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Interview with Elmer E. and Emily Bell Moon, 509 E. Baseline Road

June 10, 1986

By Fred Stones

I am here for the Lafayette Library to talk with, I'm going to call him "Buzz", because that's his nickname and that's what everybody calls him, I'm here to talk to Buzz and Emily about their remembrances of Lafayette and the things that have happened in the past in the continuing program of the Lafayette Library on this series. The first thing I want to do is thank you for letting us come down here and talk to you and we hope that you enjoy it as much as we.

We'll start out with you, Buzz, if you don't mind. Tell, me when were you born? I was born in 1906, the 22nd of March. Where were you born? You know where that milk dairy is down there on the highway where the Public Service moved to? Two doors east of there. Then you see, my Dad and Mother built that house up there between the church and the old market. You were born then down On Emma Street? Yes. Who were your mother and father? Abigail Rose Ewing Moon, and my Dad was William Moon, that's all I ever knew him by, he didn't have no nickname. How many children did they have besides you? There was Rita, that was my sister, she was two years older than I am. Then myself, then Earl and Gilbert Max Moon, that's Sug, and Rexford Neal Moon. So there were five of you, five children. Yes. Are any of them alive besides you now? No. They're all gone; you're the only one left of the family. That's right. When did your father die? Let's see, my mother died when I would have been 13 years old in two weeks; she died previous to my 13 years old. What did she die from? A blood clot. See she had an operation on her appendix and she was supposed to come home on Wednesday or Thursday. Well, she got that blood clot and before my Dad got down there, she was dead. That was 1922, I think, it was after the flu. (checked) My Mother died March 10, 1919.

When you were growing up, what did you do around Lafayette here to entertain yourself? For entertaining myself? Well, the first thing in the morning, after I was old enough, take the cows down to the creek. I'd get the cows from Dan Jones and then I'd go down and pick Uncle Albert's cows up and Grandpa Moon had two cows, so by the time I got down there, then I'd pick one cow up from Flores and go down the street and pick Bagdonas' cows up - well, by the time I got through, I must have had eight or 10 of them. I took them down to the creek and put them in the pasture, and boy, I tell you, sometimes I had to walk, I couldn't get up on old Frank. That was your horse? Yeah. You took them down on Coal Creek? Yes, on Coal Creek. You see, my grandad had a slaughter house down there. You see my grandad had this grocery and meat market up there, you know just two doors below the old library. You see, that was a church at one time. He'd go down there and kill the hogs and sheep and cattle and then sell them at the market. Then around Thanksgiving and Christmas, they used to slaughter the chickens, ducks and geese and turkeys, you know have them ready. One time, my great uncle Dick stuck a duck in the throat and he threw it down and it ran out around the ice house, around clear back in the alley up there by Grandpa Moon's and he ran up in the corner and I went out and caught the darned thing. Then they'd take them across the street where grandpa lived and put them in this hot water and pick them. This was your father's father? Year, W. W. Moon, William Walter. Tell me something about him; I've never had any information on him on any of these tapes. Well, Grandpa Moon came from

the East, but before they came out here, they came from Joliet, Illinois. Do you know where he was born? No, I do not. That's something, Fred, that my Granddad never talked about. I know where my Grandma Moon was born, Nova Scotia. Her parents came (Emily - Toronto, Toronto, Canada, that's where she was born). Right, I'm wrong on that. Grandma Moon came from Canada. Her folks came right from Wales over here. They went down to Illinois; that's where Grandpa and Grandpa were married. Do you know whether he was born in this country? Yes. He was born in this country. But, you see, Fred, his Dad got a grant from the Queen. You see the Moons migrated from the Danish over there that battled for the Queen of England and so she gave the grant. Okay, now, so he was originally Danish, your great great grandfather? And he got a grant from the Queen of England to fight here in this country for the Queen of England? No, he fought over in England but they gave him the grant here in the United States. I see, all right. So then he came over here and do you know where his grant was? No, I don't, it was back there in the East, as I said, my Granddad never did talk of these. You don't know how big it was, how many acres or anything like that? No. Was he married?; no he wasn't married because he married your grandmother, here. . My great granddad was, he was married because they brought the family over here. But my granddad moved; I guess he was the second generation after they came from England. I'd like to pursue this just a little bit further because it takes us back to where they're coming from England over this way, see. With this grant, do you know what he was fighting for in England? You know, England always did have a lot of trouble. (Emily - the grant was in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.) Bucks County, Pennsylvania is where they came to from England. Now, I'm wondering why, he being a Dutch person, went to England to fight for the Queen. Do you have any idea of that? No, I can't think of what the grant was for right now. But anyway, they fought there for the Queen of England. You know they brought them in there; I think it was like the Welsh or something, I don't know. England was always on Ireland, after Ireland and after Wales both, you know.

