

This is Fred Stones on March 29, the day before Easter. I'm here at the home of Elmo and Frances Lewis. Elmo has kindly consented to talk to us here about his remembrances of Lafayette and Elmo and Francis live at 111 West Cleveland. They've lived here for - how many years have you lived here? I was born and raised in Lafayette but we've lived here about 32 years. 32 years in this same house. It is just catty corner from the Baptist Church over here and I'm sure Elmo is a member of the Baptist Church. Maybe that's one reason why he bought this house so close to the church but anyway we appreciate your kindness in letting me come and talk to you on behalf of the Library. This is a continuing thing that the library is doing to try and put together the history of the City of Lafayette and to make it available to people in this generation and in future generations. We want you to know that we appreciate it. When we start here in just a second I want you start out with your - when I turn it over to you I want you tell me that all of things that you remember of your life from the time you were born here in Lafayette and just carry it right on through regardless of what you think, just go ahead and tell me whatever you think of. Now, I want to start out by asking you when you were born? I was born July 2, 1907. When was Francis born? Francis was born January 4, 1910. When were you married? We were married July 23, 1939. Alright, and you have one boy? One boy, William E. And where does he live now? He lives in Denver on Lafayette Street. On Lafayette Street, keep it in the family. What year was he born? He was born in August of 1949. Okay, now let me go back just one more generation. Where was your father born? My father was born in North Wales. Do you remember the town? No I don't. My Mother was born in Abasucken. And that's in Wales too. Yes, um um. Okay, now where was Francis' father born? Germany. In Germany. And her mother was born in --? Germany. In Germany. What was her mother's maiden name? I couldn't tell you that. What was her maiden name? Frank. Her name was Frank, Francis Frank. Okay. We want just a little bit of this personal history just to create a system of knowledge so that we can identify it. Now I'm gonna turn this over to you and I'm just going to let you talk and just feel free to start out and just go ahead and tell us about your history of Lafayette.

As I have already mentioned I was born in July of 1907 and of course my family was there was my dad, William E. Lewis, my mother was Hannah and I had a brother and a sister, a sister by the name of Maria and my brother was named after my dad William and we called him Bill. I was born down on the creek just east of Lafayette. It was all mining down in that area and there was a pretty large population of miners down there. We had a saloon and a store by the name of Johnson's Store which is Mildred Williams' dad, who lives in town here, ran the store and it was very popular down there and in this saloon they had a poolhall too where they played pool. The people who lived down there, they lived in houses along the creek and there was a boarding house and alot of wood houses, alot of people came in and lived in tents. Miners came in and lived in tents and they dug dugouts down there and being miners they knew how to timber and they would timber and they would live in these dugouts during the time down there. There was a little guy that my brother and sister and we used to have alot of fun down there. In the summertime we could swim in the creek because the creek was very clear and good water. In the wintertime there was ice and they skated and they got me a sled and they pulled me around on the ice on the sled and we had a great time and we also played in the house. My brother was great for railroads so we always played train and my brother was the engineer always going "choo choo choo" and my sister was the passenger and I was the conductor and I used to help her on the train. She used to wear my mother's clothes, get all dolled up which kids do and we had a great time so it was really worth my childhood and a very good time down there on the creek. We used to come to school here and we used to walk up and it was

2½ miles up, about that and walk back down at night. We didn't have any other type of transportation, we didn't know any difference, we used to travel. Only one time I can remember them taking us on a hayrack back, we had a big snow-storm and we had a livery stables in town here and they got us - all the kids that lived down on the creek, they took us home on the hayrack and that's the only time I remember of going down there but we did coming to school alot of time the train would stop and pick us up and we got to ride in the caboose and up to this day that caboose really means alot to me. The outstanding thing I remember as a little guy was the snowstorm of 1913. It was really a humdinger. Everything was paralyzed around. I remember down where we lived the snow was so deep that my dad had to dig tunnels out to the chicken coops and the barn to feed the animals and give them water, it was so deep and it took quite awhile for the snow to go away. And after the snow why my dad was ill, he worked in the mine where they had the black dust and men back in those days didn't lived too long, miners. My dad was a strong union man and tried to improve conditions and tried to organize and we've had several short strikes that I remember back in those days before we had the big strike. He was quite an organizer and tried to get conditions but it finally got him and he got sick and so we moved to town in December right after the snowstorm. December of 1913 where we moved to 108 East Simpson Street where the mining museum is now, today and which I'll tell about that later on. We moved in and then in May my dad died, my father died, and during the strike which we was having which we called the 1910 strike why the union would furnish us rations and after my dad died the union cut all our rations and my mother never had any use for unions ever since because of that that happened of cutting us off and of course she was left with three children to raise and no income whatsoever. There was no welfare or anything like that that they have today. Back in those days why there was only one way you could do to make a living was to get out and work. Nobody gave you anything, so my mother took in washing and ironing and that was not by the electric washer but by the washboard. She washed by washboard and ironed on the coal stove with irons to be able to make a little food for us to live off of. I used to have a job, people was good to us. I had a job, I used to twice a week go down and clean the spittoons. We had two poolhalls in town, and I used to clean the spittoons and make money and bring it home and then also we used to where the a - what we called the company store, we finished - it was at about 402 E. Simpson Street, why upstairs they had people living there, that is bachelors where they had rooms and also we had a dentist up there by Dr. Miller and mother got the job and also the lodges my mother got the job up there cleaning that out and we used to clean that out and that's how we made ends meet. Why my mother, after my dad died, had a little money and they talked her into putting it into the bank we had in town at that time. She put it in there and the bank went broke and my dad died in May and the bank went broke in June and my mother lost all of the little money she did have so there was only one way we could exist why that was to keep working which we did. My brother and I used to go down and haul coal in a little red wagon, kind of a wooden wagon, to haul enough coal up to last all winter and then later on we got a donkey and a cart where we emptied ashes and we used to haul coal up with that from the mines so the coal didn't cost us anything. Mother used to have a garden and we got by. It was tough but we was able to get by. And of course we were living at 108 E. Simpson St. right across from the town hall and we got to see the activities of the 1910 strike which was really something in our community with the men trying to fight for better conditions which was bad as I

already mentioned that they worked for \$2.50 a day and many times they had to put in 10 to 12 hours a day. The mines got by because the dollars went further back in those days. The miners used to go out on guard duty at night. I used to watch them down there and if they could find what we call strike breakers, what we called scabs, they would always something would happen and they would disappear. We had mine shafts around there and I guess those mine shafts had some of those scabs down there but it got pretty tight around there. The scabs lived in the mining camp and we called them bull pens where they lived and when I was going to school why we used to have all kinds of fights. All the scab kids used to come to school and all us kids that were of union parents why we would always have fights and I guess I learned there and every union fella used to pick on a scab and we used to have rock fights, we used to run them home by throwing rocks at 'em and times were pretty tough then. The mining companies especially in town, well all over, got machine guns to put up on the tippie and the men that were on guard duty, why they would shoot this machine gun to try and get 'em. Around then we had a lot of shooting going all over town here, firing on and I remember sleeping in this cellar with the family at 108 East Simpson Street because of the bullets going all over and you never knew where they were going to hit. The governor, which was Governor Hammond at the time, sent in the militia. The militia came in and when the miners heard about it then they hid their guns, they buried them in the ground and the militia came in and started searching houses for guns, of course they didn't find very many of the guns around and at the same time alot of the union miners were throwed in jail in Boulder and of course Boulder had never had any use for Lafayette all that time but they took in the leaders at that time that was trying to get things going. After the militia was in for a while why President Wilson, things got pretty hot around here, killings and things of that nature, and he sent in the regulars. The regulars came in and they had their camp back of the old grade school which isn't there, it was over on the street beyond Baseline where they had their camp and when they came in why things quieted down and when they came in why the militia left. That was a peaceful time that we had then. When the militia came in it was good for us kids that all of us kids got acquainted with the soldiers and we used to try and go out and get dates for 'em and everything else and they was buddies and then we had the opportunity that allowed the kids to go through the chow line. So we got some good eating when we went through the chow line after school and at noon and sometimes at evenings we used to go up there so some of us boys lived pretty good during the time that the soldiers was here. The soldiers was here until the war broke out and that ended the strike and they was able to go back work and we had peace after that but times was pretty tough not only on eating, we never missed any meals but we postponed a few, I know that. I always tell the story of having clothes and going to school one day, I was late going to school and I went into the classroom and went to my seat and as I walked down to my seat in school the teacher says "Elmo I see your little behind this morning", I said "yes teacher, but if my mother I had one more safety pin, you wouldn't be able to". So you can see what was going on in there.

