Interview with Ken and Carolyn Brown at 308 W. Oak Street, Lafayette, 1/21/86
Interview by Fred Stones

What we are doing here is talking to Ken, particularly, about his memories and his recollections of what has transpired while he and Carolyn have lived here in Lafayette.

How long have you lived here in Lafayette? I was born here on January 5, 1916 out there on the hill north of the cemetery which is now American Homes. (Hillsborough) That was the old Union Pacific route out there. Yes, it belonged to the U.P.; it was leased by George Kneebone who was my mother's brother. My mother was a Kneebone.

My dad was a coal miner but he sorta share cropped for about 18 years, on that property. I was born during the years that my dad farmed out there with his brother-in-law. Was your father mining at the time that you were born? That was during the strike, wasn't it? Well, let's see, my dad came from England when he was 21. He was a coal miner in England; he went down in the mines at age 11. I can't tell you the name of the town; it's on the west coast of England. He went down a mile deep and ten miles under the sea and he was little. And there were union coal miners at that time. Then my dad came to Colorado in answer to oh, Mr. Simpson who ran the Simpson Mine - was from the same town. And he sent word back that there was work for them. What he failed to tell them was that it was strike breaking. Dad came here and found that they were on strike and of course he couldn't work because my dad was a union coal miner.

Did you ever work in the mines in your life? For one year, Fred. What mine were you working? I went down the Evans, over at Evansville just north of Frederick. I put in one winter; that was enough. That's enough. It was wet. Well there were 10 Italians. The mine was owned by Zarlengo and 10 Italians were company men that formed the company and took a lease from Zarlengo, and opened her up. Water was knee deep on the main line and it was a mile in to the coal. I worked with a guy for a while. Then they put me by myself for a week and I couldn't pick enough coal to fill a coal bucket; I almost starved to death. I had grown up with Joset Grouzy (?) and they put me with Joe and his Dad. In fact, they put me with them to begin with then they put me by myself. So, I got broke in that way. It was pretty rugged. It was a rough life, wasn't it? There was five foot of coal. I was going to ask you how deep. If you wanted to straighten out, you lay down on the track and stretched your back. I finally went to work for Bill Mitchell; he was from town here. His son-in-law was one of the company men that ran the mine. He shot whenever he felt like it. If the coal wasn't down to suit him when he got there in the morning, they'd do a shot at it. And you couldn't see your partner's lamp - Through the dust. -across the core from you for the smoke, the dynamite smoke. I was glad when the year was up. Yes. In the spring, I went to work for the Forest Service and that put an end to my coal mining.

Let's go back just a little bit. You went to school here in Lafayette. Yes, I started school when I was five and,of course, there were no school buses. We walked from the farm up there to school, what was that four story, the grade school building? Three story. Three story and a basement. And I completed elementary school there. Then they built the, I suppose it was

I suppose it was secondary education, it was a junior high, senior high combination. That was a new building then. I think it was when I was in the eighth grade, Merrill Angevine came to town. He was my Civics teacher. Do you remember what year that was? '29 or '30, I'm not sure. Do you remember any of your other teachers?; either in elementary or secondary school? I remember Mrs. Nace (?) and and Eleanor Gerston,(?) of course, was the commercial teacher; she taught me typing. She was a close, personal friend of mine. Palmer. Approximately how many kids were in the class? Well, maybe 30-35 in the Freshman Class. Do you remember any of their names? And they weeded out to 25 when we were in high school. There were 25, I think, in our graduating class. Yeah, some guys from town that are still here - Frank Zike, Bob Lord, Pat VanDyke, Elmer Venette, Bernice Herring, and , Elizabeth Cerne, who's now Elizabeth Greene, lives in town. And Tommy Davies, he did live in Lakewood; I think he's moved to Grand Junction now. There was about 25 of us in our Senior Class. What year did you graduate? 1934. Oh, one thing, Vera Osler was in school with us; her daughter now works for The Plum, The Plum Tree; she's a waitress at The Plum Tree. I visit with Laurie occasionally. Her dad lives in Tall Pines (?). Do you ever get to visit with any of the other people that you graduated with? No, not really. Well, the ones I went to school with, Ponz and not necessarily in my grade, and Greek and Casey and Jimmy Phillips. Treasure, Tom Treasure.

