Did the shoe rationing affect you any? Well, we had stamps for shoes. You could get an extra stamp for a hardship. We never had any problem with them, really. There seemed to be enough shoes to go around. Might not been just the kind some people wanted, but they'd keep the rocks from hurting their feet, anyway. I remember we used to have those applications; we had them there at the store. Someone would come in and the kid had worn out their pair of shoes. They had on this application, "Why do you need this pair of shoes?" I used to help them fill them out and they'd say, "Well, what shall I put in here where it says 'Why do I need a pair of shoes?'" And I'd say, "Put down there that the rocks hurt your feet." Which is true! It worked pretty good. Sure. Of course, we were rationed on sugar and all that kind of stuff in those days, you know. Did you manage to keep any of the old ration stamps? Yeah, I've got some now. You've still got some? I've got some down in the basement there. I've got quite a lot of the gas rationing stamps, coupons, that we had and I made the mistake of not keeping the sticker sheets that you had to put them on, you know, they're just all loose in an envelope. But it was something that a lot of the people now don't realize happened, you know, and how it was taken care of.

I remember I used to like to go deer hunting. In those days, I'd go hunting and I had friends that wanted to go. I remember that Lee Moore that was running the lumber yard up here, there was Lee Moore and myself and Jack Metz and his son-in-law, Chuck, the four of us and there might have been another one or two, there were five or six of us. We kinda all saved our gasoline a little bit and were going to pool it and we had a ton stake truck and we were all gonna go in that stake truck. Well, we finally got a 30 gallon barrel of gas, we filled that up and put it in the back. Went down to the mill and got a bale of straw and put in the truck and we had a canvas we put over the top of it. Three or four of us got in the back end. Charlie Keller was there and we gave him heck about that; we bought the straw from Charlie. We spread it over the bottom and anyway, there was a draft coming in there. We got to going and there was a lot of chaff and that chaff was blowing around in there and I'll never forget - we were laying back there smoking cigarettes with that chaff blowing around there and that 30 gallon can of gas back there. That could have ended the hunting trip right quick. Anyhow, everything worked out and we finally burnt up the 30 gallon. That's how we went huntin' in those days. Sure, sure.

Well, Cliff, we thank you for taking your time to help us here. We've talked about a lot of things today and a lot of things that people may have forgotten over the years. We appreciate your help and the time that you have taken. Well, it's kind of good to go over some of those old memories, you know. It makes you think of things, doesn't it? I still think, I can't think of anyone that's lived in Lafayette any longer than I have. I've lived here 78 years. That's a long time. Oh, we've got another hundred feet there. Oh, have we? I thought this said 418 feet but was just 318.

Can you think of anything that you'd like to put on this tape? Well, the whole country has changed. I can remember when I was a kid, we used to go to Denver. Dad had an old Regal automobile. We'd go down here to the creek and then from there on down to Cozy Corner, we went across the prairie; there were no fences down there. There was just a trail across the prairie, cactus and so forth. Dad told me that when he first came to Lafayette, there wasn't anything to do on Sundays and he said he used to go to the livery stable and rent a horse and buggy. All the towns had a baseball team; he was on the baseball team. He said he used to go to Frederick right across the prairie and he said there wasn't a fence or a bridge between here and Frederick. He said he forded the creek and he just went across the prairie. He said there was a baseball game every Sunday in one of these towns. He said that's about all there was to do. That's all there was to do for a long time. Yeah, that's true. Between here and Denver, boy when you got out - well there used to be an orphanage up there on the hill, the Queen of Heaven Orphanage and when you left that why you were out in the country and that's all built up now. The orphanage is gone.

You know when I was a kid in highschool, when I was a junior, I guess, when I came home from military school, a fella by the name of Adams here had a tractor and he did custom plowing. He asked me if I wanted a job and I said, "Sure, I'll take a job". So he gave me a job running that tractor. He had this land out here where Northglenn is now, planning that and he was runnin' 24 hours a day out there. I was working from seven o'clock in the morning until seven at night. Then we had another fella come on and run all night with a light on. We plowed that whole thing, that whole top of the hill there where Northglenn is clear up to Federal and then we plowed it from Federal clear down west there for miles. I worked for him all summer that summer and I never will forget working 12 hours a day and I was getting 40¢ an hour. I had an old Model-T Coupe I drove back and forth. I made \$4.80 a day and I saved more money that summer than I ever did because, I tell you, when I came home I was so dirty and so tired that I'd get a bath and something to eat and go to bed and get up the next morning and go to work. Was that Emory Adams? Emory Adams, yes. He did some custom threshing too? Oh, yeah, I worked for him the next summer too. Larry Maroney bought this old Goodyear ranch down here and he farmed it for him and I worked for him the next summer down there and they had a bumper crop down there that year. Larry bought the first combine that came into this country; it had a 16 foot cutter bar on it. It was designed for dry land; we used it on irrigated land and we had wheat there that was shoulder high. The wind blew and it rained and some of it was down. That wheat was green wheat and we'd have to pick up the whole thing and try and get it and we had that thing clogged up more than it ran. It broke down and they weren't as good in those days. It must have taken us six weeks to combine that. Now they can do it in a day. Combines weren't so good in those days and we had a combine that wasn't matched to the job.