Some of the activites of Lafayette at that time during the strike which I'm going to mention about that comes to mind is killings, extra killings from the saloons that going in there. We had a Marshal by the name of Ed Witchley, a very good marshal, they had some trouble up here in one of the saloons about where the jewelry store is today and they had a big fight and Ed came up and stopped the fight and the mexican fella was half drunk so he was going to take him down to

jail. He took him down to jail over where about the place we call which I want history on, Ed Lishan's place, it's where the Dairy King is now and about right in there why the mexican pulled out a knife and ran it into Ed Witchley's stomach and of course right then why men came running and Dan Evans came down he had a blacksmith's shop just a block away from there and he came down and grabbed Ed Witchley and Ed Witchley died in Dan Evans' arms from the killing. There was alot of such fights going on and then there was another one that was outstanding, one I remember was a fight going on and the fella by the name of Benton was in on it and a guy run him down, that was back before there was any paving and just dirt streets and they were coming down from the saloon and they got in a fight with these mexicans, this one mexican was chasing a fella with a knife, this Benton, he got down and he stumbled over the dirt and the rocks and he fell down and just lucky he hit on a big rock there and he picked up that rock and he was able to throw it back and hit the mexican in the head and it stopped the mexican and Benton he left town after that for awhile. Later he came back. But that was some of the activities going on and of course I, maybe somebody else has brought this out that Mary Miller, which I'll tell a little of the history of that, which I've picked up over the years that there was no liquor sold on the east side of Public Road. All the saloons had to be on the west side so that's where the saloons were. That was quite a time involved. We as kids used to go to the plant lake, it's the Waneka Lake now, we used to go swimming up there and the water was warm because the plant would throw out warm water into the lake and we used to have warm waves going through there, it was a good place to be able to go swimming. There was alot of other activities but I think that would cover the near that I could tell quite a bit of other things of town but I think that's the highlight of what was going on at that time.

I like to tell about how Lafayette was just before the strike and during the strike as I remember it there and some of the times involved. Lafayette was one of the most prosperous towns in Northern Colorado during that time and there was alot of coal hauled out of here. There was 50 to 60 carloads a day going out of Lafayette and of course, as I already mentioned, the miners worked for \$2.50 a day and during that time alot of boys would go into the mine at the age of 12. For a young fella it was pretty tough, I was lucky I never - because my dad dying in the mine, my mother would not allow my brother and I to go and work in the mine. My brother worked for Public Service and I did odd jobs and everything else but we was able to get by. The town at that time had two banks, two newspapers, one root pipe factory, which at that time our waterworks in the town of Lafayette, the pipes were made out of wood at that time; we had a flour mill, we had a pickle factory and we had two livery stables, several grocery stores, drug store, jewelry store, clothing store, a couple of blacksmith shops, implement stores, hardware store, shoe store, butcher shops and ice cream parlors. We had several boarding houses where the single men would stay, so the town was really prosperous back in those days until after 1910 when the 1910 strike came in alot of them went out of business and as I have already mentioned when the bank folded up before and then there was one bank that was left that went broke during that time. During the prosperity of the town alot of people worked and they made money the ones that did and during the strike time the healthy miners left Lafayette, alot of them went to Wyoming to work so they sent money home so thats where alot of - I remember a couple of families that my mother used to wash clothes for, they had children, and the miners was up in Wyoming sent money home so they was able to pay mother for washing clothes and ironing for their family and that's how we was able to do and some of the business people also. And a very interesting thing in regards to the town at that time was that we had a generator plant down here on Emma Street, East

Emma St. somewhere around in there, it was a direct current plant it furnished electricity in Lafayette and also in Louisville. They used to say that down - we had Millers, which was the family that started Lafayette, they lived south of Lafayette they had a ranch and the direct current would go to the Millers and on to Louisville and you could tell when the lights was on because they had a lightbulb setting out and you could look down there and see if the lights was on by seeing whether the - whether this light in the other communities whether the light was on. So that was a time - then later on they built the power plant which was a 180 current plant that furnished electricity for Boulder, Lafayette, and Louisville and we had an interurban transportation to Denver that this plant had direct current generator that furnished electricity only for the interurban running from Boulder through Louisville into Denver. We had two trains going through Lafayette, one that was the C & S and the Burlington. The Burlington tracks are still there but the C & S only ran from Lafayette to Louisville, the train went forward into Louisville and backed up into Lafayette for transportation for people going into Denver. Later on why Lafayette had two garages which brings out alot - later people knew of them - came in when the automobiles came in we had a Ford Agency run by the Hines family and the Chevrolet garage run by Roy Grief. Of course today we don't have any.

A little history of Lafayette that would be interesting to have is that when the Millers came here to this area, maybe somebody else has already given the history on it, well to go back to how Lafayette started that Mary and Miller, they were in Omaha and they started out in a covered wagon coming in here with combines coming out here in the farming area and they landed in the town called Broomfield, not Broomfield, Burlington, it was just south of Longmont and they lived there for quite awhile and then they moved down to the south end of Lafayette here where the - where we call Goodhue Hill is - there's a place there and they ran a place where the stagecoach came by and they ran that for several years and they had cooking. Miners used to go down there, I guess Mrs. Miller was quite a cook and they used to go down there and also Indians used to go there and she used to give the Indians some of the pies to keep them away there and let them go and then they finally bought the land where Lafayette is now, south where South Boulder Road is now up North to Baseline, up in that area and they paid a \$1.25 an acre for the land and in 1884 coal was discovered in this area and the Cannon brothers was the first ones that sank a shaft in Lafayette but the shaft caved in so they gave up and the Simpson brothers came in and they decided they was going to sink a shaft and that was in 1887. They sank the Simpson shaft in 1887 and that was the starting of Lafayette and mining in this area here of Lafayette when they hit the Simpson mine. In 1889 why she plotted Lafayette to make it a town and it was in 1890 when she incorporated the town in Lafayette and I mentioned that there couldn't be any liquor in the East part of town and she put that in the deed that no place in the East part of town could have liquor. And even to this day that's true but there's none of the family is left to protest so they do have liquor and did sell beer in the grocery store in the East part of Lafayette and that's how it all happened.

Another outstanding thing about Lafayette to remember is when they put in the waterline, Lafayette had to go in debt and all the way along different things of that of the cost of running the town in those days and so they went in debt: and in 19 --- the miners, you have to give them credit, they were very liberal for the things they liked but they were very economical in running things and in 1938 the coal mining group was running the town we got out of debt for the first time from the time that Lafayette was developed and I guess we'll never be out of debt again. So that's kind of the history of that time in regards to it.