Did you ever play any ball? Yes, I played ball; I played basketball and football. Played town ball with John James, he was our coach (?), Harry Cruz (?), Ponz and Greek and Frank Zike and Elmer Venette.That was the soft ball team? No, it was basketball. That was basketball. We had a basketball team over there for two or three years; that crew just didn't want to give it up. Now, that was in the original old high school. Which is now the - Which is now the secondary, the Angevine Middle School. Yes. That was before they built the new gym and connected it all together; they built a lot of it on to since you went to school there. We never played in that new gym, of course. Can you describe the school building a little bit to me?, either the old grade school or the high school. Well, the old elementary school, I began there, and the steps came down the front, long steps. Very early in my years of attending that, a man named McCready came to town as superintendent. His wife was a music teacher. He had a reputation in town that he was tough and lots of discipline. We had a big old gym upstairs, it seemed big when we were kids. We used to go up there and have band. And Mac was gonna teach close order drill one time. Close order drill smacked at the military and this town wanted no part of the military. The local citizens made it very clear that there would be nothing resembling the military, close order drill or anything else. In fact, most of our parents even frowned on us joining the Boy Scouts. It was the uniform and that was because of their pure hatred for the National Guard. I had that same experience in Louisville, trying to form a Boy Scout Troop up there; I just couldn't get it done because of that same situation. You know, the sad part of that is that Frank Miller worked long and hard at that. Frank was an excellent man, you know, he gave up a lot of his time to the kids. A lot of years. And he couldn't make it work. He had a few. My mother kinda relented. I couldn't belong, but I

could go with them. I went to camp with them. But you couldn't have a uniform. I couldn't, no, she'd take a stick and kill me. Could you play in the band? No, I had no musical talent. But Mrs. McCreedy, she made a name for herself. She had lots of ability. And she didn't hesitate to use a drum stick or her baton but she hardly ever hit you with her baton. She used to use the bass drum beater. I've seen her whack a few with that. I wasn't one of the "lucky" ones. I'll tell you what I can remember about the schools - about two schools. McCreedy had an office in both schools and he had one rubber hose, so he said. It didn't make any difference who you were or where you went, if you went to his office, the hose was in his other office. So, you were told explicitly what to do. If you were in the elementary school, you'd go down the stairs, down the sidewalk into his other office and tell the secretary you wanted the hose, the rubber hose, he wanted to beat you with from his desk drawer. You'd carry it in your hot little hand all the way back down to the other school and then you'd proceed to get your tanning. He went ahead then? You betcha! I thought maybe that was it. No, that was just the preliminary. I made it a couple of times.

Now, they were before Angevine. Yes, McCreedy was before Angevine. But I had the good fortune of going to school under Merrill. Merrill was our coach. He was our friend, our confidant. I don't know, he didn't punish us very often. He'd send us to his office for misbehavior. He'd talk about the last game or the game coming and he'd forget what you were sent for and the bell would ring and it was over with. Before you left, he'd say: "I know what you came for". And when it was all over, we had the feeling that it was as good as any other punishment. So I had the good fortune of being all that time with him. Then I was elected on the school board and he served under our board as our superintendent. Then, I chose to run for the newly reorganized district and then I got elected to that board and we kept all the present superintendents, and fitted them in as best we could, into the system. And, I think in Merrill's case, we came up with some jobs that he was totally satisfied with. So I had the opportunity to continue working with him, and visit with him. And that was one of the nicer things about that. What years were you on the school board? I wish you hadn't asked me, Fred. I was on, and maybe you can fit the time in better than I can, I've forgotten, but it was in the '60s. I served in the last two years, I think, before the reorganization and then I served two terms, I think two, three year terms, on the new one. I really think I got in nine years. So, I think it was most of the '60s. Who were the ones on the board with you? Here? Before reorganization. I think when I went on, Clancy Waneka, Howard Kilker; I think I took Howard's place, I'm not sure, now. Fred Milliken, Clancy and I were on the first year.

When you got out of school, then, is that when you started work in the mine? I got out of school, I graduated in '34; for us, right here, it was in the very heart of the depression. Yes. My brother, Jack, was in Longmont and he had some close friends down at D.U. A spotter from D.U. came to a Lafayette/Longmont game and he offered me an opportunity, and I can't remember now whether it was just a tuition waiver or what it was at that time, to play football. But, my dad became disabled. And my dad and my mother, and my sister was at home and she worked at whatever work she could get. This was during the depression. My brother, Al, got married at Christmas time in '33 and he said I'll stay home until you graduate, and then you'll have a family to support.