Well, let me get back here, then. They came to Pennsylvania and that was your great great grandfather. Now, your great grandfather met your grandmother that was born in Toronto and then did your great grandfather come to this country? No, you're confused. That was my Grandma Moon that was born in Toronto. Oh. When they left Pennsylvania, did they come to Colorado then? My granddad was in Joliet, Illinois. Then they came from Joliet, Illinois; you know they had to come in by stage coach. My granddad had to travel all the way from Golden; that's where they cut off the train, in Golden, and went over there to Devil's Gulch where they were gold mining at the time. My Grandma Moon came out later on to Devil's Gulch, this gold mining camp. My Grandma said they took and put a canvas up so they could keep from freezin' to death. I don't know where Devil's Gulch is. That's what they lived in then, they lived under a canvas like a tent. Yeah. Okay, then when did they come to Lafayette? Then, Grandpa Moon and a fella from Louisville, they had a beer joint, or saloon over there. I can't think of his name. But they had this saloon over there and then they started at the Simpson Mine down here. You see, John Simpson, that's some of my relation on my side, started the Simpson Mine so my Granddad came from Louisville and helped sink the Simpson Mine. And they've been here ever since.

So, they had a house over there in Louisville and they moved that house up there where Bruggers live now. (301 E. Cleveland) They moved that house from Louisville. That big house on the corner? Yes. They moved that house from Louisville and they lived there all the time up until they died. Now, this was your grandfather? That's my grandfather and my Grandma Moon. Now was your father born in Lafayette too? No, he was born in Louisville. Albert Moon was born in Lafayette. And Albert is your uncle, your Dad's brother? Yes, Margaret Gibson's dad.

Now when did your father go in with your grandfather in the meat market? Fred, it's this way. My granddad had my dad cuttin' meat - they put a box there for him to get up there and cut meat before he was seven years old. Okay, that's what I wanted to know. And he was cutting meat practically all of his life; he grew up then, cutting meat. That's absolutely right. And I don't think there's a better butcher to this day than he was. Yeah, that's right.

Now, he was born, you say, in Louisville? Yes. Where did he meet your mother? Here in Lafayette. Right here in Lafayette. Were they married here in Lafayette? No, they were married in Denver, Fred. You see, you know where O'Days lived up there on Emma Street? You see, my Grandmother Hobart run a boarding house there. I don't know how long my Grandma Hogart or my mother had been in Lafayette before they were married. How long did she run this boarding house? She must have run it two, three years. Is the building still here that she ran; which one is that? You know where O'Day used to be up there, the next street over? Right behind Geneseo? Yeah, that two story house there. Just west of Roberts Grocery? All right, the big two story house on the northwest corner of the intersection? That's right. All right. Okay, we have that identified now. Now that was Hobart? Grandma Hobart, yeah. (Emily: Was her name Hobart then or Ewing?) No, at that time, it was Reynolds. You know, the one at the graveyard up there is in her name, Reynolds. Anyhow, I just call her Grandma Hobart, because I can't remember it, okay? And this was a boarding house at that time. Now, this is the first time that this has ever come out about this boarding house. Well, you see, Grandma Moon, she ran a boarding house too at the same time. Even though they were running this grocery store. Grandpa used to have a meat way; he'd leave here in the morning, go out around south of Superior, come around Marshall and come back through South Boulder on this meat market wagon delivering groceries and meat to them people over there. Now was this your dad, did you say, or your granddad? My granddad. You see, my Dad and Dick Perry, one would take one wagon one day and the next one would take it the next day, so you see they wouldn't be all gone. And the others would stay and keep the store here in Lafayette and get ready for the next day, I see. How long did they do that? They done that shortly after Grandpa Moon took over the store. You see, the reason he got this store, he lent this fella some money. Well, I guess the way it happened, this fella was quite a boozier and he couldn't pay the loan off to Grandpa Moon so Grandpa Moon took it over and kept on with the business as it was before. How long was that store in business? Well, as far as I know, it was in business better than 25 years. Under the same Moon management? Yes, W. W. Moon, and well, at the last, it was the Moon Brothers. If you could take that pane off of the old shop up there, you could see the "Moon Brothers" on there. Did Albert ever work in the shop? No, all he ever did was deliver.