In getting into the other activities in Lafayette, in 1918 we all had this big flu epidemic all over the world, all over the United States I guess, people was sick here, they had no hospitals or anything so the people that were sick were kept in churches and the few empty buildings that we had were used as hospitals around here. Of course during that time why many of the people died, not only here but all over; it was quite an epidemic during the first World War. Of course alot of the local boys that was in the Army got the flu and they died there and that was one of the sad times of Lafayette.

Another thing that I remember as I go back is the flood we had down on the creek where I lived. I can mention here that I've got a big marker for where I was born, that's where the Lafayette Sewer is, that is the place where I was born so anybody that wants to know where Elmo Lewis lived they can go down and see the Lafayette Sewer. That will be there from now on. That will be there from now on. But the big flood came in there, it was in 1920 I think, it was around that time when the flood hit here on the East end. The flood covered from the - where the creek is even farther east of that the water raised and there used to be a track running up to the Standard Mine where the train had to go up and get cars, it ran across it which is about a half mile across and during the flood I remember that chickens and chicken coops going down, chickens on top of the chicken coops, crowing even cows was going down in that flood and the store that we had down there that I had mentioned about was washed out. And from that day from that flood why people moved out of that area and for along time there was nobody living down there now some of the people are building back down there. Was there anyone killed in that flood? No, not that I heard, Fred. It sure was an exciting thing for us kids, the one outstanding thing at that time and you just made me think of it was that we had in town we had two shows which I kind of left out here so I'll bring it out here in the Union Hall. The Union Hall was an outstanding place for the community, it was a community hall where we had dances and shows there, they had a stage there, also it was used for basketball. The school didn't have a basketball court and they used to play basketball in the hall and this show was being put on of a hypnotist was here and different things and down in this store what we called the Bermont Store at that time was in the window so this fellow hypnotized this fellow and he laid in the store for people to go by and it was advertising for this show that night. and that was one of the outstanding things that I remember too during the flood of this fellow, when all this rain was pouring down causing all the flood, why he laid in the window stiff as can be.

Another outstanding thing I remember is the bank being robbed. After the banks went broke, after the strike in the '20s, I think it was in the '20s when the bank started, they opened up another bank and we had a fellow named Stubbs was the marshal, he was just a little short fellow he used to kind of watch things around, he wasn't paid to do anything. These fellows checked the town of Lafayette and found out the bank was there and what was in it, I guess they had been in it. The bank was on the corner of 400 East Simpson Street, you go to the Miner's Museum and there's a little town built of different things and houses and things, being small miniture things and see it. Well they tied up the marshal and they went and blew out the safe, boy it woke up everybody in town and they took they money they wanted but when they blew up the safe why of course that was back in the days when they used gold as exchange instead of paper money as we have today and one of the popular pieces of money was a \$5.00 gold piece and that was scattered all over the lower end of town there on Simpson street and the alleys and all us kids went down there and we'd pick up the \$5.00 gold pieces, we thought they was pennies. So we went to stores and bought - we thought they was

pennies so we'd buy candy with them but the way I understand why when the sheriff came up to check up there why the stores had to give the \$5.00 gold pieces back to the stores.

Another outstanding thing, it was in the '20s, I'm talking about in the '20s was the organization of the Lafayette Lions Club. Now I know we organized the town but when they organized the Lions Club in Lafayette it was a different thing. All the merchants hated each other. They was all competitive so they never had any use, none of them was on much of a speaking term and that's the reason I'm bringing out on the Lions Club which they will be celebrating their 65th anniversary in June. That was one of the most important things that happened to Lafayette business people to get together and organize in regard to it. They all organized except one merchant and he would not organize, he wanted to be all by himself so he stayed by himself.

I guess I have to bring in another outstanding thing in Lafayette was the Klu Klux Klan organization. It was really organized in this area, of course it wasn't like - I want to put over very strongly that it was not like it was in the South against the Negroes and everything else - but it was kind of organized for best, it was true they was kind of a little against the Catholics some but we didn't have any Jews around here so they wasn't involved. They kind of did alot of good for the Town of Lafayette and any badness that was true they'd go out - and the Catholics would get scared because they'd burn crosses around which they shouldn't have been, which I'm not upholding in any way, shape or form but my first contact with them was at the Community Church which was the Library down on Simpson Street - there wasn't too much activities for us younger kids so we used to go to church, this was on a Sunday night, I never will forget it and we was listening I don't know what it was about and they came in - the Klu Klux Klan and oh boy we all got scared when they came in. They came in two by two and they stood on the isles and they marched in and then the leader, the high Moguls there was a couple of them walked up to the podium or where the pastor was and gave him some money in regards to it and after he gave him some money there was nothing said whatsoever, they turned around and they walked out and they floated around and they walked out two by two and that was my first contact with the Klu Klux Klan in Lafayette. Then another time when they came in I was over at the Methodist Church, I happened to be in the Methodist Church, they came into the Methodist Church the same way and gave them some money, the preacher some money at the church so it was quite an exciting thing and it was an exciting time in Lafayette. One time they organized a big march over in Louisville, I remember that so well, I don't know there was maybe a couple of thousand, they all walked with their hoods on and they had some of them were on horses, they just walked over to Louisville and down Louisville and then walked back, it was about three miles from here to Louisville so they walked six miles and they came back. They used to meet out on the hills east of here of Lafayette and you could see the crosses when they had their meetings. And the only thing I've ever heard them do that would be negative in one sense of the word because back in those days we kind of believed in-keeping to ourselves, kind of separation all friendly but kind of socially, especially male and female was kind of left to themselves for example out there - we had alot of Italians in Lafayette and they kept to the social life of the females was with the Italians and the Anglos was with the Anglos and the Greeks was together in there but as women they would socialize together and as men they would socialize together and us boys my best friends was Italians, they was fine but you never intermarried back in those days. There was only one time that they had anything, there was a big fellow that worked in the mine, he was a single fellow and a very good spender, he got to running around with one of the young girls

in Lafayette, her mother was a widow woman and so she didn't like that so somehow the Klu Klux Klan got ahold of it and she didn't want it and they thought maybe because that was the feeling in Lafayette so they went and got him and they took him out to their meeting and he was scared to death because there was a lot of history that they tarred and feathered people and things like that, they didn't do anything like that here. They got him in there and they told him to stay away from that girl involved and they scared him so much he left town and that's the only incident that I know of the Klu Klux Klan.

I'd like to bring out another activity which was the Firemens. The Firemens of Lafayette has always been the outstanding progressive organization in doing things for the town. Back in the old days they used to fight fires with hose carts and they had two hose carts up on a ramp where the town hall is. If a fire broke out why they'd run down with this hose cart with the hoses on and they'd run down this ramp that would get you started going. That was a good thing to go if it was in the south part of town or north part of town but if it was in the east part of town it was pretty bad because when that cart gets going down Simpson hill it would go pretty fast. And that was the start of firefighting in regards to it and that lasted with the carts involved lasted until I think 1927 when we bought the fire engine a 1927 Chevrolet but all the other fires we fought that was fought in town was by the hose cart. Back in the older days they were pretty well organized. I joined the firemens in 1926. First year I ran with the firemen was in Denver before that we held the world record in the Wet Test they called it in Boulder that they ran in 1924 and when I ran we broke what we call replacement record and with the hose cart where you replace one hose and put another one in and we used to make a lot of money running and it didn't cost the town. We used to buy - the town as I mentioned we bought the fire truck, we bought the first siren we had, we had a bell before that to let us know there was a fire going on. It was sitting on top of the city hall. We used to buy hoses and things of that nature, also we used to do a lot of activity. We used to hold dances to make money and activities back in those days they didn't have TV or radio so we put on a lot of plays and used to make money to buy things for the town to help the town out. Another outstanding thing the Firemen did was they organized to help the town out by paving the streets. We got working with a - the town council did to use the machine for paving that's all they would do but we had to do the rest so the Firemen and other people in the town went out and got the sand and gravel needed to pave the street and so we got the sand and gravel and we paved Cleveland and Simpson Street and of course Cleveland Street finally paved out but Simpson Street stayed on and they repaved that and the reasons why it's high we never did grade it and it's been paved several times so the middle of the street is higher than it is on the sidewalks almost down there and that's the reason why it is because of what we did and that was done by the Firemen. Of course by these activities the dances we had in Union Hall, that social life of Lafayette it was a lot of fun. Us kids played baseball just like the activities of kids, marbles and tops and things of that nature which kids don't play with anymore but we had a lot of fun and we used to play "Run sheepie run", "Dare Base" and things at night. We was run home by the city cop or marshal at 8 o'clock. We had a curfew here and all the kids had to be off the street by 8 o'clock.