So, I had a mother and father and sister to support when I got out of school. So that eliminated any possibility of going to college. It's been done but in those times, it was pretty difficult; in '34 it was really difficult. Tell me a little bit about your experiences during the depression. Well, my dad started out on WPA, I don't know exactly when, before I got out of school, Al was still there. But even then, he wasn't able to do the physical work that was required on the WPA crews. Oh, like that building they built for the city; it was mostly hand labor, pick and shovel work, and a little carpenter work. So when I got out of school, I took his place on the WPA and remodeled the grade school building; took the windows out; they were so loose that they slid sideways and we tightened the windows up. What were you making an hour or a day? Gosh, Fred, I have no idea; but I can tell you one thing I was making. In the meantime, I was working for my uncle and I can remember working down here on what is now Chuck Waneka's ground, just east of the railroad track, south side of the road - my brother, Dick, and I were shockin' barley and he came out and tried to fire us; he was paying us $1.25 a day if you brought your lunch and a dollar a day if you ate at the house. We were workin' 10 hours, $1.25 a day for 10 hours; that's 12½¢ an hour. And glad to get it. He came out on that big brown mare and said, "I saw you go home last night and no body leaves my fields before dark; you work daylight 'till dark." He irritated my brother, Dick. We were using pitchforks to shock with and my brother, Dick, jerked him off the horse, held him down with the pitchfork and had to make a decision; we were that furious - and this was part of the family. He threatened to fire us; he said he had a half dozen Mexicans that owed him money for milk that would be tickled to death to take our places. And I'm sure it was true. Those Spanish people had a harder time makin' a livin' than we did; it was hard to find a job. That's how difficult it was. So, I don't have any idea what the WPA was.

When were you married? We were married, we started running around together in about '34. Carolyn was living in Loveland. She and Hayden Davies are cousins. Hayden Davies and I were running around with a couple of girls and hitch hiking back and forth to Loveland and that's how I got to know her. When we got married, Governor Ed Johnson managed to get the first old age pension passed so my mother and dad could live without my support. That's when we got married, and that was 1938. And it was still a little difficult. I had gone to work for the forest service and after the first year, I was running camps for them as a foreman. And I had a camp - do you know where - have you ever gone on Boulder's pilgrimage to their glacier in the spring? You know, Boulder has the Arapahoe Glacier and every year, there's a group, the Chamber of Commerce, I imagine that goes on a pilgrimage on a trail, to their glacier. Well, I built the campground for them. It's a forest service campground. Believe it or not, we even had an architect. The forest service had an architect that laid out that campground. I think I had about 30 men up there that lived in tents. It was beautiful. You stayed right there, in other words. Yeah, it's up Fourth of July Canyon; you go up to Nederland and on west, turn north a little bit then head up Fourth of July Canyon. It's a nice campground; it's nicer now than when we left it. We used to break the water in the pan in the morning to wash your face. But we were young then. There were a couple of

men out of Louisville, an old gentleman by the name of Reese Davies and another one by the name of Steck Moke. . I knew them both. Did you? Steck was a big boy and Reese was a little - Irish, Scotch-Irish. Well, we had lots and lots of - . Steck Moke used to drink. Yeah, they both did. Did you know big Steck? Oh, yes. They both did - good, good people. And they were tickled to death to have a job and they treated me like I knew something. We had great big tree stumps in there. The forest service handed me the dynamite they said, "You take the pickup by yourself, put the caps in your pocket, a box in each of your front pockets; put the dynamite on the seat beside you and if anything happens, they're not gonna find you out there. It was quite a long haul, and oh my gosh, talk about rough - we never took a big truck in once that we didn't break a tire. Except the day of the fire. Anyway, I'd blown quite a few of those stumps and Steck and his buddy, Reese Davies, came over and Steck said "Reese, you talk". And Reese said, "Mr. Brown, would it offend you if we offered to do your powder work?" And I said, "No, I'm sure it wouldn't, why?" And he said, "You're gonna kill somebody". "Or you're gonna blow them to kingdom come". "We're pretty good, all our lives we've handled powder".