He delivered. Yeah. Okay. They delivered groceries as well as cut meat and took meat around. You see, Albert used to deliver all over town. You know like - I don't suppose you remember when they used to deliver here in town, do you? No, you see, we didn't come until 1933. Let me ask you, how did they keep this meat cold? How did you get your ice? Well, in the winter time, my grandad had an icehouse out there that held about a hundred - two hundred ton of ice. They'd take and put that ice in there in the winter time; they'd go up there at the lakes and get the ice off the lakes and then they'd put it in there and take sawdust and they'd leave about that much between the walls and take and cover it over and then they took a chute, you know, from the icehouse down to the shop down here. They'd take and run that right down there and they'd wash it off when they got the cakes of ice down there and they'd take it in there and put it in there in this icebox. It'd hold about two ton of ice. What lakes did they cut the ice off? Well, it seems the town had three lakes up there; you know where they had all the equipment here west of town? Well, there used to be three lakes in there. Due south of where the Black Diamond Mine was? Yeah. They'd go up there and cut the ice off the lakes. Then there was another little lake over there on Lipke's; they cut the ice off of that. It was only a shallow lake and it would freeze thicker. When they used to put up ice, they'd have three or four wagons comin' and goin' all the time. How did they cut the ice? They'd go along and mark it with a scraper like a plow (with a horse) they'd go along and mark it in squares and keep doin' that, they'd take a borer and cut it. Then it was split and they would take the chunks out of the water and put them in the wagon and put them in the icehouse and pack them in sawdust and that would keep all summer long. Until it was gone; it didn't last all summer because they used to have to go to Denver to get ice. You know, that artificial ice they make in Denver. They could leave at night and get back before morning. But that kept them well into the summer then, for their ice. Yeah, I'd say, about the middle of August or the first of August. Okay.

You said that you took the cows down to the creek. You were there all day then? No, no, I'd come back home; then I'd get out and play with the rest of the kids. And then you'd have to go back? Oh, in the evening and pick them up. And bring them back. Yeah, you know behind the library, we used to have a big game of ball up there. In that vacant lot there. Yeah, behind the library. There weren't any fences then in between; did you just bring them up the road? Yeah, you see we used to come down Emma Street; we used to go right straight to Emma Street, down there to Etchell's place. We'd go right down there and take the cows right down around the railroad track and then down there and put them in the pasture and then take them home.

Now, in the daytime, after you got the cows down there, what did you do; to pass your time away? Oh, well I never got to go swimmin'. They wouldn't let me go swimmin'. We always had to stay pretty close to the house. We wasn't ever allowed to run all over town. What did you as kids do to make your own entertainment? Besides playing ball. Marbles, kick the can and run sheepie, run. They only recreation we had was going to the picture show. We got to go to the picture show once or twice a week. That was the picture show up on Simpson Street? Yeah.

When did you and Emily meet? (Emily: About 1927.) Lets take to you, Emily, for just a minute then we'll tie these both together. Where were you born? Right here? 513 East Baseline Road. Right next door, almost, my gosh. Uh-huh. And when were you born? 1910. And your mother's and father's names? George Bell and Gertrude Walterson. And how many brothers and sisters did you have? One brother, that's all. Is he still alive? You are the only one left of that family, too. So both of you are the last of your lines.