The next interesting thing is the Columbine Mine, they sunk a mine over here Northeast of Lafayette called the Columbine Mine and we had a strike. The wobbleys came in, we called them the wobbleys, we had a strike here and they closed down the - tried to close down the mine. So the miners use to meet in Lafayette and go over and walk through the Columbine Mine they had to cut they had it in kind of a bull pen, wires all around - couldn't get in but they cut out where they could crawl underneath and they used to go through there through the mine because the strikers was there and trying to break the strikers quit working but they used to through there and over to Erie why they used to have coffee and donuts. They kept that up until one time the mine operators thought they would stop it so they started when the miners went in why they turned loose on a machine gun, killed alot of the miners, injured them the others didn't go they started running and didn't get involved. A very interesting thing in regards to that happened, the fella that run the machine gun that was shootin' it why he was the cop out there at the mine, that he was cleaning his gun and I guess he didn't pull out the bullet and the gun went off and it killed his one child and after that he left. It was kind of a coincidence in regards to the strike. Another thing that was very interesting was a shooting that we had here, the husband of one of the women in town was killed and she was a nice looking woman, well these wobbleys got stuck on her and they were jealous and they threatened to kill each other over her so one of the fellows, I remember his name was "Wild Bill" and he was in the store, we called it Roderick's store down here about the 300 block of East Simpson St. and "Wild Bill" was back in the back of the counter and he was in the back there and this other fellow came in the front door and they saw each other and both of them drawed their gun and "Wild Bill" drew his and he couldn't get the safety off, he tried to and the fella came in the front door, he shot at "Wild Bill" and he hit "Wild Bill's" hand and that knocked the safety off and "Wild Bill" killed him right there in the store.

Yes, Fred mentioned about me being a Baptist but the main thing is not what church you belong to as what you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the most important thing. Not the churches or anything else but I would like to tell about the history of the Baptist Church because it does have a background. The Baptist Church was started by a missionary came in in a car, a passenger train car and had it parked down on the sideway in Lafayette and he had the car there and the people went down there for missionary work and back in those days people were more religious than they are today. People started going in there and they decided - they got a big group the missionary did and were going to organize the Baptist Church which they did and the organization was made in my grandmother's home for the Baptist Church. They first met at the Franz's Store which was down there about 500 E. Simpson St., they met upstairs there and had their services. And the Franz store which I did mention there during this time that burnt down and the town burnt down before that too but that was before my time but I remember the Franz Store burning down, that was quite a fire down there and they have pictures of it in the museum but that's where the First Baptist Church was meeting, it was organized there and then they built the First Baptist Church here on Roosevelt and Cleveland. They built it in 1907, the year that I was born and it became a very popular church and it used to have some outstanding singers, we used to have some real outstanding singers, alot of Welshmans was in town and they were good singers. They used to sing all over the state, they had big groups of choirs from the area and that was the starting of the Baptist Church in Lafayette. I mentioned about Franz's store, that was quite a fire in there and of course they used the hose carts down there but they couldn't save the place, it burnt down to the ground. People used to go down there and

get the cans that was there and try to use the food that was involved there. Was that canned stuff good after it had been through that fire? Not very much but some of them was able to save it.

I'd like to bring it up to date now, I guess to do that after the Baptist Church the town carried on as I've already mentioned that, the stores, nothing outstanding except the changes we had in Lafayette. The changes are still going on. We used to have a population in Lafayette of around 3000 but it dropped during the 1910 strike and also during the '20s. The early part of the '20s. Then we got down to 2000 but now we're up to over 13,000 people. But I'd like to bring in about the Lafayette Museum that Mrs. Amacirella who was in charge of the library was very interested in getting a historical museum especially a miner's museum so we talked for a couple of years there in regards to it and we wasn't able to do anything great in regards to it or get to involved but she started selling cakes trying to get a little money ahead of time. Then in 1975 my mother passed away and I thought it would be nice being a miner's home to maybe having a museum there. I talked to Mrs. Amacirella to see if she was interested in it but of course they didn't have any money to do anything, so I said if you really want it I'll try and help out all I can to start this museum out. So she said she would be willing to do anything possible that she could. She told me what they thought they could do, I think they had about \$2000 they said they could pay to start with and so I said well we will try and work out something. The main thing is organizing and get the money in, that's the thing that has to be done to be able to pay for a place and I'll give you an outstanding deal on the house to do that, in fact I sold the house very reasonable then I turned around and gave them \$6500 for an extra reduction on the house which I was able to take because it was a donation. The original value and the value was down so I gave them another \$6500 and then I agreed if they would work and get the money in I would carry the loan for one year because if I didn't do that they would sit and wouldn't do much. That was the agreement they had to get the money to me in one year but they wasn't able to but I for the benefit of the historical society I thought it would be best to push them and I did push them to get the money and they hustled around to get money and they paid me off but I could have carried them but I knew that they wouldn't push but they was able to get the money, they even - the town wasn't interested at that time but they got the town interested in paying some of the money off too. That's how the historical society was started in the town of Lafayette. The two girls that was on the committee that I don't know their names but they left town right away and they had a good deal but they didn't push it. Selling footage in the museum but they just advertised and expected people to come in and buy it. You can't do that and they didn't go out and push it any. For Lafayette Days I suggested they have a stand up there and sell this footage up there but they didn't so it didn't work out but they did get the money and the place is paid off and they have money and it's a wonderful thing for the town of Lafayette and the history of Lafayette to be able to do what they want to do if they can is to turn it back into a miner's home and get another building to keep the relics, the mining relics in there showing how Lafayette was.

Another thing I'd like to mention is the Senior Citizen Center which I belong to. I spent 25 years with FHA then I got sick and had to retire. They wanted me to work with the Boulder County Housing authority to help out with grants of fixing older houses of older people that didn't have any money involved so I told them yes I would go there and while I was there I saw grants going out to different