Chuck Stevens'brother-in-law was my cook; he'd been my cook for a long time. He came to me one time. I was the field foreman. We were batchin'. Martin Hansen was the camp foreman. He would spend all his time getting permits, you know, on the property we cut, so I was the field foreman. Jess Buckley said to me, "Hey, let's open a kitchen; I'm gettin' sick and tired of this batchin'". I said, "How can I open a kitchen?" He said, "I've looked around, the forest service has all the equipment, it just takes some organization." I said, "Hold on, it takes a cook". He said, "No, we don't want a cook; we want a chef and I'm a chef". And he really was. Do you remember the Troutdale of the Pines? Yes. He worked at Troutdale and he followed the sun in the winter, as he said, down to Phoenix and way down to the bottom of Texas and he came back to Colorado in the spring. So, Chuck Stevens' brother-in-law was my cook. And after that, he came to see me one time; we hadn't seen each other for ten, fifteen years; he said, "I've been around the world a dozen times." He joined one of these around the world cruises as a cook, as a chef. He's dead now. But it was a good life. It was a little rugged by today's standards. We were in Pingery Park. I had 80 men in Pingery Park and I sent eight of that 80 home with pneumonia that winter. You worked all winter up there? November, December, January and February. Do you know where, do you know anything about the Buckhorn?, State Bridge, you come across State Bridge , Bennett Creek, you come over to Bennett's Ranch. And Peery Park is at the headwaters of the Buckhorn. There was a summer camp there; CSU's Forestry School had a summer camp there.

Side B:

The last two months, we stored our groceries in Bennett's barn. And we'd walk in five miles and carry our groceries. Two nights a week, I'd stand up and call for volunteers to walk out five miles on shoes and pack in. We had 12, 14 pairs of snow shoes. I'd go out two nights a week and pack 60-70 pounds of groceries. This was after you were married?

No, this was just before I was married. We moved to Estes Park the 28th day of February in tents. We thought we were in paradise. We moved into Fish Creek which is southeast of Estes Park. Yeah, we really thought we were in Paradise when we moved to town. After that. I put a year in after I was married. I put the winter in after that; we were married in '38

In the Spring, I went to California, to Pasadena, and worked for my brother. We were out there, oh, 15, 18 months; Kay didn't like it. You were here when the war started? Yeah, I came home in '40 and went to work for Public Service. I went to work for them the 21st day of December, 1940 and retired the first day of March, 1981. So I spent 40 years and two months with them. Where did you work for Public Service? At the Valmont Plant. What were you doing over there? I worked on the maintenance crew and in 1950, I was elected president of the Business Agents Local. So I spent 20 years as a Business Agent. At Public Service, we had maintenance membership so it didn't require a full time office. So our officers were on lost time and expenses so when I needed to go, I just automatically left and the union picked up the tab. So I put in 20 years of that. In 1970, I moved up to run the Maintenance Department, the head of the maintenance for the last 11 years. You spent all your time at Valmont, then? Well, I did work at some of the other plants, you know, we all borrowed back and forth, during an overhaul; well, during an overhaul, I'd have 80 men working out of my office. Some would be construction people; we'd have two or three construction crews out of Denver; two or three contractors crews. Did you ever do any military work? Yeah, I volunteered, I probably volunteered in '42 and they didn't take me until February of '43. I hope those dates are right, they seem right. Anyway, I volunteered for the Officers Training Corp. They were hard up for officers when I volunteered. I don't know why they didn't take me; the army was always foolin' around. But anyway, they said, "Where do you want to go?" I said, "As long as I gotta go, send me someplace where I may never see on my own; send me to Maryland." So, I went to proving ground in Maryland and started right into school. They had a deal that about 20% of the class, as long as you could make the top 10% of the class, you automatically went on to the next class, and then they filled it in with new people. My buddy picked that information up somewhere. And he was real sharp and he tutored me all the way and we made the top ten and I stayed there until we ran out of classes to go to so we got Post Ordinance. And here, they'd bring in the artillary that had been sunk on the coastlines and we'd strip it down, paint and all, and rebuild it and test fire it and stamp it and reissue it as new equipment. We got so happy doing that that we forgot to pay attention to all the things goin' on. All of a sudden one day, we ran down to Headquarters and volunteered for - we wanted to be instructors. They said, "Where were you yesterday? We cut your orders last night. You're goin". And I didn't want to go; I was happy. So they shipped us to Europe. And we fooled around in Europe and that was February, I'd been in just a year. And that was February that we hit England. And we hit the middle and the west coast and went down and took a look at the Channel and came back up and stayed there until, oh, the last of May and then they shipped us back to the Channel. And they kept saying "Well, or D-Day, D-6". We'd ask, "What's going on?" They'd say, well, you're a 'pool' ; as soon as somebody over there in France gets killed, and they've got your number on their back, then you're gonna go over there and take their place".