Okay, when were you married? June 8, 1929. So you've had your 50th anniversary? Oh yes, 57 years. Oh, that's great! Now, where did you live when you were first married? Tom Johns' house. That two story house down there. That's the second one from the corner? Yes. Did you live in the downstairs or the upstairs? Buzz: The whole thing. Oh, you had the whole house. I think I paid \$18. a month. At one time, we rented the upstairs of that same house. Emily: We lived downstairs, we were the only ones in it; we had nothing upstairs. And how long did you live there? Buzz: We lived there about two, three years, I think. Where were you working when you were married? At the Vulcan. At the Vulcan Mine, okay. How many children did you have? Three. You see, little Buzzie died when he was eight years old of leukemia. Then there's Barbara Jean and Jack. And where do they live now? Barbara Jean and Mary live out at the ranch and Jack lives right here in town. You're grandparents? Oh yes, let's see, Barbara Jean had two and Jack had three - five. Do you have great grandchildren now? Yeah, great grandchildren - Tommy has three and Penny has two, Jackie has two and Mark has one. My gosh, you started quite a dynasty, then, didn't you? Yeah, we have.

When you were living there in Tom Johns' house, you were working at the Vulcan Mine. How did you get back and forth to the Vulcan Mine? I used to ride with Emily's dad. How? A Model A. By the late 1920s, why the cars were coming in.

Now, what kind of appliances did you have when you were first married? Emily: A coal stove; we had to put water in the reservoir. We had a washboard. Buzz: We had an icebox; we had to put ice in it. Petey Petersen used to come in and put ice in it. We used to make home brew because after little Buzzie was born, Emily didn't have enough milk and so Doc Braden told me to make some home brew so Emily could drink it. And I put it in there (the icebox) and Petey Petersen would come down and taste it. He'd leave you the ice and take the beer, huh?

Emily: Tom Johns would come paint the house. I used to hang Buzz's pants behind the door; he was working in the coal mine and his clothes would get dirty - one time when Tom painted the door, there was a stripe of white paint all down his pants.

Describe to me, Emily, an icebox. Oh, it had a middle door and the lid on top, they opened up and put the ice in. How big a place was it that you could put food in? Buzz: Oh, you could put a 25 pound cake of ice in it. Emily: In the food, though, honey. Buzz: Oh, it wasn't too big - it was about like that and about so wide. How often did you have to buy ice? Three or four times a week. What happened to the ice? It would melt and run down there and we'd have to empty the water out; we'd have a catch underneath. A pan that it would drain into? Yes. How often did you have to drain that pan? I don't know,

I'd watch it so it didn't run over on the floor. Sometimes if it was very warm, you'd have to empty it twice a day. If you didn't, like you say, it would run over on the floor. That'd keep your floor clean, then. Well, no, it'd make a mess.

Now, on your stoves. You said you had a stove with a reservoir on it. That's the only way we had to heat water. All right, how did it heat the water? With coal, didn't you ever have a coal stove? Oh yes, now. Oh, you're asking me. Yes, now how did it work? Well, you see, it was on the back of the stove. You see your fire box was up in here and then you had all this here with your oven in through here and then your reservoir would be back in here, about like that. It would hold, I guess, about 15-20 gallons of water. They would never boil water. We'd have to put a boiler on the stove to boil our clothes. See that teakettle? That was given to us by an Englishman that went back to England after she gave that to us and we used that there to heat the water.

You said you scrubbed clothes on a scrub board and you boiled clothes on the stove. What did you boil clothes on the stove in? In a copper boiler. Describe this copper boiler. Well, it was about, maybe, 2½ foot long, about two foot high and about 13 inches wide. It would hold, what, about 10 gallons of water? Oh yes, you see you'd take and put your soap in there, Fred, and boil it and you had to keep turnin' it around. Why did you boil your clothes? To get them white. That would keep them white. That was from the old school, you know. We didn't have bleach in them days. There was no bleach at all.