places and I decided that what we needed was a Senior Citizen Center so I got working in regards to that to get us a Senior Center. Knowing some of the people in Denver we was able to get the okay for the grant for the center and we picked the architect to build the building and we had the architect not to leave it all in our hands but we had the architect come over here and the Seniors formed a committee to work with the architect to be satisfied with the building that we though the people should have and of course it had to be okayed by the city council which they did very easily. There was an old building down there it was all shacked in there and ready to fall down so it was a good corner we thought where the Senior Center is to have it in the middle of town and we had the place appraised and it came out at \$98,000 which was way to high on the appraised value and I wouldn't go along with it, it was to high I - \$60,000 was plenty for it. I won't go on this we have to get another appraisal. So we got another appraisal and that came out \$93,000 so we paid \$93,000 for that land down there and the building. Well why we was working on the building, that is the architect saw that HUD would not allow us to do, as I mentioned they would only allow one floor, nobasement whatsoever, no cellar so I went to work and started arguing and I said there's no place - we don't have any storage place down there and you got to have storage so I fought for the basement on the basis of storage so that's how we was able to get a basement into the Senior Center down there for storage but it can be used - we have pool tables down there and the women go down there and exercise. The best investment we was able to do but they didn't want to but I was able to get them involved and the work that I did why on there I got a plaque and I'm going to have Fred Stones read it so that we can have it for a record because I think it's worthwhile: I'll be happy to. This plaque was presented to Elmo and it starts out it says - "The resolution of appreciation for Elmo Lewis, Housing Commissioner whereas Elmo Lewis has served diligently as a Housing Commissioner of the housing authority of the County of Boulder, Colorado since February of 1978 without remuneration and whereas Elmo Lewis had extensive experience with the Federal Housing Administration which proved to be a valuable asset to the housing board and whereas Elmo Lewis represented effectively the views of Senior Citizens and the citizens of the City of Lafayette to the housing board and whereas Elmo Lewis provided able assistance and leadership in regard to the building of the Lafayette Senior Citizens Center, the Lafayette Villa West Apartments for Senior Citizens and Housing Rehabilitation in the City of Lafayette. Now therefore be it resolved by the Housing Authority of the County of Boulder that the housing commissioners express their heartfelt appreciation to Elmo Lewis for service rendered during this tenure as a county housing commissioner. Passed this 13th day of January in 1982 and signed by Steven P. Dixon, Chairman and attested to by James J. Giles, Secretary." Elmo, I think that's great. Well I want to do things for Lafayette, Lafayette has always been my home. There's something that I left out too, I don't mean there but I think it's history that one time we had a shortage of housing and being with FHA why in the south end of town there, they're small houses but they built out pretty good and we didn't have any and people in Lafayette didn't have much money and we had to have cheaper houses and I had a friend of mine that was a builder and I got him together with Clancy Waneka on the land down there and they got together and got the land together and they made a price and they built these little houses down there. Now they're not the high priced ones but back in the days when I was young you didn't live in big houses so I also got that for the City of Lafayette. I was glad to do it.

I'd like to bring out a little bit of the history on how I was able to get this money. During the a - it was the Democratic administration - that they were out giving grants all over and alot of money was wasted, I saw that and I said why waste it when we can get it useful like building the Senior Center and also the Senior Apartment Houses which is on the West end of town. To show you an example, we spent over \$500,000 taking care of Flagg Drive which is East of Lafayette. We would even give money for people to put in pumps for water down there when they could have attached onto Lafayette waterline. We just did everything down on Flagg Drive. Moved a house in for some fellow from out here in the country there to Flagg Drive and fixed it all up for him. We got so much money at that time and we had to spend it and I was sure opposed to that because I'm a conservative and they built a park down here where the Lafayette dump and sewer was, they wanted to put in a fancy one. It would cost \$250,000, oh they was going to put in trees and fancy toilets, oh everything fine and I fought against that and I just wouldn't vote for it so they finally came around and they cut it down, we'll just make it a park where people can go, we'll put some benches down there and toilets and fix up the land and put in some plants and things there and they had to do the work and it cost over \$100,000 that we had to spend which I completely opposed but I had to go along with it I guess because they outvoted me. You can go down there now and you can't see anything but weeds. It shows how money was thrown away and no wonder we're in debt. Describe to us where Flagg Drive is. Flagg Drive is on the East part of town. As you go down on Emma Street and you turn from Emma Street and go south one block then you turn and in that area that is what is called Flagg Drive.

Let me ask you a few questions now. You were born out towards where the Standard Mine is? No. Over on the north side - Yeah, going to Erie. Going to Erie. Alright, describe the situation of the mines around, how many mines were there and where were they located? Well on top of the hill, I'm glad you brought that up. On top of the hill was what we called the Blue Ribbon Mine. On top of what hill? The hill going to a - on Highway 7 on the south side was the Blue Ribbon Mine. We called it Blue Ribbon Hill for years and I'd like to bring out that was the way we used to travel to Denver. You had to go east on what we call Baseline until you hit the bottom of the hill and there's a road that goes south. You follow that road south until you hit Federal and that's the way we used to travel from Lafayette to Denver. The mine where I was born was called the Haywood Mine. There was a mine down there? Yes, that's where my father worked. We lived north of it. There was the Standard Mine and the Capitol Mine down in that area and then the Vulcan Mine was south of Lafayette during that time and I can't think of the other mine between Lafayette and Louisville. I can't think of that mine, that was a very popular mine. They struck coal over in Louisville before they did here in Lafayette. Erie was the starting area around here. They hit coal over in Erie first. How long did the Simpson Mine operate down here? For a good many years, let see it started in a - it was mentioned in the '90s. I think it quit in the '20s. So that would be about 30 years. 30 years. And about how many men did they hire down there? Oh about 250. In the one mine? Yes. How many men, at the height of the coal mine operations was there involved in the different mines around the Lafayette area. As a guess. You mean during my time what I'm talking about, way back? Yes, in your time that we've been talking about now was the main time of the mines. I imagine there was about 800 to 1000 miners and their families.

Now what was the names of the mines north of Baseline? North of Baseline, there was the Mitchell. The Mitchell. And the Gabriel. The Gabriel. That's where they move in the house where we bought, when we moved to town was a house that was out to the Gabriel camp and they moved it into Lafayette. That's the house that you had down here on East Simpson that you were talking about that you sold to the Historical Society. That was moved in from the Gabriel camp. Do you remember when they sunk the Black Diamond? Yeah, it was in the '20s. In the '20s? Do you remember who sunk the Black Diamond? Yeah, Liley. A fellow by the name of Liley and I can't think of his first name. Charley. Charley Liley. My dad and him was great friends. You never did work in the mines yourself? Never did. My mother never allowed us - my brother did a short time after my dad died, we went to Colorado Springs for a short time because there was no work around here and my grandparents moved down there from the strike and so we went down there for a short period of time and he worked a short time in the mines. Alright, now you mentioned something about black damp, can you tell us a little bit about black damp? Black damp is a gas that they develop into the mine, it's very dangerous, it's like carbon dioxide, they call it black damp, but in the olden days they used to take in - to check for black damp they used to take in a canary or a small bird and the fireboss would go and take that in first and of course why if the canary died why of course that wasn't fit to work in but they didn't do it in all the mines, alot of them had black damp and the men worked in the mines and then after the 1910 strike why they started using lamps to go in and it was one of the things that they put in after the 1910 strike. Back in those days the miners used to work long hours, you see it was not until Wilson was the President when the 8 hour day became the national working day. In fact as history goes, you could kill all the miners you wanted but you better not kill one of the mules that hauled the coal. Okay, I've heard that before too. And these young kids that I mentioned before, they took care of the blinds and also put the sticker in the wheels to hold the cars straight going down into the mines and that's what the young 12 year old kids would be doing. Now this black damp was that the explosive gas in the mine too, or was there other gas? Well there was other gas but I don't know what the name of that was. Black damp was more of a killer than the other gas. Describe to me a tipple. A tipple was when they would sink a shaft for a coal mine, they built a tipple and the tipple was where they could have like an elevator, this is one way to explain it, they would have two of them, one on each side where they would be pulling up the coal on the shaft and then at the top of the tipple they would dump the coal and they would weigh the coal where the miners would get paid for it but they would cheat the miners on the weight they'd do and dump it in there and one car would come up and the other one would go down and down below was men that would push the car back on and ring the bell and up would come the car. That's how they would dump the coal and that would go into coal cars. They had a shoot, that's how they would load the coal cars. I missed one thing in here that I would like to bring out and I think it's worthwhile. It goes back in the olden times. I think I mentioned, yeah I think I did, 50 or 60 carloads a day. Yeah. That was railroad cars. Yeah, railroad cars. And the trains would push the empty cars in and then they would bring them down under these tipples and load the coal into the - they'd push them beyond the mine and tipple and they would let the cars roll, it was on a little slant and they'd let the cars roll down so they'd roll under the tipple and the train would come and pull them away. At the end of the day, did they do this every day, do you remember? Oh yeah, every day, 50 to 60 carloads every day. When did they start trucking coal instead of putting it on the train? Course they put it on the train all the time but then they started putting it in the trucks.