It wasn't far. So, that's how we hung around until D-6. On the afternoon of D-5, they boarded us and we landed us on June 12th which was six days after the invasion. It was just a little red line on the map. That's all we were. They landed us without ammunition - to kill each other. What beach was that? We landed on the Omaha. Then did you fly to France then and on into Germany? Well, we spent all the time on the beach, retrieving equipment. Ane they said, "When you get all this equipment - (this was battalion) - we'll put you back into your company". I said, "Okay, I want to go to 272, that's where my buddies are". The colonel said, "Fine, that's where we'll put you". But you know what happened - everybody went to 272 and I went to 277. Well, it's a long story, everybody got shot except me. Well, when I went to 277, the "old man" would tell me how happy he was with all my school records. I said, "Hey, before we get excited, I'd like to ask for a transfer". He really raised the roof. He said, "You'll never get a T without rating here, you're through". And he kicked me out. A couple of days later, I got pneumonia. Everybody else got shot but me and I got pneumonia. Well, I never was too bright - well, I went down to the hospital and we were in a line; it was so small that you were right there against your hospital partner and that's where they brought you in - just like you see on MASH - and they laid them all down and they ran them through and then they laid them all down on the other side. I got pneumonia, then I got caught in the rain and it got worse, and they said, "If we don't get you back to England, you're gonna die here". So they sent me back to England. They had me laying up on the strip there with my duffel bag across my waist and a pair of shoes tied around my neck. Somebody had stole my other pair; all I had was one pair of shoes. And a kid walked up to me and lit a cigarette and squatted down beside me and said, "Hey, doc, where you goin'?" I said, "I'm goin' to England". He said, "I hear they've got lots of shoes in England". I said, "Yeah". He said, "You won't need that pair you've got, will you?" I said, "Nah, I guess not". He said, "You know, I could get a quart of booze for those". That was my last pair of shoes; do you know it was about three weeks before I got another pair of shoes, after I got out. Well, the army's just like anybody else, like the stores around here - I wear a 12A; 12As were hard to come by. So, I went without shoes for a long time. So that guy could have a quart of booze. So he got a quart of booze. So you could either get two rabbits or a quart of booze.

Now you got back into England; how long were you in England, then? Well, it must have been six weeks. They shipped us back into France and put us into a Replacement Center. I told the people in France and in England that I was out of 272 and 272 never heard of me. And 277 could never find me; that'old man' really was mad at me. He burnt my permanent record. I ran into a guy before I got out that told me, "Yeah, he burnt your records". So, after a long, hard process, I finally ended up in 548, a heavy maintenance outfit where I belonged. From that day on, up into the time I left, Carolyn got a $10.00 allotment. I mean, I got a $10.00 allotment and she got the rest of it. So, we sold a little stuff here and a little stuff there; we really just exchanged a can of coke for a quart of booze. How long were you in France before the war ended? Oh, we went clear into Czechoslovakia;