Side 2

Now, we were talking about cleaning the clothes; did you have a washer of any kind? My mother did, we didn't. She had one but it didn't have a wringer. When we moved up to \_\_\_\_\_, we bought a washing machine. We got a Maytag then. Little Buzzie and the dog was playin' with the darn cord; the dog grabbed the cord and bit through it and that dog didn't go back to that cord no more. You say you bought a Maytag washer; did it have a wringer on it? Yeah, one you had to crank. Oh, it had a "self-cranking" wringer. No, we had to crank it. That's what I mean, yourself had to crank it. Describe the wringer to me. Well, it was rubber on both sides. We had to feed the clothes into it and they'd come out the other side and put them in our basket. These rubber - what were they rollers? Yes. And how were they situated? One on top of the other one. One on top of the other, okay. And then you'd wring this and start clothes - You'd have to start through and then crank it until they come on through. Then it squeezed the water out? uh-huh. And then when you put them through that, then you'd take them out and hang them - On the line, we didn't have no dryers then either. When you put these clothes through the wringer, then you had to rinse your clothes some way. Oh, we rinsed them once in clear water and once in bluing. So, then did you wring them from one to the other? I had two tubs. When you took them out of the washer into the clear water, what was that for? To rinse the soap out first. To rinse the soap out. Then the wringer would swing around and I'd put it by that tub and put them into the other tub. And the other tub was what?

The blue water. Why did you put blue water? It made them whiter. In other words, you add bluing to the water to make them white. You know what else they used bluing for in those days - for ant bites or bee stings. No, I never knew that. You'd take and put that bluing on there, and on poison ivy. The bluing used to come in little bags. I've still got a bottle of bluing in the house. Well, you know, it's fun to talk about these, because these take you back a long ways. With the machinery you have now, you never do anything like that. No. Look at the washer and dryer, all you do is put the clothes in there and take them out. I still hang mine out. I've got a dryer but I still hang them out. I hang mine out.

Where did you move to after you left Tom Johns' house? We moved down to the Vulcan. Down to the Vulcan Camp. How many houses were there down at the Vulcan? I guess there must have been about 10 and the boardin' house. Did you have wells down there for water? They had an artesian well there; but they didn't turn it on all day, just certain hours in the morning and then in the afternoon. 'Cause you know, sometimes people get kinda reckless with water and let it run. Out in front, you know, they had a hydrant outside. No water inside. In the house, you had to carry the water in the house. Then you had an outside restroom, an outside toilet. Yeah. In other words, you had a house and a path.

Describe your house; how big was your house? Four rooms. Just four square, four rooms; living room, kitchen and two bedrooms, is that how it was set up? Yeah. No bathroom, as such. No. I'm going to get personal now, how did you take a bath? In a round tub; in the kitchen where it was warm. In front of the stove. Right. In a galvanized tub. A number 2 tub. Or a number 3. You see, when I worked at the mine, they used to have showers there at the mine and I used to shower at the mine; you know when I come out of the mine I was blacker than all get out. Emily's Dad and I worked on the machines, the old punchin' machine and boy, that kicked out a lot of dust.

I want to ask you a little bit about this mine down there; I haven't had much about the Vulcan Mine. How deep was the Vulcan Mine? Well, I'd say it was about 150 foot. And how extensive was it underground? Extensive? How big was it, how far did it extend out? Well, see, the Vulcan Mine - you know where the Centennial was out there? The Vulcan, the slope, went out to almost where the Centennial was. Well, then, on the north side, it was run down on the other side of the highway, way down, and I don't know how far because I didn't get started down there until about, oh, that fall after we was married, it would be about 1929. So you started down there about 1930. How many people did they hire at the mine? Well, down there, I imagine about 65 or 70 men. On a shift, or they just had one shift? They, just one shift then. But you know it never was as large as the Centennial and the rest of these mines, the Columbine; it never was as large. Who owned the mine? Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. Who sank the mine? I don't know who sank that mine. Just like the other mines around here; I don't know who sank them either.