Well when the trucks came in, the automobile, that was when the trucks got popular and I imagine that was in the '30s, 1930s when the trucks got popular see they a -- it could be they had a few in the last part of the '20s but not too many of them, so that's when they hauled and we used to have trucks going in there and everybody used to get mad down here on Goodhue Hill where there was just one twoway road and the trucks would get on there going about three miles an hour and you get behind that and you had to stay until you got up to the top of the hill. That one on Mushroom Hill too? It took a long time to get to Denver? Yeah, that's right, that's right.

You went to school here in Lafayette as you said. You walked to school. You went to school at the old wooden school, the old two story wooden school that burned down. Can you describe that school to me a little bit? Well it was kind of a - not a three story but a 2½ story building, down in the lower part which was more of a basement but the windows, light was coming in through the windows, so you got that light in there, that was the lower grades and then up in the first floor which was a little higher, you used to go up the steps from the first grade was the junior high and the top there was the high school and also the gym, a small gym they had there. Then in part of the basement why of course was the furnace room and they put in the furnace and the showers. They had football strung out way back in the years and then it died. Then in 1922 McCready came in and he put in football. The kids were pretty good and we wond the district and we played for the state but that was back in the days when all schools were in Class A. We were in the semi finals and we played Arvada, we got beat by Arvada in the semi finals. The basketball team ways back in those days, we had a good team. I wasn't on the first team. I played on the first team in football but not basketball but we went up to Windsor when the Windsor Wizards -- rode all the way up there in freezing weather and they just barely beat us. So we had good athletics, we had a good social life back in those days that our activities was so much and as I look back in my young days I feel sorry for the young kids because we worked together and we made our own activities. I remember one time when us kids got together and made a deal to go over to Erie to play baseball and we walked all the way over to Erie and we didn't think we had to eat and we got over to Erie at noon and we had to do some moochin' to be able to get something to eat. We played the ballgame in the afternoon, I don't remember who won and then we had to walk back and we walked, instead of going straight over we walked on the Canfield road to when they had the highways, it was a dirt road and we caught the -- the fella that ran the poolhall saw us there and he picked all of us kids up and brought us into town and boy we was ready for bed when we got home. But we made our own activities. Now a, did you go to high school in that building? No, I only went to the 9th grade. In the old wood building? Now when did they build the high school? They started that in 1926 I think it was. And you went up there to high school? No, no. Where did you --? I didn't graduate from high school. You didn't graduate? I graduated to hard work. I had to go to work because we didn't have any money coming in, so I went to work. I went through 9th grade but when I went into service why I studied there and I passed the entrance examination and when I was discharged from service why I ran the Phillips 66 station. I sold that when I went into the service and when I came back I didn't have anything to do so I decided to go onto college. I always wanted an education but I was not able to get one so this was an opportunity. So I thought I would. Somehow or another I was always interested in business and Denver had an outstanding business school so I went down there to register and all those kids in there and they was standing in a line a mile long and

5 o'clock came and I got disgusted and I came home and Francis got after me and so she sent me back the next day to register to go to college. I finished my college in three years time and I majored in accounting and finance. Then I went to work for Delco. I got a job with Delco as a Delco engineer because when I went into the Army I was a - I went to school, the government sent me up to Greeley and I took radio courses and I took advance radio courses in Steamboat Springs and then they sent me to Camp Murphy where they had a radar school and I took up radar and they a - - I went through two courses of radar down there for ground and air, radar work, that was all supposed to be secret back in those days and I worked on them. I was ready to go, I was in the Airforce - I started in the signal corp then I was transferred to the artillery working on the radar of artillery and they a ---. I take it back, first it was the Airforce, I worked on the Airforce and then I went to the artillery and then having the Airforce deal and they wanted to use the artillery unit with the Airforce for precision bombing and they a -- I went to that and I finished all the course of radar on the ground unit - 584th - they had one out here on the hill using it for weather purposes and I a --- they sent me to Fresno Field - Hammerfield in California for experience. Now when I was in the Army at the Airforce in camp I busted my arm and run a bone into my ulnar nerve and I was operated on, they had to make new grooves in my arm for my ulnar nerve so I got into limited service so I didn't get to go overseas but they sent me to -- they wanted to do this and they sent me as the head man and another fellow with me to work with this ground unit to be able to work with the Airforce for precision bombing but the distance wasn't long enough on the ground unit was for 16 miles and they wanted to extend it so I had the job and the pleasure, which I've got accomodations for the work that I did of extending that radar from 16 to 32 miles that was to be used for precision bombing in Germany where they could have trained controllers to control the airplane for precision bombing to what they wanted to do and I was the first one to be able to build that and it got me talking about it now Fred that I was the first one to ever train controllers on radar. I trained these radar and I had my free way in the Army, I was my own boss and everything else but they had to know where I was, I could go on leave almost anytime but I had to tell them where I was in case something went wrong with this unit that they could get in touch with me. I trained these controllers to operate it and then also I was the first to ever work on the weather on radar that I never thought of it about these a -- when they came out with the weatherman with the strip of radar -- well I did that for 36 miles, we could work on that we used to send up baloons and check baloons and things like that for the weatherman. Now where was this? In Hammerfield in California. Hammerfield in California. Fresno, California. Around Fresno. How long were you in the Army? Almost four years. Four years. When you came back then what did you do? Well when I came back there was nothing I could do so I went to school. That's when you went to school? That's when I went to school. because I couldn't buy anything and I tried to find jobs and that but they offered me jobs but no pay to it so I said I'll take a chance and go to school. Now what did you do with Delco? Delco, I sold a furnaces and hot waters and things like that, what they called Delco heat. I used to sell that and also the heat ducts. My biggest job I ever had Fred was down in near Del Norte, there was a mexican fellow that made alot of money on pinto beans. He built him a lovely, great big house, one level but boy it was almost a half block long. So our dealer down there got the deal to be able to put in the heating down there so I had to go down there to check it out and of course in that kind of thing I knew a little bit about it from my figuring out things from radar and things of that nature I had a good mathematic background. So I came there and I checked it and I just couldn't work this one furnace whatsoever and he had just a one little place for the - to put the furnace in and I said it