I spent a lot of time in Czechoslovakia and it was a real interesting trip. Of course, I was like all the rest of the kids that went to school; I didn't pay too much attention to what was going on. And one day, I always admired Czechoslovakia, it was beautiful, mountain country, this was around a little hill town of about 8,000, beautiful place, a beautiful river came down and they had a dam down there and they had a beautiful swimming pool, and I got ahold of some pre-war tourist literature, a nice little book, - and guess where I was? - in Bohemia! I was in old Bohemia and didn't even know it! I had a beautiful job. I was always a sucker for maps; I collected some maps, and the master sergeant caught me with them so he said, "Okay, I've got a deal for you". In the First Army, all the men and all the equipment were to be returned to their originals. And that's why they tried real hard to put me back in my original outfit only they never could get it put together. We serviced a lot of 155 MM guns and long toms and howitzers; each one of those went back. If it was a 200 Field Artillary weapon, it went back to them, no matter what. So, they put me on the road with a crew to return the weapons. And the Master would call me in and say, "Do you know where is?". Yeah, I've got a good idea. "Okay, you've got a long tom to return. Pick up rations for four men and your vehicle and a ten ton wrecker and it'll take you six days. So you'd draw rations for six days and pick up your weapon and your crew and move out. One time, he came in and said, "Well, I want you and your buddy and your two vehicles, and I got you two sergeants I want to go with you, and I'm going to send you to the cigarette camp in Le Havre. We were in Czechoslovakia. This outfit was going home and they needed to move their outfit. So they borrowed us, and these two sergeants, he was going to let them visit their brothers on their way home. Every truck had two drivers and one guy stayed with the truck. If you'd both get out of the truck, and you'd come back, you're walking; you don't have a truck. You used to take the rotor; they carried them in their pocket, a half a dozen. So, everybody had a driver. So, then we came back and took our own route through Germany and took these two boys, one almost to Holland and the other was clear down almost to Czechoslovakia then back into Germany. So, it took us about 20 days, you know beautiful weather like this. So, I really had a nice job. When did you get back? Oh, I got back Thanksgiving, to Boston on Thanksgiving. They took us into a great, huge auditorium, at about 6:00 o'clock at night. The colonel got up and he said, "I'm only gonna keep you here a few minutes and then your Thanksgiving dinner is setting in there". He said, "I want to ask you what you think about Reserves". 10,000 guys stood up screamin'. And he said, "Okay, let's go". That's what we thought about Reserves.

How did you find the town changed when you got back? Well, I came back to Boulder because that's where I enlisted from. There were about 100 of us working at the plant, including the northeast sub station. They were all good to us. I was the first G.I. back over there so they were good to me. And everybody in that place was looking for an apartment for me to rent, someplace for me to rent. Would you believe, there wasn't an apartment in the City of Boulder?, that I could find. Finally, Mrs. Mills offered me, Carolyn and me, a room upstairs; it was about 2/3s the size of this and it had a hot plate outside and a kitchen and a sink outside and it had a box here where you could put some dishes and stuff. She said you're

to it until you can find something else. But that's the only thing, and I stayed there, well I couldn't go to work, I got back here, well I got back here before Christmas; I couldn't find a place to live, so it was after Christmas and then I stayed there until October. And waited for something decent to show up. My sister had my mother's old house and she went back to Pennsylvania when school started, sometime around the first of October, I moved into the old house.

When did you build this house? Well, I stayed down there and rebuilt that one and remodeled it and finally got as much into it as I could get out of it and so in 1960, we built this one. I started it in March of 1960 and moved into it about October.

You've seen a lot of changes in Lafayette over the years, haven't you? Yeah, and for one, it's the schools. We needed some changes. I can remember when Merrill used to ask us for one desk for Julia Harmon - her desk was falling apart - we didn't have enough money to buy her a desk. Single light bulbs, you know, hanging down and anything will beat that. And I can remember I went to Clyde Hahn, the assistant superintendent to do business the first go around and I said, "Clyde, do you have any teachers' desks?" And he said, Oh, maybe we have 50 or 60 in a quonset hut that's been rebuilt and just like new". And I said, "Could you send one over to Julia Harmon?" But, on the other hand, big is not all good. There's an awful lot of waste goes on, an awful lot of waste. There's some things that have gone on that I'm not all that happy about. I've never been so disgusted and disappointed in anything than I am in the new high school. I think the New Mexico State Prison in Santa Fe is a better looking building. I was in on the reorganizing of it , but that was good; I approved of that. I thought that should be done.

Where were your children born? I have one daughter and she really is a prize. She was born in Denver. She went to school here. In fact, when we thought about building, Carolyn and I looked all over the countryside, trying to buy a lot, Boulder, Longmont, Louisville, country; finally, my daughter said to us, "You know, I wish you wouldn't even consider moving out of town". "Don't take me out of town". And that ended it. We said, "Okay, if you feel that strong about it, we won't". And looking back on it, I'm sure it was right. She was happy here. And I'm not sure what would have happened in Boulder High School after coming from here. She did well. She got her tuition paid for her academic; went to Greeley. Then she decided she wanted to get married. That's what I really want to do. So she married Ron Holstrom and and now we have two grandkids and they live six miles east of us. Do they live on the old Holstrom farm out there? Yes, when Ted retired and sold his farm, he kept five acres including his house, that long narrow strip on the east that runs east and west and he gave Ron and Judy the back three. So,they're within six miles from us and we've watched our grandkids grow up. My granddaughter's playing basketball for C.U.