You say you and your father-in-law, Emily's dad, were running a punching machine. Describe to me what you did with a punching machine. Well, it had two wheels in it and compressed air goes up to the pipe, you know, and I'd turn it on and Emily's dad would punch with a bit and it would go in like that and it would cut the coal. In other words, it was a vibrating deal. Yeah. They'd run it in there, I guess, about 4½ to 5 foot deep underneath that coal. Well, I had to keep all that slack out from underneath there to let him do his mining. When you finished with this punching machine, what did they do then? Well, the miners, whoever were loading the coal, would come in there and drill holes, you know, they'd put a buster in this way and then one over here, then they'd give two rip shots; well, they'd take and shoot this buster here first and this buster over here and then they'd mine that and take that coal out of there, then they'd shoot two rips and clean the coal out. And that was an every day occurrence.

How wide were the rooms that you worked in? Well, they were about 15 foot. How deep was the coal? How thick? Let's see, I'd say some places it was seven foot and some places it was a little more. How long did you work at the Vulcan? Well, let's see, it was about '34 when I left there and went over to the Columbine. See, I worked on a machine over there at the Columbine and that's the reason, that's what's the matter with my lungs today; I've got emphysema. Did you move from the Vulcan over to the Columbine? No, we moved back here in town. You moved here and then drove back and forth to the camp. Louie LaSalle used to have a house down here on the highway. You know where that two story house is down there by that liquor store. They put a brick front on that. Then we moved up there, you know where Joe Mathias lived? Yeah. We lived there until the War and things got scarce and I went up to Salt Lake and worked at the Remington Arms up there. Then when I came home I worked down there in the there in Denver.

When did you buy your first car? It was a Chevrolet, I bought it from McMann. (Emily: You had a Ford when I married you.) Oh, yeah, that's the one we lost. We couldn't pay for it. Was that a Model T? Model A. And then the first one we bought after we were married, I think we paid \$225. for it; bought a coupe from Loren McMann's dad. That was a Chevrolet, you say? Yeah.

After that, well, you know the mine wasn't working to speak of and Emily and I and little Buzzie went back to Kansas to my grandma's, there in Edmond, Kansas.

When did you move into this house? In 1947. Did you build this house? Yes, I built it, except puttin' this brick work along here. Well, I didn't plaster this, Emily's brother plastered this house.

How long did you work in the mines? Well, between 14 and 15 years. After the war, did you go back to the mines? No. Where did you work then? I went to work as a pipe fitter down in Denver, a pipe layer. And I worked there, I guess, all one winter and then I started doing work around town, you know, carpenter work; I worked for you, you remember. I got in trouble with Mary Bove, you know, I done a pretty good sized job up there and I had one heck of a time getting my money from her. I said, "All right, Mary, if you don't pay me, I'm going to come up here and sit until I get it". That's when she had the restaurant? Up there on the corner, yeah. Now, which corner, which



restaurant? That one up there on the corner where the BV is. Right across from the high school then. You know, where the gas station is now. Yeah, that's the that Grief built to start with, that Roy Grief built. All right, and then she went down and ran the other one for a while too. Yeah.

Now, you've lived here a long time; tell me about the town when you were growing up. What were the physical aspects of the town? Fred, after the strike, the town for a long, long time, it was just beat to death. You know, the banks went closed here and people didn't have no money. The town was just beat to a frazzle. How did everybody keep going during that time? Well, Fred, after that strike, when it got over with, the miners moved out; they had to move out, they wouldn't hire them no more and they had to move. You take Gabrys, they lived up there; he was an old miner, he went to California. Well, Nichols, they went over to Dacono to get work. They had to scatter out to find work. You know, it didn't do too good; it sure broke my granddad. It hurt him in the store? It cleaned him out. That's the next question I was going to ask you, what it did to your store.