wouldn't do - so I said one thing that you have to do in the middle there, back of the house you have to build a place for your heating and the only thing I can suggest is to put in two oil furnaces. If you have the money, go ahead. Well usually the heating people would feel the amount of ducts they would need. Well this fellow said this is to big a job so I had to figure the ducts where you start with big ones and cut it down and I figured it all up. Back in those days there's not too many places that made ducts, you had to have connections, we couldn't get any done except the small ones that make their own but no place would make such a big job. So we had to have it done in Omaha and they had it done and shipped it and it was a perfect job and I was quite proud to be able to do that. Now when did you start with FHA? I started with FHA in 1948, in December of 1948. There I started as a - well I went to school. I took all kinds of examinations to get this job. I took this job by having a background in business and financing because I worked in the store for years and I knew about credit so I took a credit examination of the Federal Housing Administration and I must have got a high grade and so they called me in December to go to work. I took that job and I worked as an examiner there, that's making loans. They had a big department and I was just a worker in there of checking loans but with my background I caught onto it very quick see and so I didn't have any trouble and I was there for just a short time and then I became a senior examiner and I stayed at the senior examiner until I become in charge of the whole unit. In the job they had in there was the architect, they just did the architect helping to see that the building was alright and then they had the evaluation department where you would go out and check on the value and we had to work out basis of qualification of the house then meet the architect. My department had to make the decision of whether this qualified for an FHA loan and so we had alot of quarrels. It was a tough department because it was my department to do the arguing and I was usually called to defend the things that the FHA did and this was for all of Colorado. I enjoyed my job all the way through, I was in charge - I had to make all the financial decisions of all these apartment houses. In fact, a very interesting thing - Pearl Mack, one of the biggest builders in Denver, came into Denver from New York, came into me which I made the loans and things of that nature and at that time we made the building loans came to me and he wanted to start building and he had the land, seemed to be alright, wanted to help him all I could so I made a deal with him that I would take 15, let him build, houses - as high as 15 but no more than 15 without firm commitments coming in and then I'd let him build another one after I got a firm commitment then he could build another one and that's how Pearl Mack and now he's worth, he's a multi millionaire and so I started him out on that but I think even though he made millions, that he was just a startin' that was a sound way of doing it. Many places give away - our offices were never in any trouble with foreclosures or anything of that nature because we tried our best to make good loans and then I had to analyze all the multi family which I was in on the financing of the Methodist home over here in Boulder, handled all the finance on that and the one in Longmont and all the big apartments in Denver, in fact, I won't mention his name because of going down there, a very wealthy man that came in, he showed in assets how people do, had assets over \$8,000,000.00 but he wasn't making a dime, wasn't paying a dime of income tax, and he built a big apartment down there. Now Frank Burns built all kinds, I had an awful time with him, he would be pyramiding - which is fit to mention, he learned to do it where he would pyramid - he would start all kinds of companies - he would pyramid and use money for one and another another and I let him get by with two or three of them then I had to stop Frank, cut off pyramiding he had to dig up the money to be able to carry on. The reason I had to give up, they came out with this 235 to help the poor people. Let me go back first Fred. I'll give you a little bit of background. When I went to FHA you

had to have 20% down and there was 4% mortgage interest rate, that's all it was. Very sound business deal. It kept getting worse, the politicians made it worse, wanted to make a name and when I left I know we was making over 100% loans and another deal of pyramiding they would get together and buy land see. One guy would buy land, he'd sell to another one say \$200 a lot, he'd sell it to the next guy for \$400 a lot, next guy for \$500 a lot, next guy for a \$1000 a lot to build up a value, then this guy here they was altogether they only paid \$100 for the lot but we'd give them \$1000 for the value of that lot, so it was just a pyramid and it turned out - the politicians was really allowing those things going on and there was nothing that we could do. The 235 program came in which was a giveaway where the government would pay the interest on homes that's what got me, the fighting, it was a divorced woman's paradise it was that they went in there - in fact I made several checks in regards to it especially in Colorado Springs where the Army men were where a lot of the Majors and Captains would live with a woman, she'd buy the house get this extra woman livin' there at the expense of the taxpayer and I was interested in the taxpayer and so I got in a lot of quarrels with that. I had one pilot come in there, he had a steady job as a pilot and he qualified - the boss sent in his employment application showing he qualified for this extra money which he was making twice as much money and I tried my best and that was - I fought for a year and a half and I say that was the cause of my cancer I got was the tention I had to go through. Before that I liked my job, enjoyed it until they gave that 235 giveaway program and I got the cancer, was operated on and did a poor job. I was too weak and I never did go back to work.

Let's go back here a little bit. You mentioned a woodpipe factory. Tell me a little bit about that. I can't tell you too much about it. I was a kid then and I don't remember too much about it Fred, just being honest but I knew it was there. Where was it located? Oh, down there by the railroad tracks. Okay. And the same thing with the pickle factory down there. What it was, they'd pick up pickles and brine and get it ready and I think they shipped it to Brighton for the final part. Now this woodpipe factory this was for water? Yes. And they would build this pipe and ship it all over the country for water pipe. Did they ever use any of it in Lafayette? Oh yeah, yeah, that was the first water that Lafayette ever got. Oh. Up here where we had two lakes, we had the water come down from that lake where the city shop is - up there was a great big lake, Town Lake we called it, the next one down below was the Peterson Lake where we used to use both of them to get ice in the winter time. That is where we used to get our ice. But that was it and then the first water pipe was in there and the second water pipe we was gonna get ----- anyway these water pipes developed little leaks so they wanted to put in there, so we got the next pipes in there and it was a poor job, it was one of these racketeering deals and they would call it the stove pipe and it didn't last too long. In fact the places where they didn't put them in, where they still had the wood pipes why they were still good. In fact when they put in this new line we just got some years ago they found all kinds in the water like it. Is that right. Were you ever involved in the city government here? No, well I worked on committees is all. I never run for office. I represented the town with Dr. COG, Tommy Lopez wanted me to do that and a funny thing, the City of Denver worked on - I worked on Dr. COG for disposals, I worked on a thing that Public Service is working on now, in fact I got information in there where I worked for Dr. COG I think three years and then I worked on the variance board on the town. You mentioned working in a store here in town. What store was that? Well I worked in many stores. Good history. The store is down where I worked at 501 E. Simpson St. where they make cabinets down there now. Where

Horace Davis used to be. Yeah that's right. It started way back. First store was put in there by J.S. Morgan was the name and I worked for him as a kid and then his son-in-law took it over and his name was E. J. Burns and of course I worked for Burns down in the grocery and Burns sold out to J. E. Queer and I worked for J. E. Queer down there then J. E. Queer sold out to L.M. Davis and then the Davis' ran that store till it quit, till it went out of business down there. Then I did other work in town here if you want to know the other things I did in town. Well we used to have a laundry in town, I forgot to mention that, we had a laundry and I worked there at the laundry I used to pick up clothes in the laundry truck and I used to come in and help do the washing and I did the ironing, that is overalls and things of that nature. Where was this located? That was on the a - that was up on Oak. Who ran that? When I worked there it was Crawford. How long did they run it? Oh he ran it for a good many years way back and did a very good business. Finally he sold it to two boys who came in that one of them was a manager for Woolsworth and I don't know what the other one did. Anyway they bought it out and they ran it but they couldn't make a go of it. Crawford was very successful and I worked there. Between the times I worked at the store - one time I went with the -- when I was a kid going to school my uncle was up in Wyoming and they was building roads up there so two summers I went up there and worked. One year why the grocery business I had I went to town and did all the buying, picked up the groceries, meats and everything else for this camp. We had over 50 men in this camp, 25 miles out of Casper, Wyoming to Salt Creek for building the road up there and that was the first year I was there and the second year I was time keeper and that year I worked as a time keeper. After I quit school I worked for the Public Service at the old plant that was before they transferred the men over to the new plant over by Boulder. I worked up to the plant. I was the second engineer, they called it. I took care of all of the pumps, greasing and I helped to put the generators on the line they called it. Synchronizing generators and I helped do that until they closed the plant down. Why did they close the plant down? Because of the Boulder Plant and the one plant was closed because it was more economical for the new one.

As a kid I did everything. Then I went to work over at the other plant on the construction part of it at the Valmont plant. My brother worked for them so I had a little connection there. I never cared for the plant work I liked business.