Oh, I don't know, Fred, everything has to change, of course. Over the years, I've objected to a few things the city has done. I've always thought they were more interested in gathering more people and more people and more people

are only more problems. It's just like the school district; we tried to tell them - it's just like when they went out and brought in IBM. The organizations in Boulder thought they'd done themselves a tremendous deal. The taxpayers paid for it. Our business agent showed us, the first year, it cost us a million dollars. The second year, it cost us a million and a half just to have IBM. And that's because of the kids they brought with them. It cost us that much more to educate them than we got in taxes for that piece of property. So, more people only create more problems. You just have to split up what you have. And the city's done the same thing with the water. It's to a point where, god, I go back 70 years, and as far back as I can remember, maybe there was occasionally, one year out of 15, we might be able to get by the summer without being squeezed too bad. But we've never had enough water; we've never had enough water to keep the yard decent. There's years when I've had to replace my shrubs because we simply, well they'd shut off your water for six weeks at a crack. And it isn't any better now. A real example - I called the girls one time a couple or three years ago and I said, "Hey, I haven't got a notice on the watering hours". And she said, "We don't have any watering hours, if you feel that you can afford a little water, go out and turn it on". I feel that's the city's attitude on water. And, I'm not sure that that's quite appropriate; we deserve better than that. Maybe someday, they'll get it worked out. No, no, I don't believe that, Fred. You learn to live with it. I water by my meter. I decide how much money I want to put into it and when I get that much money into it, I quit. That's the best I can do with it. There's only so much money I want to put into water.

What hobbies do you and Carolyn have? Carolyn had some physical disabilities; she had a ruptured disc in her back, so her opportunities for hobbies were limited. However, we looked at everything that she could possibly do for a hobby and one time we noticed in the paper that the City of Boulder was giving dancing lessons, ballroom dancing. And her doctor advised her that exercise of that type would be excellent. So, we enrolled. The longer we were there, the better we liked it. So, we joined a couple or three dance classes in Denver along with it. With the city recreation, we were real fortunate. Jim Sparr, who taught it, had taught studio teachers for 20 years; he was the best there was. He really was. Was this regular ballroom dancing? Yes, ballroom dancing. Do you square dance? Well, we started. Sergeant Purdy; do you remember Sergeant Purdy, State Patrol? And Walt Wood, Walt and Fern and a couple of others met at my house one night to organize a square dance group. And we visited the VFW every other Saturday night or something and we really had a ball. And then one night, some big joker picked my wife up and flipped her and almost paralyzed her. And that ended our square dancing. And it kinda fell apart after that. Do you still ballroom dance? Well, Carolyn had some - she had open heart surgery and by-pass, triple by-pass and a pacemaker and she also has trouble with the valves in her heart. And her doctor got her toxic on digitalis and almost killed her. And that set her back; so, at the moment, we haven't been dancing. Oh, we talk about dressing and go out there. We used to dance three nights a week. And you know, I worked 500 hours overtime a year for the last seven years I worked. And we'd get in at two o'clock in the morning and get up at five and go to work. One year, we went one night a week to Estes Park. Clear up there to dance? All that summer, one night

a week. The band we liked. One year they were up between Loveland and Fort Collins. That was a winter and we drove up there one night a week.

We're about to the end of the tape, is there anything in particular that you want to finish up with? No, except it's kinda nice for someone to say, "Are you a native here or are you from Lafayette?" Well, I'm one of those rare people - I can look out the front room window and see the farm where I was born. I was gone, to both coasts, off and on for ten years, came back. I guess I'm like everybody else; you go out and have your fling and it's kinda nice to come back. It's kinda nice to come back home. You've watched the town grow and you have to share everything now, even access to the streets. It gets to be a problem and that's all a part of growing. And as I say, "Growing isn't profitable to anyone". I've argued this with businessmen for a good many years, that just at the minute your business begins to prosper, someone's going to build one across the street from you. You're better off with just a given number of people and taking your share and quit. Just like putting in another filling station. So, that growth creates more problems than it's worth. In particular for a town that is a bedroom community for a larger area. Without industry, the tax base is in trouble and it just costs you that much more.

Well, Ken, we appreciate your taking the time to talk to us here. Well, I've had fun visiting with you, Fred.