What did your Dad do then?, or your grandfather? You see, my Dad went to work at the Union Store, see what I call the Union Store now, there used to be a butcher in there by the name of Foote. Well, there was the Union Store, the union bought; the miners that was in the union, they put in \$100. a share and bought the Foote store out. Well, Dad went there cuttin' meat and Jack Green was the manager. Well, where was that store? Well, you know where that Thomas place is there on the corner just south, just east of the Roberts Grocery, that vacancy in there?; it was in there. And you see, I don't know what set it on fire; they think, you know they were taking inventory there and they took hot ashes out of the stove and had them in a wooden bucket and that set in the back and it caught on fire. The men put in \$100., you say, and bought shares in the store to open the store. About how many people were involved in this? That's something I don't know; that's the only thing my Dad told me about the store getting organized. Emily: This was a pretty union town at that time. Very union. You see, there was Harry Abbott and his sister, Nellie Marino, Nellie Green and then Jack Green, and Edith Green, and Dad, and Abe Gillis, could have, they all worked there. Jiminy Crickets!, they had a heck of a business.

How were the men able to feed their families with the strike going on? They got \$2.50 a week, that's all they got. From the union; \$2.50 a week. Then did they have other ways of getting any money? You couldn't feed a family on \$2.50 a week. Bob Evans, up there, he'd take and buy shotgun shells out of that \$2.50 a week and go back here and he'd bring enough pheasants home to last him a week. Is that right? Let's see, there were three children and his wife, they lived up there where the old Methodist Church used to be on the south side of the street.

Did any of these mines around use script, coupon books? Yeah, the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. They used that? Yeah, you know, if you went to work there and you made \$5.00, you'd get \$5.00 of coupons. If you made \$10.00, you'd get \$10.00 of coupons. My sister, Rita, she was workin' over there

at the Columbine. Well, you see, they'd take and go buy coupons. These young fellas workin' there that wasn't married, they'd go up and get this \$10.00 coupon. If it wasn't very close to payday, they'd only \$7.00 for \$10.00. If it was right after payday, they'd probably get \$9.00 or \$8.00 for it. In other words, they'd discount them to sell them for cash. Emily: We used to pay the doctor the same way. Is that right? Let's explore that a little bit. When you were working at the mine, and about this doctor, how much did they charge you for the doctor? \$1.50 for a married person; 75¢ for a single person. And then what did that entitle you to? He'd come to your house and and doctor the whole family; he'd come right to your house and you could go to him and he'd have his medicine there. Emily: Old Dr. Braden was our doctor, and Porter. Porter, see I had to pay Porter; see he was the Rocky Mountain Fuel doctor. I paid him; but most generally, Braden was our doctor. Did that include operations? Oh, no, nothing like that. If you got hurt in the mine, why it would take care of that. How about childbirth, did it take care of babies being born? No. In other words, you had to pay extra for that. I think I paid \$30.00 for each child. \$30.00 for each child. And you used Dr. Braden and Dr. Porter. One time I got my foot smashed in the mine. He had to put three stitches in my foot. He says, "Does this hurt you Buzz? It's not hurtin' me a god damn bit". He was a rough old guy. Now this was Porter? Doc Porter. Doc Porter. Have you got any more stories about Doctor Porter? No, Doctor Porter set a bone in my arm and Doc Braden set this collarbone for me.

Before we go any further, have you got any stories that you'd like to tell about experiences? Emily: I'll tell you one good one - that big storm. Jessie James, Jessie Irwin, used to live on that corner; my brother and I were little. Bruggers lived the next house up. This was when Mr. Brugger was killed, by electricity. The storm was so heavy and they had a garage out in the alley and us kids would touch that garage and it had electricity in it and we'd see who could hold on the longest. (It had 220: Buzz). I don't know how come I'm still alive, but I'm still here. In other words, it was shorted. Yes, it would short out. Well Brugger was killed the next day by that wire that was down. They had to take a two by four and lift the wire up off of Brugger's sister and see Mr. Brugger, he was electrocuted right now. And during that big storm, Now this was a snow storm? Yeah, six foot. You couldn't see from my Dad's house up there this side of the library across to the picture show. There was a 12 foot drift in there, Fred.( Buzz). Emily: My mother would have killed me if she'd have known what I was doing, Jessie and I. We were daring each other to see who could hold on the longest. Buzz: You see the Burlington came through with a snow plow and then my granddad took six men and went down to the slaughterhouse and brought in a half a beef. That's all - you know it was pretty heavy because beef was a lot larger then than they are now - and here's these six men came up the railroad track with that half a beef. They done that for a week until they could get down to the slaughterhouse. But Grandpa still had to go down there and kill to keep the meat supply. When was this big storm? In 1912. How did the town function, how did people function in a storm like that? Well, they just