Now you talked some about the Lions Club here in Lafayette and I would like to explore that for just a little bit. Were you one of the charter members? No. Do you remember any of the charter members? Oh yes. Will you name them for me? E. J. Burns, J. P. Dow, the drugist; George Bermont, a store owner; Bullock, the banker; Alderson; Joe Bonnel, Mr. Hake I think, he was a farmer; Harry Noble. Where did they meet? When I joined and I think they met there for a long time was at Mrs. Dows and then Mrs. Dow opened a restaurant up here where the cleaner is now on Public Road and we met there for a good many years, then we went over to the grade school and then we came to the Methodist Church and then the Methodist Church gave us up and then there was a fellow that opened up a restaurant out here on Baseline, it was upstairs and we met there and then we finally went down to the VFW. Okay. What year did you join the Lions Club? 1939. And you still are a member? I still am a member. I'm going on 47 years. So you are a lifetime member? I'm a lifetime member. Have you been President of the Lions Club? I've been President of the Lafayette Lions, Zone Chairman, Deputy District Govenor of the Lions Club and I've been on all kinds of committees. Okay.

Tell me a little bit about the car dealerships in town. Well the first one was the Ford. Hines came in, as I mentioned before all the buildings on Public Road was supposed to be saloons and up at the end of the corner right at turning at Baseline was Peterson's building and Hines opened up a Ford garage in that building and that was the first car agency in Lafayette. They operated that until they built the garage down where the auto parts place is down there in the 600 block of S. Public Road. Across from the greenhouse. He was there for quite awhile. In fact, being experienced in grocery work and supposed to know a lot of people, as I mentioned before Fred I did a lot of work in fact I've built bridges down in San Antonio, Texas and I worked for Alexander Legal Eagle Rock Airplanes in Colorado Springs before the stock market went broke in 1928 so I did all kinds of different work but when I came back from there why I worked for Hines selling cars in the area. I sold cars until he gave up and then later on why Roy Grief came in with a Chevrolet garage on the corner of Baseline and Public Road which was very successful and was there for many long years as you know, I think you worked for McMahan as one of his salesman when Mac bought it. They was both very successful. After Hines went out why Otto Ryan in Boulder had an agency in Boulder so he started an agency in Lafayette down in the lower part of town it used to be a garage and an apartment building, it has changed now they made apartment out of all of it and then Ryan took Arnold in for a business partner and Arnold and Ryan had it down there and so when I left Hines I went to work for them. That was just before the depression during the Model A cars which we had a pretty good business then. Then when the Ford changed to the V8's why there was two years we didn't have any cars and that was the time that the depression started hitting so then I went back to working in the grocery store and I went to work for Davis over in Erie. Okay, what about the White Front Garage? Oh yes. Who ran that? I can't think of who ran that. They had Star cars in there and they lived down here on --- Brown was one of the partners. Faulkner? Yeah Faulkner was the other partner. Brown and Faulkner built that and they was mechanics over there. A very interesting thing about that garage, way back that one time - used to race from Denver to Cheyenne used to come in there and that garage was a half way place where they used to work on the car going to Cheyenne from Denver. They used to have races way back in there and that was a garage for a long time.

What did the depression do to Lafayette? Well it broke the bank. One thing involved. I don't think it hurt Lafayette too much back in the depression. Again this was a mining town. What did it do to the mines? What hurt the mines Fred, which I didn't bring out, I'm glad you brought it out. See before we had coal everybody heated by coal and cooked by coal and they claimed that's why the wobbleys pulled the strike was to put natural gas in and around in here right afterwards the natural gas did not hurt but there was a starting of the end of the coal mines was back in 1927 was when they was working but during the depression Lafayette wasn't hurt much because they put in the for the miners during the summertime they got what they called rocking chair money paid in there and then they had the WPA and WPA and that was when you were working you could buy things cheap and I worked in the store during that depression time that you could buy bread for a nickel a loaf, hamburger ten cents a pound, steaks two pounds for a quarter, flour for a dollar and a half a hundred, things like that so people could live cheap. But this next one we're going to have, we're going to have a tough one because we don't have that kind of condition today.

Tell me a little bit about the WPA. What did they do here in town? WPA, one of the outstanding things that they did, they built that on a high school, the biggest part was they built the vocational building on the high school. That was their biggest job I think. Oh they did alot of work, worked on streets and things of that nature but I think that's the biggest job they did in Lafayette. Did they do any sidewalk work? Yes, they did some sidewalk but I don't remember too much about that see I couldn't get anything, I was unfortunate during that time they had the CC's and everything else well my brother was working at the Public Service and so there was this one person working with them why the other guy had to starve so I didn't have -- it was a lucky thing that I had the store business so I worked all through the depression. I worked from 7 o'clock in the morning until 6:00 at night and on Saturday night worked until 9:00 and then went back Sunday morning until noon. I got \$10 a week.

On this Miner's Museum, let's talk a little bit about the Miner's Museum because you're vitally interested in it. Tell me what is in the Miner's Museum down here now and where it came from. Boy that's hard. We've got all kinds of things in there. A very interesting thing I'd like to bring out is the flour bin cabinets that you kept flour in. We had that, that's an antique. Mother had that down on the creek and back in those days miners got paid in gold and mother would keep the extra money we had in this flour bin down at the bottom. If she wanted some money she had to dig it out of there. She had to keep it safe and that was the place that she kept it. One of the bankers -- she was able to buy the house at 108 E. Simpson with that money that she was able to save in gold there and the other money the one the banker got which wasn't much left but to put in the bank but it was alot better that she kept it in the flour bin because we would have lost the money. They have that down there and they have pictures of the history of the school and everybody that graduated in Lafayette and they have picks, lights, and old tackle lights that miners used in the mines and lights. I've got quite a few of them I just took a new one down that they used for the fireboss to check on dams. I forget who I got it from. There are stoves and all the tools that miners ever used is down there. When is it open, do you know? It's open from 2:00 to 4:00 on Thursdays. But you can get in anytime by calling Mrs. Roderick that she will let you go in and see it anytime.

We're getting close to the end here now. Tell me what do you see for Lafayette? The future? Yes. The future will be as it has always been in the past, a bedroom town, they'll get a few industries around here which we do have but people will be working in other places and living in Lafayette as it is but it all depends on the economy and my history of years I've lived and watched which I'm very much interested in economics that in case we hit another depression Lafayette will be hurt worse than its ever been in the history of anytime because Colorado is a marginal area in manufacturing, the main plants of all things that we have around this area is in other areas like Hewlett Packard is in California and even IBM, they're in New York and all over there. So in case we hit one of those serious depressions like we did why we'll be hurt more because even right now during Storage Tech times with all their problems, look at all the houses being empty and for rent. You see more for rent signs that you have for several years.

Do you think the new 470 highway will go through? Well I hope it does. But I don't know. That's a long way in the future. You know how politics is, you get the right man in and it goes fast, if you don't get the right man in, it don't. But right now Boulder is getting all of it. Oh sure. This 470 I think is eventually going to really make this part of the country expand. But thats, like we say, along ways away.

Elmo, we thank you for taking the time, we spent 2 hours here now and we thank you for taking the time to tell us of some of the things that you have experienced in your lifetime. We hope that this will be a continuing thing that people continue this thing on and that we can put together a series of tapes that gives the whole fabric of the life of Lafayette from all directions and from all the periods of time you know and you have helped tremendously to put this forward and we thank you very much.

At one time you had a little apartment house down on East Simpson, can you tell me a little bit about that? I sure can. That has a long history in there. The apartment house that I had was first a boarding house in Lafayette run by some people by the name of Mayhoffer. They were albinos, very interesting. The man used to be able to go out - we had a wash shack in the back and he used to go out and shave at night because he could see better at night to be able to shave than he could during the daytime. Another story that they tell about him and it happened of these trees that were all around there and he was cutting down the limbs of a tree one time and he got on the wrong end of the tree and he cut it down and he went down with the limb. I can't think of his first name now.