migrated the best they could. Gosh, out in front of my house, they come home from the saloons and they'd just walk over the top of our fence. That snow was that high above the picket fence in front of the house. How long did it last, then? It lasted a long time, Fred. Was this the beginning of the winter, or the end of the winter? Well, along about the last of January. So it could last several months before it was all gone. It made life pretty miserable then. Finally, they'd take those big snow drifts and haul them away in a wagon. To be able to get up and down the streets. Yeah, well the farmers couldn't get in from the west side. But, you know, on the east side, there wasn't hardly any snow down there, the snow was only about like that, it was just the way the wind blew up Main Street. But, what I was gonna tell you - I and Uncle Albert was down was down to the creek, you know, I was just comin' from school and so we were down at the creek and Tom Johns had a poolhall and like a casino down there on the creek and so Albert and I was in there and he had a punch board and you punched that and got a box of cherry chocolates and boy, that was pretty good stuff. Well, see he was going with Frances Gunnell at the time so he didn't open them, he took them down to Gunnells and gave them to her. So we got out of Gunnells and Dad come down there with a team. He said, "You load these groceries in the wagon and get on home". Because boy, it was commencing to snow then. And so Dad didn't get home until the next day. He had to go up around Blue Ribbon, that was a mine right east of town. I think he stayed with Emily's Aunt Lindy.

Emily, you're related to the Echells. Who else are you related to in town between the two of you? You name it. Well all the Moons in town, I'm related to. Gosh, you know, there was Jordan Moon and John Moon and George Moon and Albert Moon; I think at one time there was about 40 Moons in town. I've no relation in town except Claudia Bell. Claudia Bell is related to you, all right. (Emily) So the Bells and the Echells, and - No, Claudia's related on my mother's side; her mother was my mother's sister.

Tell me what happened to Echells' house when it caught fire. I beat the fire department down there. I don't know what happened; I beat the fire department down there, though. Buzz - I don't know, it was a windy day, you know. They didn't have electric lights, just them oil lamps and I understand it was one of those kerosine lamps that blew up. Emily - I was pretty small then, I don't remember. Well, I helped fight that fire down there. You did? Yeah. And we couldn't get a hose long enough, we couldn't get water down there to you know. They brought the county truck in, you know, the tank truck and we pumped that out and just about get it under control, remember, and then they'd run out of water and, like you say, it was windy, and by the time they'd go get another tank of water, it was going again and it burnt clear to the ground. Do you remember that there high windmill that was there? (Emily - Is that where Sam lived?) Where Sam lived, but Sam's folks lived there. (Emily - the old folks, yeah.) That well was an artesian well and that pumped water out there. They tried to use that too but they couldn't get enough water out of it to do any good.

You both went to school here? Yes. You weren't in the same grade? No, I was supposed to graduate in 1924. How many were in your graduating class? Oh, there were quite a few; I imagine when they graduated there was about 20.

Emily - There were 16 in mine, in 1928. Do you remember some of your teachers? Well, Mrs. Wolff was my English teacher and Mr. Wolff was the math teacher.

Emily - Nellie Powers was my teacher. Buzz - and then we had a little French - I forget - Baker - no she was the Spanish teacher - but I forget her name. \_\_\_\_\_ was History teacher. \_\_\_\_\_ was the coach. Buzz - I think her name

was Baker. Emily - Julia Harmon was my teacher. Sho \_\_\_\_\_ was the high school teacher. You started school in the old wooden building to start with. Did they have the high school built. Yeah, they had a high school, but, you know, on the back of the school, they condemned the school.